



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



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Telephone: 9850 5983 Fax: 9850 1545

Parish Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9am to 4pm
Pastoral Worker: Mrs Ana Saro
Lay Ecclesial Leader: Mrs Tiziana D'Costa
Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves

Email: templestowe@cam.org.au
Website: stkevinsparish.org.au
Facebook: St Kevin's Parish

VISION STATEMENT

St Kevin's Templestowe Parish is a Catholic community called by God and trusting in Jesus. We aspire to care for and connect with the wide world and to be hospitable and generous so that all may live life to the full.

Year A

Feast of Christ the King

25/26th November, 2023

Our Presider today is: Fr Terry Kean

From the desk of our Lay Ecclesial Leader...

Wednesday night was a delightful evening as we came together with St Gregory to listen to Ron Huntley.

Thank you for your engagement, questions and discussion, and for being open to new ideas.

You asked excellent questions: how do we reach out to those who are disinterested? How do we engage with our children and grandchildren who are often too busy for parish life? How does Alpha work? Can parishes work together to bring Alpha to the community?

My takeaways from Ron Huntley's message:

- Faith and parish life ought to be a joyous experience: spirit filled. How often do we express faithful joy to those around us?
- People will engage with faith and parish life if they have inner motivation (that is, they want to do it) rather than external motivation (they are told to do it).
- Inner motivation can come from having a personal experience of the divine. For example, have you experienced a moment/s of grace that brought home to you that Jesus wants a relationship with you and loves you?
- There are various tools that can facilitate a personal experience of the divine. Alpha is one of them. Ron Huntley has used the program for many years. As a result of Alpha, he has witnessed scores of people renew and reinvigorate their faith; and find faith when there was none.

The idea of an experience of the divine is not a new one. There is a long and strong tradition of spirituality in the Catholic faith. Our tradition is rich with centuries old practices that facilitate a personal relationship with Jesus - think of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises or Carmelite spirituality as an example.

This year we discerned and planned the way forward as a parish. How do we become an (even more) vibrant and vital faith community? There is more than one way to achieve this.

Next year we will put our plans to action. We'll continue to do what we already do well: thoughtful and faith filled liturgy; pastoral care; sacraments; awareness and contribution to the developments of the broader church; our ministries and groups (including visitations, adoration, social justice, meditation, knitting group, youth group and the men's group). And we will do new things too: Alpha is one of them.

I have not done Alpha yet. The plan is for some of us to experience the program early next year as a pilot. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to deepen my faith.

I am optimistic about 2024. There is a lot of work ahead, that's for sure. But we are doing it together, with God's help. ***Tiziana D'Costa***

From the desk of our Parish Priest:

Advent:

This Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King – the culmination of 34 weeks of journeying from Christmas through Easter to the end of times – the resurrection – the second coming. And so the cycle begins again. We aren't going in a circle though – it seems that way as we go through the years but in reality we are on a continual journey with Christ towards the fullness of the Kingdom of God. Each and every day we all move along the trajectory set by Jesus away from living in a world lost to sin and towards living in a world filled with God's love.

Advent begins the liturgical cycle again – we move into the Gospel of Mark – the shortest, the first of the Gospels. The most urgent! The most incisive! The most challenging!

This is the Gospel which begins the Good News of Jesus Christ, Son of God and ends ... handing the story on to you and I to continue. We've set the times for an advent Reconciliation Service (at St Kevin's, with priests to provide absolution) and for all the Christmas Masses. The calendar will be published next week.

Please join me on this part of our journey – hopefully I won't catch Covid-19 on Christmas Eve this year (what a blow for me, though also what a moment of grace because it reminded me strongly how important it is to me to celebrate Christmas with you.) ***Fr Charles***

What's happening in our Parish this week?...

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	
Tuesday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
Wednesday	9.30am	Meditation – via zoom only – all welcome.
		Please contact the parish office so we can send you the link
	10.15am	Adoration
Thursday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	



We pray for Better Health:

Fr Brendan Dillon, Bastine D'Cruz, Mary Calleja, Batoul Barak, Louise Dipetro, Mary Hodgekinson, Lianney Susanto, Kevin Parker, Melissa Wirata, Jane O'Brien, Dorothea (Dot) Sharkey, Trish Wilson, Danielle Hardy, Maeve & John Reardon, Eugenia Pozzebon, Margaret Turner, Graham & Jason Gooden, Lynda O'Meara, Milda Sarzetakas, Andrew Amalfi, Ana Saro, Thorold Merrett and Tracey Tucker.

Anniversaries:

Benita Mabo, Matthew Wilkins and Augusta Menis

Recently Deceased:

Feast Days this week:...

30th November St Andrew

Born at Bethsaida (Galilee).

A fisherman and perhaps a disciple of John the Baptist.

Introduced his brother, Simon Peter to Jesus and became one of the first to follow Christ.

Mentioned a number of times in the gospels, for example, in introducing some Gentiles to Jesus.

Widely venerated since ancient times and remembered as one of the twelve who bore witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

LITURGY ROSTER

Feast of Christ the King – 25/26th November 2023

1st Read: Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17 2nd Read: Cor 15: 20-26, 28 Gos: Matt 25: 31-46

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Christine Marini	Lynne O'Brien
8.30am	Paul Polidano		Mary Waddick
10.00am	Carmel Purdey	Carmel Shiel	Geraldine Williams

First Sunday of Advent – 2nd/3rd December 2023

1st Read: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8 2nd Read: Cor 1: 3-9 Gos: Mark 13: 33-37

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Bredenia Raquel	Anne Maguire
8.30am	Jessica Bartholomeusz		Pat Rowland
10.00am	Julie O'Donnell	Bernard Butler	Tony Whelan

Bringing People to Jesus - Ron Huntley – a reflection by Fr Charles

Over sixty people gathered on 22nd November to listen to Ron Huntley and discuss what it means to be disciples and to be disciples who go and make disciples. Attendance was 1/3rd St Kevin's and 2/3rd St Greg's. To have this many people turn up is amazing: thank you to everyone who came and made the evening such a success.

We had allowed for 40% Ron talking and 60% discussion and questions: it wasn't enough. We sought permission to go beyond our planned finish time of 8:00 pm. And that wasn't enough. Tiziana as MC had to call a halt or I think we would have been there till 10:00 pm. We ended with Ron praying for all of us in St Greg's and St Kevin's parishes and closed at 8:20 pm but ... people wanted to talk and share and find out more so my support team and I were only able to start de-briefing with Ron at 8:50 pm and didn't finish that till 9:20 pm. There was so much to share and discuss.

The night was a success – thank you to all who made it so.

Three actions from the Parish Assembly (a report is in preparation) and the night with Ron are:

- We will go forwards with seeking to hire a couple of extra staff to help ensure that all the work of the parishes can be led effectively. Advertising will resume in the New Year as we have missed the window and Advent/Christmas/Holidays get in the way till then.
- We will go forwards with a pilot of the Alpha program in February/March to build our knowledge so we can run Alpha on an on going basis from next year.

Alpha seeks to help people share a meal for a few weeks and in the process open themselves to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ – it's fun and friendly and enlivening and over time we will invite everyone to participate—we regulars, those who are less connected, those who have no faith, even those who are maybe a bit anti-faith: everyone!

- We will go forwards with a Landings effort in February – Landings seeks to give people who are pondering a return a safe, gentle, open space to discuss why their faith has wavered or fallen away and perhaps how to return to faith and to the faith community.

There will be lots more action required as we seek to both draw people to Jesus and to enliven even further all our existing amazing ministries.

PS: you will receive more detail about Alpha over coming months. You can go to www.alpha.org.au, set yourself up with a free account and investigate to your heart's content. You can find out more about Ron Huntley and his wisdom at Huntley Leadership.



Yes folks! It's on again - St Kevin's Parish Annual Christmas Blanket Raffle!
A wonderful opportunity to own a beautifully handmade, bespoke and warm blanket, lovingly handcrafted by our very talented team of knitters and sewers.

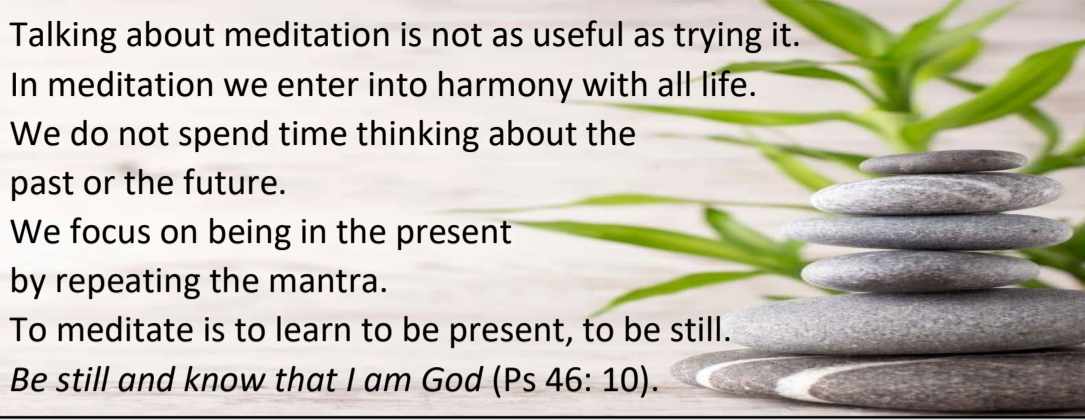
Make sure you purchase your tickets before leaving Mass today:

\$2 each or 3 for \$5

St Kevin's Christian Meditation, each Wednesday 9:30am ONLINE via Zoom. Why not try it?

Contact the Parish House for the online link. All welcome.

Talking about meditation is not as useful as trying it.
In meditation we enter into harmony with all life.
We do not spend time thinking about the past or the future.
We focus on being in the present by repeating the mantra.
To meditate is to learn to be present, to be still.
Be still and know that I am God (Ps 46: 10).



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Parish Secretary, St Gregroy the Great Parish: Fr Charles is looking for a parish secretary for three days per week. If you're interested please contact him (mob: 0417 319 556), or email: Charles.Balnaves@cam.org.au for more information and a position description. Applications open till November 27th.

COME AWAY DAY AT HOLY CROSS RETREAT CENTRE, TEMPLESTOWE

The Come Away Days program resumes at Holy Cross on **Tuesday 28 November**. The theme of the day is, **"Bring forth hope."**

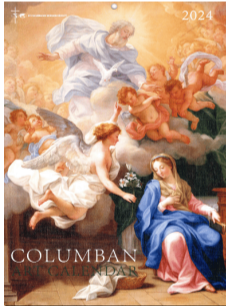
The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the peaceful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross.

What a wonderful opportunity such days offer us to prepare for the Advent season and the gift of Christmas. You are invited to support the day financially according to your means, using \$25.00 per person as a guide. All are welcome. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am.

The day concludes after lunch with a celebration of the Eucharist. For further details contact Frank Burke, burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au or 0407998781.

2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

The new Columban Calendars for 2024 are available from the table in the Gathering Space. \$10 each. Please place cash in the box provided and let's get ready for 2024!



Landings Program begins February 2024!

If you or someone you know is thinking of returning to church regularly after a time away, please let us know. LANDINGS is an eight-week program that offers "a safe place to land," a place for listening and for being heard, a place for asking questions and for reconnecting with the faith as an adult. We begin our first session at St Kevin's in February 2024. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Ana at the parish office on 03 9850 5983 or templestowe@cam.org.au for more information.

Parishioners who have lost a loved one are warmly invited to the **Marcellin College Annual Memorial Mass:**

Day and Date: Thursday 7th December, 2023

Time: 7.30pm followed by a light supper in the Functions Room

Where : Marcellin College Champagnat Chapel

Address: 160 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen VIC 3105

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

So much to think about all at once.

There's so much going on around us, in our Parish, Church, Families, between generations, and across the globe. It's easy to wave arms in despair, overwhelmed, and simply ignore most. But all of these things are deeply linked, and prompt us to make the best of opportunities/responsibilities, in the time we have. Looking ahead, time seems to go slowly. Looking back it passes quickly. Common elements across all issues are our personal values, faith, conscience, and life journey. Without allowing ourselves to become overwhelmed we can and need to recognise wider realities, and the opportunities/responsibilities they present. Beyond our Parish, the advertised presentation last Thursday on The Synod on Synodality, and others to come, provide information, encouragement and opportunities. They highlight the need to think broadly as changes occur regardless. Forthcoming SJA activities include a one hour presentation direct to our homes next **Thursday 29 November at 7:30pm via Zoom**, by Clare Marotta, on St Vincent de Paul Values, and the Actions they prompt. It's free but please let me know if you would like to join in - *John Costa SJA Mob: 0409 967 207*

SJA has arranged and is currently advertising a Parish Zoom Presentation by **Clare Marotta of St Vincent De Paul** from **7:30pm - 8:30pm on Wednesday 29 November**.

The Topic is **St Vincent de Paul Values, and Actions**.

The event requires REGISTRATION. In the short time available please contact John Costa SJA Mob: 0409 967 207. - *John Costa*

Advent 2023 McKinney Lecture 'Christian Hope in our Contemporary World'

Guest Lecturer Cathy Jenkins

A public lecture sponsored by Banyule Churches Together
Tuesday 5 December at 7.30pm, (at the impressive new)

Mary Mother of the Church Parish Centre

4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079

More information available from our website

ST GREGORY THE GREAT DONCASTER & ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas Party

3 DEC

AFTER THE SUNDAY 5PM MASS AT THE PARISH HALL, CHURCH OF ST GREGORY THE GREAT DONCASTER

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD BEFORE THE EVENT AND DRAWN ON THE NIGHT. PROCEEDS GO TO NUNGALINYA THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.

FOOD AND DRINKS ARE PROVIDED. PARENTS AND CARERS ARE REQUESTED TO PLEASE SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES.

PROGRAM FOR THE NIGHT INCLUDES SING-ALONG CAROLS AND FUN ACTIVITIES PLUS A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY SANTA WITH TREATS FOR KIDS!

RSVP: Please use sign up sheets at church or email doncaster@cam.org.au or templestowe@cam.org.au.

For information on our Parish Schools please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

St Charles Borromeo Primary School
Phone: 9842 7634

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

First Reading

[Ezekiel 34: 11-12. 15-17](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

It was common enough in the world of the Old Testament for rulers to be thought of as shepherds. In spite of the actual disparity between the life of the shepherd – physically demanding, lowly, exposed and unglamorous – and the opulent life of the overlord, both had the responsibility of protecting and caring for their respective flocks. Israel freely applied the metaphor of shepherd to their true ruler, the God of the exodus. Kings, therefore, were answerable to God in their role as shepherds of the people. The failure of kings to fulfil this responsibility led to the disaster of the exile and the end of kingly rule in Israel. Ezekiel therefore assures the returned exiles that God will once again be their true shepherd. Much of the reading exploits and expands on the metaphor. Incidentally, some translations, such as the NRSV, have God destroying, rather than watching over, the sheep that are “fat and healthy”. Whether justified or not, this rendition accords with the biblical theme of reversal so plainly expressed in Mary’s Magnificat.

One of the shepherd’s tasks, as the last verse explains, is to “judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats”. This mention of judgement, sheep and goats provides a verbal link with the gospel parable, but not much more. The substance of the reading, unlike the parable, is not about the moral judgement of the sheep but about the qualities of the true shepherd.

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 15: 20-26. 28](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

The second reading is an excerpt from Paul’s teaching on the resurrection of the dead, expounded at length in chapter fifteen of 1 Corinthians. It has some apocalyptic features and presumes some knowledge of Old Testament traditions.

The first of these traditions is the requirement that the first part of the harvest be dedicated to God in symbolic recognition of God’s sovereignty (Ex 23:16). The second is the story of the first human being – Adam being both a personal name and a word meaning humankind – and the universal reality of death that followed on from the Fall. The third is God’s promise of a royal ruler to whom all enemies would be made subject (Ps 109/110).

The risen Christ is thus the first-fruits of all who have died and as such the sure sign of their ultimate resurrection. Just as Adam brought death, so Christ brings life for “all who belong to him”. And finally, having overcome all opposing powers, most especially death itself, Christ will entrust universal sovereignty to God the Father. It’s striking that on this feast acclaiming Christ as Universal King we read that “the Son himself will be subject” to God the Father.

BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next and last Bookish Morning Tea for 2023 will take place on Wednesday, 6th December. Please make sure you mark this date in your diary and we look forward to enjoying some special time together.



WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH

When: Thursday mornings @ 9.45am (after 9.15am Mass)

Dates: 30th November

7th December

14th December

21st December

Where: St Kevin's Church Gathering Space

Come and join our Lay Ecclesial Leader, Tiziana D'Costa, as she leads us into a reflection and discussion series on learning what an 'expectant heart' means – increasingly open to hearing and responding to God. Booklets are available from the table in the Gathering Space. Please feel free to take one to read and reflect upon, regardless of whether you would like to attend the Advent Reflection Series or not. Booklets are free. However, a donation would be appreciated.

A convenient way to make contributions to our parish and its appeals is to use this QR Code and following these simple steps:

4. Wave your mobile camera over it
5. Click on “Web Address”
6. Indicate your payment options



All contributions will go directly and securely into the Church account.

Caritas Australia to host Service of Solidarity with Gaza and the Holy Land

in recognition of the human suffering, serving as a place for the community to come together in hope and healing. All are welcome to the service, which will take place via Zoom on Monday 27 November from 4:30 to 5:00 pm AEDT. Registration details are below. <https://catholicoutlook.org/caritas-australia-to-host-service-of-solidarity-with-gaza-and-the-holy-land/>