



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 B

First Sunday of Advent

2nd/3rd December, 2023

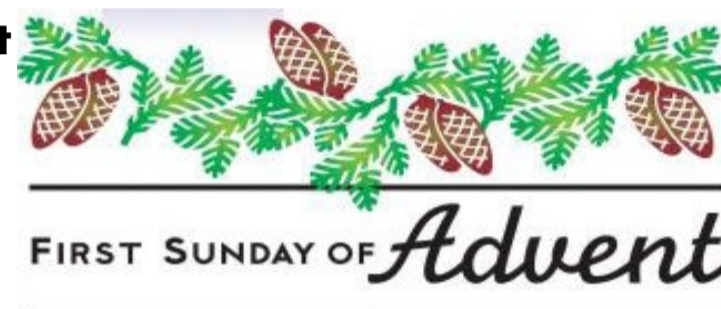
Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Welcome to St Kevin's as we celebrate the **First Sunday of Advent**

Today's theme is:

DISCERNMENT – 'Stay awake – be ready...'

We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout today's Mass.



From the desk of our PP...

Advent: Sundays are Year B: the Gospel of Mark: Weekdays are Year II

Welcome to the start of a new year, a new Liturgical Year! Our year will be focussed around the Gospel of Mark, the earliest of the Gospels to be written down in about 70 CE (the first Gospel of course is Jesus Christ and his life). Mark has many threads but a few defining features I'd like you to keep in mind during the coming year:

- There is a demanding urgency in all St Mark says: "at once" "Immediately" – everything must be 'now!!' – Mark is urgent that we hear the Good News
- St Mark starts: "The beginning of the Good News ..." and ends, leaving us hanging with the women running away from the tomb, afraid. Clearly: it is our task to continue the Good News.
- There is a thread of 'discernment' throughout – Jesus is not just following a recipe, he is discerning how best to bring the news that the Kingdom of Heaven is near – the disciples are not just learning from Jesus, they are discerning how the Holy Spirit and Jesus are calling them to action. How are we translating God's call today into action in the world around us? That requires discernment.
- Mark was writing to the Christian community in Rome – persecution, betrayal, internal division, minority status, opposition from powerful leaders/lobby groups: could this be our context today in many ways?

Advent Reflections: Advent reflection booklets are available from the table in the Gathering Space: With Expectant Hearts (from the Archdiocese of Brisbane) is a classic book of daily reflections for "Advent Reflections" with scripture and reflection and thoughts and questions – there is a group gathering at 9:45am each Thursday to discuss / reflect on the reflections for each Sunday of Advent.

Christmas: The Mass times are now published. There are flyers up and noticeboards up outside St Kevin's and St Greg's giving all the times. Coming first: Reconciliation Service—to be held at St Kevin's 14th December 7:30 pm, with individual absolution.

Christmas Day is a MONDAY, New Year's Day is a MONDAY. We still have Masses for Sundays: pretty much as normal on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Our desire to attend Sunday Mass as our weekly living of the Resurrection doesn't lessen just because there is a feast day the next day.

Altar Servers: I had a family come up and ask could their four children join as Altar Servers – that potentially means we have enough children to get us properly started with having Altar Servers again after quite some years without.

God Bless, Fr Charles

Christmas Carols

Come and join our St Kevin's Primary School community as we sing Christmas Carols and review our year. Monday, 4th December at 6.30pm in the Church. All welcome.



Please note: Christmas Day is a Monday this year. The Liturgy Committee is putting a lot of work into helping us prepare. They have made the 4 weekends of Advent into a unique package and urge each one of us to fully participate.



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:

Stephen Byrne, June Flood, Ben Skadiang, Sharon McCluskey, Joe Chadwick, Claire Ryan, Margaret Anderson, Ugo Di Corrado and Walter Hohenberger.

Recently Deceased:

Feast Days this week:...

7th December St Ambrose
Born about 340, Ambrose, while still a catechumen, was elected Bishop of Milan. His writings reveal a man of great faith and energy.

8th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
This feast had its origin in the East as the 'Conception of Mary by St Anne'. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception: she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

LITURGY ROSTER

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

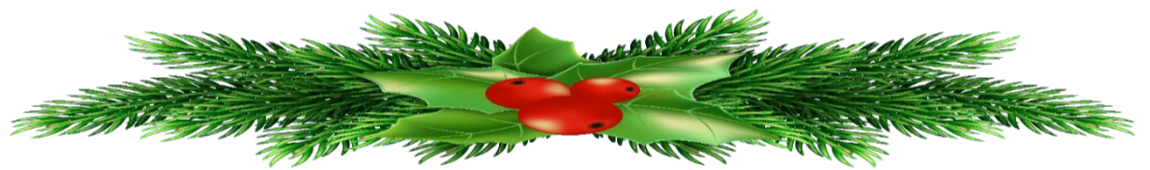
1st Read: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8 2nd Read: Cor 1: 3-9 Gos: Mark 13: 33-37

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Hannah Halliburton	Bredenia Raquel	Lawrence Ceconello
8.30am	Frank Ozzimo		Adrian Teo
10.00am	Tony Byrne	Liz O'Connell	Kaye Byrne

Second Sunday of Advent – 9/10th December 2023

1st Read: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2nd Read: 2 Peter 3: 8-14 Gos: Mark 1: 1-8

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Pauline Erickson	Margaret Turner	Maryanne McNamara
8.30am	Paul Polidano		Frances Bettiol
10.00am	Miriam Ayoub	Bernard Butler	Lyn Murphy



Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2023

14 th December	- Reconciliation Service	7.30pm
24 th December	- Christmas Eve	5.45pm Carols
		6.00pm Mass
		9.00pm Mass
25 th December	- Christmas Day	9.00am Mass
	Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day.	
31 st December	- New Year's Eve	9.00am Mass
1 st January	- New Year's Day	9.00am Mass

Parish Council News

In 2024, the Parish Council's work will begin in earnest for the Parish Plan in line with the strategy discussed at the Open Forum and the evening with Ron Huntley. The work is based on the vision and mission areas of development:

- Evangelisation
- Ministries
- Eucharist
- Developments in the broader church: Synod and Plenary Council.

Please let one of the Council members know if you have any questions or suggestions.

The Parish Council members are John Costa, Peter Sheehan, Adrian Teo, Carmel Shiel, Claudia Raiola, Pauline Erickson and Margaret Turner. Gabee Leone (St Kevin's School principal); Miranda Zuzic (St Charles' School principal); Fr Charles, Ana and Tiziana.

**CHRISTMAS
BLANKET RAFFLE**

TICKETS: \$2 EACH OR 3
TICKETS FOR \$5.

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT
OUR KNITTING GROUP

**Drawn 16-17 December 2023 at weekend Masses
3 Blankets to raffle**

**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.

The peace, stillness and harmony that we experience in meditation flows over into action. Our thinking is touched by love. We become calmer and less stressed within ourselves.

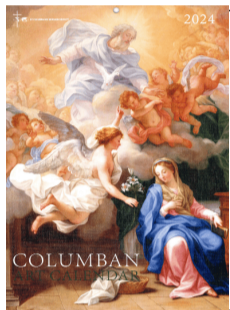
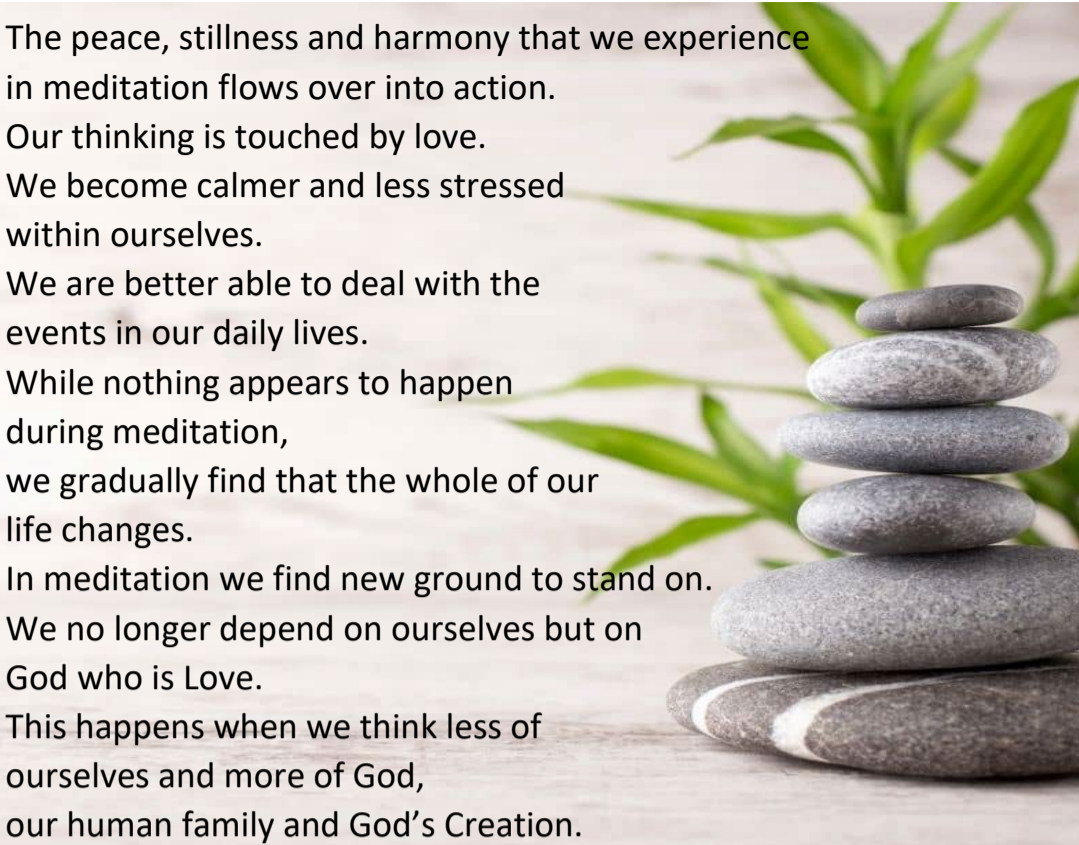
We are better able to deal with the events in our daily lives.

While nothing appears to happen during meditation, we gradually find that the whole of our life changes.

In meditation we find new ground to stand on.

We no longer depend on ourselves but on God who is Love.

This happens when we think less of ourselves and more of God, our human family and God's Creation.



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!

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



The final **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** for 2023 takes place on **Friday, 8th December @ 7.30pm in the Church Gathering Space.**

Open to men of any age (older teenagers are welcome (with their guardian) - parishioners and non parishioners alike.

All are welcome. Invite a friend, relative or neighbour along. Supper is provided. BYO alcoholic drinks. \$7 donation suggested to cover costs. For catering purposes, please ring the parish office on 9850 5983, or email Tiziana at tiziana.dcosta@cam.org.au



Charity begins at home

Thanks to all our Parishioners, recent 2nd Collections recently raised \$385 for Catholic Deaf. For those not aware, of all Catholic Churches/Cathedrals under the Melbourne Archdiocese the thoughtfully designed sound system at St Kevin's (more than for our neighbouring Churches) is up with the best - thanks to careful attention by Vianney Shiel, perhaps with some others. Most people who are not sufferers of poor sound environments have no real sense of the severe handicap of inability to properly hear at Mass, and socially beyond. In very different ways our recent 2nd Collection for World Mission Sunday raised \$843.50. This weekend for the 2nd in a row 2nd Collections will support Mackillop Family Services, later Melbourne Overseas Mission, and ahead both our schools' respective collections for Loyo Elementary School in the Philippines (St Kevin's School) and now also Mantayupan Elementary School (St Charles Borromeo). On Christmas day as usual Masses will again collect for poor families who can't afford to celebrate Christmas. Shortly our SJA group will start planning for 2024 2nd Collections in conjunction with CAM and others across our Parish - *John Costa SJA*

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



*Solemnity
of the
Immaculate
Conception
December 8*

This Feast Day will be celebrated with a special Mass at St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster at 9.00am on Friday, 8th December. All welcome.


*Joy
Love
Peace
Believe
Christmas*

H O P E



WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS

ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH

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

Dates: 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.

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

Lord, make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

[Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1. 3-8](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

Of all the books of the Old Testament (apart from the psalms), none is used more often for the Sunday readings than Isaiah. This is especially so at Advent and Christmas. That's because Isaiah offers an unparalleled vision of hope in many passages full of promise and reassurance.

Scholars tell us that we should speak of the "books" of the prophet Isaiah, for what we simply call the "book" appears to be a collection of writings from different historical periods. Today's passage comes from what is usually called "Third Isaiah". It reflects the situation of the Israelites on their return from exile. Struggling to rebuild their homeland and their lives, they feel abandoned by God and plead for him to return to their aid, even as they confess their rebellion against him.

The reading begins and ends with God being addressed as "our Father". This double affirmation establishes the frame - a "safety zone" - within which the people can make their plea and confess their sin with trust.

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 1: 3-9](#)

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Most of Paul's letters are prompted by problems that have been reported to him, yet they begin with a greeting to the community and a prayer of thanksgiving. 1 Corinthians is no exception. In this case the greeting has become one of the options for the presider to use at the beginning of Mass.

Today's passage has been chosen for its reference to "the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" which the Corinthians are eagerly waiting for, the day when the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed. This first letter of Paul's to Corinth is early enough for the expectation of the end times still to be strong. Paul seeks to arouse no fear or anxiety about the day of the Lord. On the contrary he implies confidence and hope, for God "has joined you to his Son" and "will keep you steady and without blame." Above all, "God is faithful".

It is only when we read the whole of the letter that we realise that even in the opening thanksgiving Paul is alluding to problems at Corinth. The wealth of spiritual gifts with which the community has been blessed has led, we find later, to divisions and rivalries. Nonetheless the reading as it stands is full of warm praise and encouragement.

BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our 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.

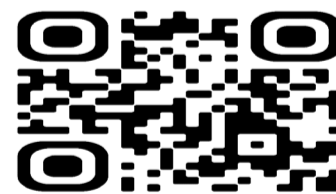
A huge *thank you* to all of you who have supported this group over the year and a special *thank you* to our Ana who managed to introduce this successful new group into our parish. Well done Ana!



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.



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.