



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



26 Herlihy's Road, Lower Templestowe 3107
PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106
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

Second Sunday of Advent

9/10th December, 2023

Our Presider today is: Fr Gerry McKernan

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

Today's theme is:

DISCERNMENT – 'Allow the Holy Spirit...'

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



From the desk of our Lay Ecclesial Leader...

John the Baptist represents the ultimate prophet. He devoted his life to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. He did not falter in his mission. Jesus himself considered John the highest amongst men.

We are here to be messengers of God. But to be prophets we don't need to live in the wilderness, eat locusts and wild honey or to dress in camel hair. We can be prophets in our everyday life - just as we are.

Joan Chittister says about prophecy:

'We are here to be a rudder on the ship of life. We are meant to be heralds and watch guards, lovers and followers of the Jesus who called all of Israel to remember the poor, save the women, embrace the outliers, consort with the foreigners, and wrestle the Law to the ground of compassion. It is a most exalted - most demanding, most dangerous - calling. But without it, we will never become the whole of ourselves.'

Prophecy requires commitment, passion and clarity, but it does not have to be loud, extreme or apocalyptic. We are prophets whenever we 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8).

Speak your truth about God, faith and making this world the kingdom of God. Use the gifts God has given you. Do it your own way, in your own style.

Blessings, Tiziana D'Costa

Christmas Party

THANK YOU!!! We said thank you on the night but ... thank you personally from me to everyone who helped organise and everyone who came along and so ensured last Sunday Night's joint parishes Christmas Party was such a success. By my estimate there were at least 30 people who actively helped organising and running the night, and of course the forty or so children in the nativity play and singing Carols and Christmas songs for us: you are all amazing! I asked for a guess on numbers attending and the consensus is about 300 people came along with a lovely blend of people from St Kevin's and St Greg's. Amazing!!! Graced!!! What a wonderful way to start our Advent Journey.

It was wonderful to see the joy in the children's faces as they presented the nativity play and as Santa Claus distributed gifts. And it was lovely to hear the happy sound of all the adults chatting away, bringing a sound of delight to the night.

Fr Charles

Advent Reconciliation



An Advent Reconciliation Service

*will be held at St Kevin's on Thursday Evening,
14th December at 7.30pm.*

Reconciliation will be offered in the first rite (general absolution) however, we will have extra priests available for the second rite of individual absolution if you prefer.

Please note: this will be the only Reconciliation Service held during Advent.

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 and Tracey Tucker.

Anniversaries:

Laurie Sheehan, Chris Adams, Merna Monaghan and Norman Ronald (Ron) Chambers.

Recently Deceased:

Ivan Mihelj

Feast Days this week:...

13th December St Lucy

Named in Eucharistic Prayer 1 and remembered as a youth, radiant with Christian faith and courage.

14th December St John of the Cross

Carmelite priest who joined St Teresa of Jesus in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discaled Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

LITURGY ROSTER

Second Sunday of Advent – 9/10th December 2023

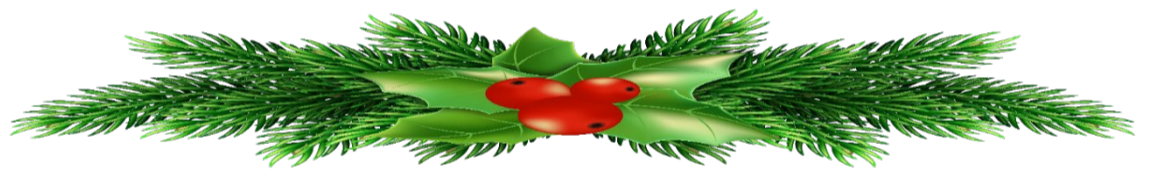
1st Read: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2nd Read: 2 Peter 3: 8-14 Gos: Mark 1: 1-8

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

Third Sunday of Advent – 16/17th December 2023

1st Read: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11 2nd Read: Thess 5: 16-24 Gos: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Lucy Halliburton	Pauline Erickson	Anne Maguire
8.30am	Julie O'Donnell		Mary Waddick
10.00am	Frances Johnson	Vianney Shiel	Tony Robinson



Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2023

14th December - Reconciliation Service 7.30pm

24th December - Christmas Eve 5.45pm Carols

6.00pm Mass

9.00pm Mass

25th December - Christmas Day 9.00am Mass

Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day.

31st December - New Year's Eve 9.00am Mass

1st 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.

ST KEVIN'S PARISH TEMPLESTOWE
"That all may live life to the full"

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.

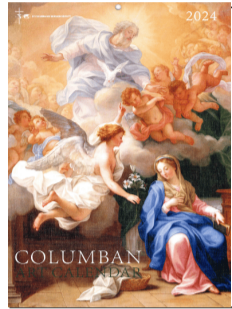
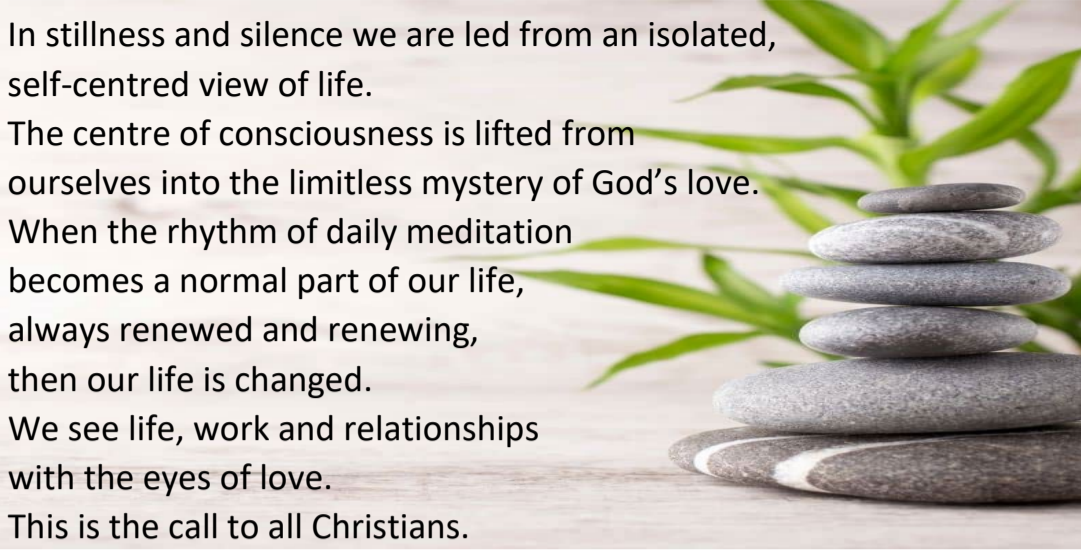
In stillness and silence we are led from an isolated, self-centred view of life.

The centre of consciousness is lifted from ourselves into the limitless mystery of God's love.

When the rhythm of daily meditation becomes a normal part of our life, always renewed and renewing, then our life is changed.

We see life, work and relationships with the eyes of love.

This is the call to all Christians.



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!

January: The parish offices (at both St Greg's and St Kevin's) will be largely closed during January – nearly everyone is on holiday (surprise 😊). Fr Charles? He will be around – catching up on things, thinking, and taking things a little easier but still available. So if there is something you are thinking about doing during January – you need to let us know so we can plan it – and I know what is happening.

Fr Charles



WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS

ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH

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

Dates: 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 Safety Message

Victoria is currently experiencing a surge in Covid cases. As we wait for the wave to peak and subside, please take care of yourself and one another. Get tested if symptomatic, stay home if you are infectious, wear a mask if you cannot be in a well-ventilated space.

See [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

Thank you, Tiziana

Free to a Good Home!

The next edition of "The Swag" magazine is available from the table in the Gathering Space.

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

2nd Collections - recent and ahead (including a Correction ahead)

Thanks to St Kevin's Parishioners, recent 2nd Collections at St Kevin's raised \$547 for Nungalinga College in Darwin. Last Sunday in support of the same College the joint St Gregory's / St Kevin's Christmas Party also sold Raffle Tickets to raise additional funds for Nungalinga, though we don't yet know the result (but it was a great EOY Party!). Looking ahead there has been a minor change to the 2nd Collection schedule this year. That's because in planning ahead we neglected to take into account that Christmas Day this year is on a Monday and immediately follows a weekend with its own 2nd Collection. That happens to work out well because the traditional St Kevin's Christmas fundraising for LOYO Elementary School in the Philippines on behalf of St Kevin's School is now joined for the first time this year by St Charles Borromeo School similarly now supporting an Elementary School in the Philippines - Mantayupan. As we have long supported St Kevin's fundraising for Loyo we now equally support St Charles the same way at this time of year in their active support for another poor and needy Elementary School in the Philippines. - *John Costa SJA*

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.



Ever wondered what happens to the foodstuffs you generously place in the donation basket in the Gathering Space?...

With the extraordinary talents of our Pastoral Worker (Ana Saro) they are transformed into the most beautiful Christmas gift hampers!



Ana then transports them to the needy families of our Parish. She wishes you could all be there to see the happiness, relief and joy these hampers bring to these families.

Well done St Kevin's parishioners and **thank you!** We are indeed a caring and thoughtful community.

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, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

All who are familiar with Handel's *Messiah* will recognise much of the first reading. He uses the first verses for the opening aria and draws on others later in the first section of the oratorio, matching text and music marvellously to convey the joy of the prophetic message. Those who know the gospels well will be ready to hear this passage used to situate the preaching of John the Baptist.

The text is taken from the chapter which begins the second book of the prophet Isaiah, often called the Book of Consolation. It is indeed a word of comfort and consolation, declared to a people who have suffered exile, promising them home-coming and the return of their glorious shepherd king. It is filled with the imagery of ancient imperial power. A royal highway will be prepared across the forbidding terrain, and the splendour of the divine ruler will be displayed for all to see. Messengers announce the good news from hilltop to hilltop. This triumphant sovereign is Israel's God; his victorious parade offers the guarantee of loving pastoral care for his people.

The whole reading is in the form of a solemn declaration and should be proclaimed with deliberation. It is filled with positive energy; each element needs to be allowed to have its dynamic impact.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3: 8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

This is the only Sunday in the whole three-year cycle on which we hear from the second letter of Peter. Opinions differ as to who wrote the letter (whether Peter himself or a later disciple invoking his name), when it was written (perhaps as early as the year 65 or as late as 150), and to whom it was sent. The work is short and sharp. In response to "false prophets" it offers a vigorous defence of Judaeo-Christian moral norms in the light of hope for "new heavens and a new earth".

In this passage the author draws on conventional apocalyptic imagery to depict the Day of the Lord: "with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart ... the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat".

Frightening language like this may have contributed to the thirteenth century poem known as the *Dies irae* that used to be prayed at Catholic funerals.

In spite of the fearful nature of the images - "the Day of the Lord will come like a thief" - the overall tone of the reading is one of encouragement and hope. It speaks of the Lord's promises and patience, it looks forward to "the new heavens and new earth", and it encourages right living in peace.



Joy
Love
Peace
Believe
Christmas

Aid to the Church in Need says "thank you" to the parishioners of St Kevin's.

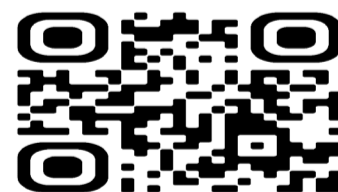
"Please convey the thanks of *Aid to the Church in Need* to your parishioners. It is only through people's generosity and prayers that we are able to help those who still endure the Way of the Cross today.

You can assure your parishioners that they will be remembered in the prayers of those who are helped by their love."

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.

