



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

Third Sunday of Advent

16/17th December, 2023

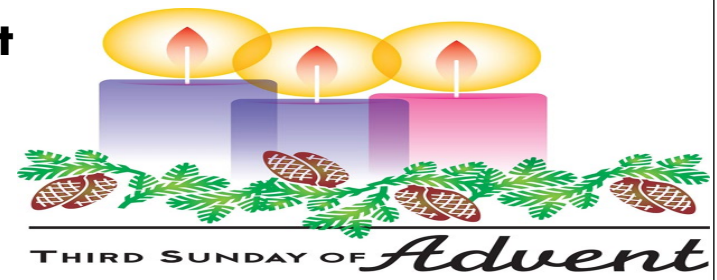
Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

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

Today's theme is:

DISCERNMENT – 'See and believe...'

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



From the desk of our Parish Priest...

Music/Singing:

We have a dedicated musical performance group of ... one. And a wonderful and dedicated group of about six singers who are available for the 10 am Mass.

I am prompted to highlight the wonderful but limited numbers of people helping provide live music for us because of some comments here and elsewhere about there not being enough variety in the hymns we use. And people wondering what happened to the 'old favourites' (I am not sure what they are but perhaps can guess a few).

It takes work to develop and maintain a repertoire – it takes people to do the work. So!! Who do you know who might like to hone their skills singing or playing and helping with our Liturgy planning and execution.

Start out small and ... who knows what might happen. The Holy Spirit just needs a small sliver of possibility to open up unexpected vistas.

Advent Penitential Service:

Thank you to everyone who helped make the service on Thursday evening so prayerful and reflective and enlivening. It was well worthwhile the work Izabella and Vianney, and Jan and Tiziana and others put in to develop it. And thanks to Frs Mark and Toan who came and helped me at the end.

As I prepared for the service I wondered what to say and in the end shared a thought about the nature of this beautiful sacrament.

I grew up with giving a list of sins that resulted in 1 or 2 or 3 Hail Mary's and absolution. Sins forgiven! Clean Soul! While that covers the basic mechanics of the sacrament it misses the meaning of the sacrament.

This Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession / Penance) is a sacrament focussed around loving Jesus Christ enough to want to build our relationship with him. Yes we recognise where we failed and where we succeeded but not so we can beat ourselves up or praise our selves. Rather we name the wrongs / sins and successes so we can be open to how Jesus wants us to grow to be even better than we are now.

Pope Francis says he is a sinner, and I believe him. I don't know what he confesses each week, but I think he is a prime example of someone who is very good, very holy, and very, very aware that he can grow and grow and grow again and again and again to be closer to Jesus Christ, to be more like Jesus Christ.

This is the conversation and the journey that the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us to undertake.

God bless, Fr Charles

Journey Stones: We presented each of the graduating students from St Charles and St Kevin's with a journey stone. These stones are gathered and painted by Vicki Clark, an Aboriginal Mutti Mutti woman who lives by the Murray River in Nyah. The Journey Stones are made with ordinary small rocks but: they are not just stones – they come with a prayer for the journey beyond graduation, they come painted with a story of journey – each stone is unique – and they link the recipient to the land of Australia, the land our Aboriginal peoples have learned to know and love and become part of over the past 60,000 years.

Fr Charles



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	(First Communions @ 10.00am)
Tuesday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
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	9.00am	Mass (only one Mass this morning)



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:

Ken McKenzie, Alan Behrendorff, Tom Materazzo, Paul Materazzo and Brian Upton.

Recently Deceased:

LITURGY ROSTER

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 23rd/24th December 2023

1st Read: Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 2nd Read: Romans 16: 25-27 Gos: Luke 1: 26-38

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Kathy Pearce	Lynne O'Brien
9.00am	Pauline Erickson		Pat Rowland

★
Joy
Love
Peace
Believe
Christmas



Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2023

23rd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent 5.30pm Mass

24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent 9.00am Mass

Please note: this is the only Mass on Sunday morning

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

30th December - Feast of the Holy Family 5.30pm Mass

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

Please note: this is the only Mass on New Year's Eve

1st January - New Year's Day 9.00am Mass

**CHRISTMAS
BLANKET RAFFLE**

Congratulations to our Winners:

Prize 1: V Sciarrone

Prize 2: Diane Bone

Prize 3: Trish Wilson

A huge **thank you** to all who supported our Annual Christmas Blanket Raffle.

Christmas Break-Ups

Our last **Meditation Session** for 2023 will take place on Wednesday, 20th December at 9.30am online. Meditation will recommence on Wednesday, 7th February 2024 and continue online for the rest of the year unless otherwise specified. All are welcome to join us.

Our last **Craft Group Session** for 2023 was held last Tuesday and will recommence on Tuesday, 6th February 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone. See you in 2024!



**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.

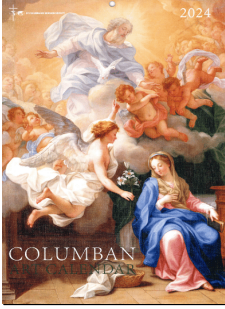
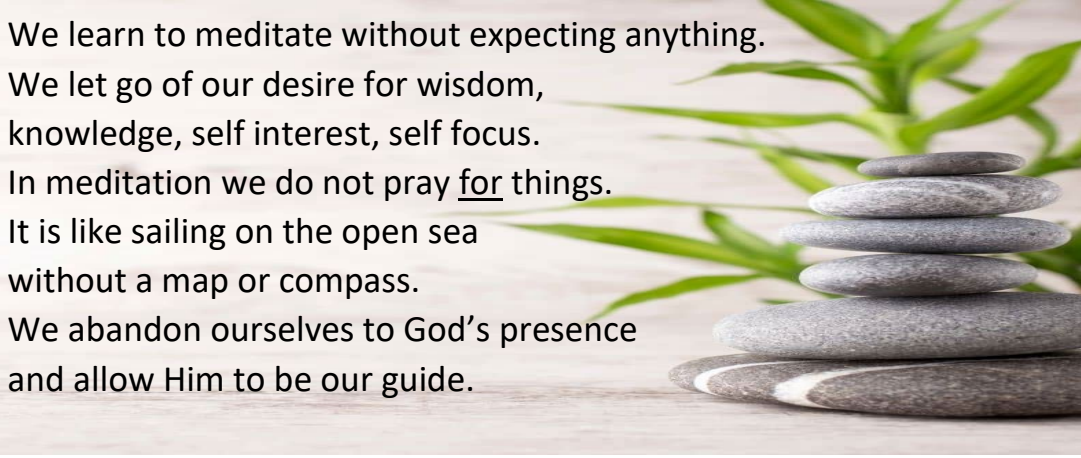
We learn to meditate without expecting anything.

We let go of our desire for wisdom,
knowledge, self interest, self focus.

In meditation we do not pray for things.

It is like sailing on the open sea
without a map or compass.

We abandon ourselves to God's presence
and allow Him to be our guide.



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

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.



'The Voice' is dead but 'The Gap' remains

First some good news. We received the following message from Sr Brigid Arthur of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker's Project following our 2nd Collection donation of \$557.50 "Thank you very much Frances, Please pass on our sincere gratitude to the people of St Kevin's. The interest, support and care from Communities such as St Kevin's really mean a lot". **Now** for other news. It's taking some time for The Voice Referendum failure to sink in, particularly with those for whom it failed so dramatically despite 5.3 million supporters. Some YES voters have expressed a view that the outcome has left a feeling of being less proud to be called 'Australians'. However with even stronger continuing imperative for Equality and Justice, the issue is far from dead. Towards that end, this week the *Yoorook Justice Commission* released four issues papers calling for submissions for its *inquiry into education, health and housing injustice* affecting First Peoples in Victoria. Yoorook invites all Victorian individuals, organisations and government departments to make a submission on the extent, causes and consequences of injustice within the education, health and housing systems, barriers First Peoples face in accessing services, and potential solutions to fix problems and improve accountability. Full details and submission loading will be accessible via our Social Justice webpage. - *John Costa SJA*



WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS

ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH

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

Dates: 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.

This weekend, we welcome to the Table of the Lord for the very first time:

Ethan Jordan Runco

and

Mia Louise Runco

Congratulations children!

May our Lord continue to guide you and protect you as you continue to travel along your faith journey.



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



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

My soul rejoices in my God.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

[Isaiah 61: 1-2. 10-11](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The first few verses of today's reading from the prophet Isaiah are likely to sound familiar to readers and congregation alike. The gospel writer Luke puts them on the lips of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth (Lk 4:18). They are the words with which Jesus first announces his mission. In that dramatic episode which prefigures Jesus' fate, he finds the initial enthusiasm of his hearers quickly turn to violent rejection.

The text for today consists of the first and last two verses of Chapter 61. It is a prolonged message of good news for the community that has returned from exile to Jerusalem. Examining the chapter in full will reveal where the transition is made from one part to the other in the lectionary text. Perceptive readers may also note a connection with the mysterious servant of the Lord about whom we read in Holy Week; he too is endowed with God's Spirit (Is 42:1).

Each phrase of this joyful reading deserves to be savoured.

Second Reading

[1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24](#)

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

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The second reading comes from the conclusion of the very first letter attributed to Paul the apostle. Written about the year 50, it is understood to be the oldest book in the New Testament. At that time there was still a vivid expectation that Christ would soon return in glory to bring all things to completion. This is one of the issues that prompt Paul to write to the Christian community at Thessalonica. In the section of the letter just prior to today's excerpt, Paul encourages the community to remain ready for the day of the Lord but to do so in a spirit of calm confidence.

This allows him to go on with advice about how they should be living their lives while they wait. It is all very positive and uplifting. He wants them to be happy, to pray constantly, to be thankful, to stay open to the Spirit, to let God bless them with holiness, and to trust God's faithfulness.

Every one of these good wishes remains welcome and timely.



Reach out. Give life.

Catholic Mission thanks the parish of St Kevin's for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$843.50 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need. Many thanks!

A convenient way to make contributions to our parish and its appeals is to use this QR Code.

All contributions 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.