



# St Kevin's Catholic Parish



26 Herlihy's Road, Lower Templestowe 3107  
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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](mailto:templestowe@cam.org.au)  
Website: [stkevinsparish.org.au](http://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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

**Our Presider today is:** Fr Terry Kean

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

Today's theme is:

**DISCERNMENT – 'Be open to God's calling...'**

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



### **From the desk of our Lay Ecclesial Leader...**

What does Christmas mean to you? I like what Karl Rahner SJ says:

*Entrusted to the world is God's last, deepest, and most beautiful word, in the Word made flesh.*

*This Word says: I love you world, man and woman. I am there. I am with you. I am your life. I am your time. I weep your tears. I am your joy.*

*Do not be afraid. When you do not know how to go any further, I am with you. I am in your anguish, because I suffered it myself. I am in your need and your death, because today I began to live and die with you.*

*I am your life. I promise you: for you, too, life is waiting. For you, too, the gates will open.*

It is a privilege to co-lead St Kevin's parish with Fr Charles for many reasons. Chief among them: it is a pleasure to work with Fr Charles, and in our parish, we live the spirit of Christmas throughout the year.

We care and support one another in good and bad times (think of the pastoral visits to nursing homes and the sick, the knitting group, meditation, men's group, book club, bereavement group, and supporting families in need). We pray together and worship together thoughtfully (eg the Lenten and Advent programs, Adoration, and our wonderful liturgies). We reach out to others near and far (for example, the faith formation in our primary schools, the youth groups and social justice action).

In everything we do, how we relate to one another and work together, God is our North Star.

We are committed to making our parish vibrant and vital. We have spent the year thinking, planning and laying the foundations to be even more intentional about being disciples of Jesus (we have put things in place to run Alpha and Landings programs next year). We have reinvigorated our Parish Pastoral Council and endorsed a Charter. We reviewed our parish structure so that by sharing some resources with St Gregory's we can be more effective in our mission. And we have done all this in synodality: that is, working together and listening to one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you so very much to each one of you for all you do. Several of you are especially involved and work very hard for the parish. I am in awe of your commitment and dedication. Fr Charles and I would be nowhere without great staff in the office. Ana, Frances and Nadia: you are wonderful. We are lucky to have you.

My best wishes for a blessed Christmas. May your hearts be filled with God's peace.

*Blessings Tiziana D'Costa*



## Christmas Mass Times 2023

24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve  
5.45pm Carols  
6.00pm Mass  
9.00pm Mass

25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day  
9.00am Mass  
Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day

### **Days of Solemnity... (important Feast Days)**

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> January – Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Mass will be celebrated @ 9.00am

**Weekend of 6/7<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany of the Lord**

Masses will be celebrated @ 5.30pm on Saturday and 8.30am and 10.00am on Sunday morning.



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.00am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass
	5.45pm	Christmas Carols
	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass
	9.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Monday	9.00am	Christmas Morning Mass
Tuesday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
Thursday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
Saturday	5.30pm	Feast of the Holy Family Mass
Sunday	9.00am	Feast of the Holy Family Mass
	<b>** Please note: this is the ONLY Mass on this Sunday **</b>	
Monday	9.00am	Feast of Mary, Mother of God Mass



### 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:

John Rowland (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Nina Luca

### Recently Deceased:

### **Feast Days this week:...**

**26<sup>th</sup> December** St Stephen  
*Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit, as one 'full of grace and power' who did great wonders and signs among the people.*

**27<sup>th</sup> December** St John  
*Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis in Christian love.*

**28<sup>th</sup> December** The Holy Innocents  
*In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence.*

## LITURGY ROSTER

### Fourth Sunday of Advent – 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Christmas Eve/Day – 24/25<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6 Gospel: John 1: 1-18**

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
6.00pm	Tiziana D'Costa	Fiona Watson	Lyn Murphy Lawrence Ceconello
9.00pm	Lyn Robinson	Margaret Turner	Tony Robinson
9.00am	Pauline Erickson	Carmel Shiel	TBA

**Being Prophetic:** Last week I spoke in my homily about the reality that we are all gifted by the Holy Spirit with the capacity to speak prophetically. Here is the process I outlined:

1. Recognise that you are receiving a call of the Holy Spirit to speak out or take action – that good but disturbing feeling or urge to speak out about God's call. Recognise and respond.
2. Centre in God – allow yourself time. Time to be quiet, time to just 'be still' with God.
3. Sense the call you are seeking to respond to. Allow an image to form. If that doesn't feel / seem right, allow another image. Allow yourself to sit with the image.
4. Relate your image to a passage from Scripture – there is no 'rule' here – choose the passage that you sense to be right. And allow a word to arise from it.
5. Ask why this image / scripture / word? Allow space for the Holy Spirit
6. Allow the image, scripture, Word to settle and point you to an action that you can take that can be applied in the real world.

*Fr Charles*

## Christmas Break-Ups

**Meditation Sessions** will recommence on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and continue online for the rest of the year unless otherwise specified. All are welcome to join us.

**Craft Group Sessions** will recommence on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Youth Group Events** will recommence on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> 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.**

Meditation is a discipline of **presence**.

By our stillness of body and spirit we become

**present** to the source of our being.

We become rooted in **Being** itself.

We become rooted in God.

The way of meditation is a slow one.

It asks patience, faithfulness,  
discipline and humility.

We begin to learn,

not about our own cleverness,

but true wisdom.

We meditate to be **present to God** –

the **God who IS**.

When Moses asked God for His Name,

God said **'I Am who I Am'**.

That is **NOW** in this and every moment of **NOW**.



**Assistant Priest:** Suddenly – an offer I have accepted – the appointment of an assistant.

Welcome to Fr Isaac Ad Hani Moheib Fayez Zaki!

Sometime soon, hopefully just after Christmas Fr Isaac (Isaac) will join the Doncaster and the Templestowe parishes as Assistant Priest. I have met Isaac and he is a lovely man. Please welcome him warmly when he arrives.

A significant part of his time will be spend as Chaplain caring for the Egyptian Coptic Catholic Community. Beyond that we will work over coming weeks out how best Isaac minister with us.

Isaac is about 40 and has been ordained for 13 years, serving in various roles in Egypt and spent five 'holiday's in Canada providing supply for the Coptic priest in Ontario.

I spend an afternoon with Isaac and found him to be engaging, insightful, knowledgeable, faith-filled. I think he will prove to be a gift of the Holy Spirit.

I ask your help to make sure, as a new migrant (he's been here 12 days), Isaac gets the best induction to our ways, our culture, our approach to faith: all the perplexity of a new country and parish.

*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.



**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*

### **Christmas Supper:**

There will be a light Christmas Supper after the 9pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Everyone welcome – please bring a plate of food to share.



**Second Collections over the Christmas Period** will go towards Loyo and Mantayupan Elementary Schools in the Philippines jointly. The contributions for all these Masses will be shared equally for both of our Parish School donations respectively to Loyo (St Kevin's School) and Mantayupan (St Charles Borromeo) Elementary Schools.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our special collections throughout the year. May you all have a safe, happy and most blessed Christmas.

*- John Costa SJA*



### **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!

**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

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading

#### 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

It may not be obvious to contemporary believers, especially those unfamiliar with the Old Testament, that today's first reading, from the second book of Samuel, is a highly political manifesto. It presents a ringing endorsement of a particular theological tradition in Jewish history. It declares divine approval for the royal house of David and for the building of the temple in Jerusalem. Together these two initiatives will assure Israel of peace ("rest from their enemies").

But both of these were contentious issues in ancient times, and elsewhere the scriptures record dissenting points of view. A trace of this can be found in verses 6-7 that have been omitted from today's passage – a timely reminder that it is always valuable to compare the lectionary text with the full version in the Bible.

The reading as we have it revolves around a contrast. It is not David who will build a house (ie a temple) for the Lord, but the Lord who will build a house (ie a royal dynasty) for David. David's desire to build a temple – "Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent" – is countered later in the reading by the Lord's reply – "The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House".

The reading as a whole offers a constant message of assurance. The Lord promises his people a place of rest and security, and pledges everlasting faithfulness. This promise and pledge will be remembered in the gospel for today.

#### Second Reading

#### Romans 16: 25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

The text for today's second reading is the short burst of praise that concludes Paul's magisterial letter to the Romans. This is the only letter of Paul that ends with a doxology; perhaps the prayer came independently from a Christian worship service and was added to the letter as a conclusion. The effect is an unusual continuity of prayerful praise between the psalm and the second reading.

However the first sentence of the reading does pose a challenge. It's another of those typically Pauline passages where the thoughts tumble out one after the other and create a rather complex unit. The opening declaration is strong: "Glory to him . . . the Good News I preach". The remainder of the sentence is like a long appendix prompted by mention of the "Good News".

The remaining sentences are relatively short and clear. It is set out in helpful sense lines, but leaves the entire passage as a single unbroken sentence which only reaches its climax at the last moment.



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!

## Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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