



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



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

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Christmas Thoughts From the Desk of the PP...

Christmas: Jesus is born Alleluia, Alleluia. I pray your Christmas, New Year, and holidays are filled with grace and blessing and joy and love and ways forward into God's Grace and Love. Merry Christmas. Lots of people have made our Christmas possible – can't thank you all individually. So collectively: THANK YOU AND THANK YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN. ***God Bless, Fr Charles***

Archbishop Comensoli's 2023 Christmas Message...

In his Christmas message for 2023, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reflects on the beautiful words of the prophet Isaiah, who speaks of 'the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation'.

Dear friends, we hear these words from the ancient prophet Isaiah (52:7):

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation ...*

These are beautiful words—old words, first spoken in old days, yet so sorely needed in our day!

Amid this time of conflict, suffering and exile, Isaiah speaks to us words of peace and the good news about the Prince of Peace.

Our hearts ache for reconciliation of peoples; respect for our shared humanity; care for our crying planet. Our world and its people seem to be groaning and railing against pathways to true peace.

Yet we experience the hope of God through simple words of joy, mercy and peace.

The shepherds experienced this. So did the Magi. Mary and Joseph knew it intimately.

God knew we needed his Son to come amongst us, to show us the way ahead.

As we come to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord this year, might we be attentive to the broken people across the world who are held captive by the tragedy of war and old hatreds.

Might we also remember those exiled in other ways—bereft of knowing God; lost and searching for identity and purpose.

We too can be the messengers whose footfalls bring light into the world, announcing mercy, bringing joy, offering Good News.

God has come among us, simply, humbly and hopefully in a little child, his Son, our Brother.

May the peace that comes through this child, the Prince of Peace, be with you this Christmas.

And with every footstep, may you take His message, and life, out into the world.

Happy Christmas to you all!





LITURGY ROSTER

Christmas Eve/Day – 24/25th December 2023

1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10 2nd Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6 Gospel: John 1: 1-18

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

Feast of the Holy Family – 30th/31st December 2023

1st Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3 2nd Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19 Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Christine Marini	Lawrence Ceconello
9.00am	Julie O'Donnell		Adrian Teo

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, Meave & John Reardon, Eugenia Pozzebon, Margaret Turner, Graham & Jason Gooden, Lynda O'Meara, Milda Sarzetakas, Andrew Amalfi, Ana Saro and Tracey Tucker.

Anniversaries:

John Rowland (2nd)
and Nina Luca

PEACE

Christmas is a time to reflect on the ways we embody God's love.

May those who meet us encounter God in us:

through our smile,

our attentive listening,

our wholehearted acceptance,

our laughter and our tears,

our generosity of spirit,

our time and energy spent in the service of others,

and our willingness to speak up for those without a voice.

We pray that when people spend time with us,

they will see the face of God.



New Year's Weekend Masses

will be celebrated here at St Kevin's Church
on Sunday/Monday mornings

31st December, 2023/1st January, 2024.

That is: 9.00am on New Year's Eve and
and 9.00am on New Year's Day.



Can't help but feel we have "learnt" this Christmas.

While we are aware of our need for social distance and social awareness, let us rejoice in each other's disciplined commitment to keep us safe.

Please be careful amidst all the joys of Christmas and New Year.

We are responsible for each other, to care as Jesus cares.

Fr Charles

St Kevin's Catholic Parish, Templestowe

PARISH COLLECTIONS

How to contribute and where does the money go.

At each Parish weekend Mass, there are generally two (2) collections, namely:

FIRST COLLECTION – the first collection combines two (2) collections: -

- the **THANKSGIVING OFFERING collection**, the funds from which go toward the upkeep of the Parish Church and to pay our Parish operating costs; and
- the **PRESBYTERY OFFERING collection** which supports the Parish Priest.

How to make your contribution:

AT MASS Contributions

Cash Contributions

THANKSGIVING OFFERING - For those parishioners who have signed up to the **St Kevin's Parish Thanksgiving Offering Program (THANKSGIVING OFFERING)** and who have chosen to make regular cash contributions, they can place their contributions in the **FIRST COLLECTION** using the Program's two-sided envelopes which carry a contributor number.

The **THANKSGIVING OFFERING** contribution is placed in the **GREEN** side of the envelope and the **PRESBYTERY OFFERING** contribution is placed in the **RED** side of the envelope.

Note: Loose money (notes or coins) which is contributed via the **FIRST COLLECTION** is regarded as a contribution to the **PRESBYTERY OFFERING**.

Electronic or Direct Debit Contributions

Electronic Contributions to **THANKSGIVING OFFERING** can be made via the EFTPOS (Tap and Go) machine which is located on the table under the Parish Newsletter stand, near the Gathering Space entrance door.

Direct Debit - Parishioners wishing to make regular contributions to **THANKSGIVING OFFERING** via Direct Debit can make the necessary arrangement through the Parish Office.

SECOND COLLECTION (SOCIAL JUSTICE)– the moneys contributed via the **SECOND COLLECTION** form part of the St Kevin's Parish Social Justice Appeal program which may also include *one-off collections at Christmas & Easter*.

Note: *The weekly Parish Newsletter provides details of the current Appeal.*

Thank you all for your continued support towards our parish.

Thank you!

Great liturgies don't just happen

they come about because people dedicate themselves to helping us celebrate wholeheartedly. Let us join as a community in thanking the Lord, for the thoughtful and skillful work of many of our fellow parishioners.

Fr Charles



Gospel Focus - A Great Census?

The decree of a census for the whole Roman world appears to be an unlikely event. A census of people in local regions was not unusual but a census that required people to return to their place of birth carries no historical validity. The gospel writer correctly places Mary and Joseph in their home town of Nazareth but prophecy indicated the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. The author needed an excuse for Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem. We must remember that the gospels are not to be read as historical accounts but rather as faith accounts of the life of Jesus.

Christmas Hampers

Many thanks – once again – very well done.



Ana, Frances, Tiziana, Nadia and Fr Charles wish you all peace and joy this Christmas season.

May you bask in the wonder of God's care for each one of us.

Christ Is Born



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

*Thank
You*

for the cards, gifts and
best wishes expressed
to me over this
Christmas Season.

You are very special
people.

Fr Charles

Christmas Questions to Ponder...

- Q. What words or phrases from the passage appear to be particularly significant? Why?
- Q. How might Mary and Joseph have felt about their situation for having their baby?
- Q. What message about Jesus is portrayed by his mother laying him in a manger – an animal feed trough?
- Q. Does a close reading of this passage change your picture of the birth of Jesus in any way?
- Q. Why do you think the different infancy stories have been commonly combined into one?
- Q. Why might the Luke gospel go into detail about the Roman officials at the time of the census?
- Q. What is significant about Joseph being 'of David's House and line'?

What's Christmas without some corny Christmas bon bon jokes?.....

- Q.** What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees? **A.** Horn-aments!
- Q.** What did Santa ask Rudolph about the weather? **A.** Is it going to rain, dear?!
- Q.** Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Eve party? **A.** He had no body to go with.
- Q.** What do elves post on social media? **A.** Elf-ies!
- Q.** What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? **A.** The elf-abet!

Abundant blessings this Christmas

*Let our eyes see Your glory,
Let our ears hear Your voice,
And let the brightness of Your love be round us,
And let us glimpse your mystery.
And do not let us miss Your coming
Because it is so commonplace, so everyday,
So far from what we think befits Your beauty.
But let faith lead us to the knowledge,
Light us daily in awareness
That, swaddled in the bands of each one's weakness,
You are flesh amongst us still.*

Raphael Consedine pbvm

