



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



Parish Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9am to 4pm
26 Herlihys Road, Lower Templestowe 3107
PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106
Telephone: 9850 5983 Fax: 9850 1545

Pastoral Worker: Mrs Ana Saro
Lay Ecclesial Leader: Mrs Tiziana D'Costa
Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves
Assistant Priest:.....Fr Isaac Zaki

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 Lent

17/18th February, 2024

Our Presider today is: Fr Isaac Zaki

A word from the Lay Ecclesial Leader...

During Lent, we fast, pray and give. It is a time when we slow down and make room for God. This is important: it is easy to let life take over and to neglect our relationship with God.

Our Lenten program kicked off on Thursday. We had a wonderful discussion and reflection on the readings and themes of the first Sunday of Lent. We are using the 'Living in Harmony' booklet; it contains pearls of wisdom from well-known writers such as Joan Chittister and Andy Hamilton.

In the introduction to the booklet, Fr Hamilton says: *'Harmony is a discipline. It has to be won, held, remade, revalued. At its best, it is built around the joyful play of difference, a mutual love and respect, and a treasuring of other voices and ways. It builds for trust and consensus.'*

This has struck a chord with me because our world needs peace and harmony more than ever. I'm perhaps more aware of it having spent some time in Europe recently where news of war (in the Ukraine and the Middle East) are never far away from people's minds and are ever present in the media. But also, we need harmony in our Australian society, which has become polarised. It seems we have lost the art of civilised public debate, of respecting one another's views. Exchanges often result in toxic and vitriolic personal attacks.

Harmony in the home, in the workplace and in society is hard won. It doesn't just happen. It takes goodwill and commitment - just like anything else that is worthwhile.

How do we bring about harmony? We may need to 'fast' (read: give up on) ready-made judgements and self-righteousness; we need to 'give' of ourselves by embracing diversity and seeing God in the other; and we need to 'pray' for the wisdom and courage to do so.

I am aware this is not the way we usually fast, pray and give during Lent. Maybe it is harder to give up prejudice than chocolate, or it is harder to give someone who holds different views the benefit of the doubt than giving alms to the poor. Nonetheless, God calls us to renew our relationship in the context of our lives; and to bring about the change that is needed in 2024.

Blessings, Tiziana



First Sunday of Lent 17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the table in the Gathering Space, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	Thank You to Volunteers Masses
Tuesday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Stations of the Cross
	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
	9.45am	Lenten Reflection Group
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, Tracey Tucker and Fr Terry Kean.

Anniversaries:

Domenica Ianno, Yvette Mascarenhas, Anna Toppi, Lewis Calleja, Margaret Jones, Murray Weideman, Flora Manarano, Salvatore Casaceli and members of the Hughes and Fernandez families

Recently Deceased:

Br Gerald Rummery

Feast Days this week:...

22nd February The Chair of St Peter
The chair (cathedra) of a bishop is a pre-eminent sign of his teaching authority and pastoral oversight of a local Church.
This feast, observed in Rome since the fourth century, celebrates Peter, first among the apostles, as founder of the See of Rome and the focus of unity in the communion of faith.



LITURGY ROSTER

First Sunday of Lent – 17/18th February 2024

1st Read: Genesis 9: 8-15 2nd Read: 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Gos: Mark 1: 12-15

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Hannah Halliburton	Daniel Marini	Anne Maguire
8.30am	Frank Ozzimo		Penny Teo
10.00am	Carmel Purdey	Bernard Butler	Raffaela Dinelli

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 24/25th February 2024

1st Read: Genesis 22: 1-2. 9-13, 15-18 2nd Read: Romans 8: 31-34 Gos: Mark 9: 2-10

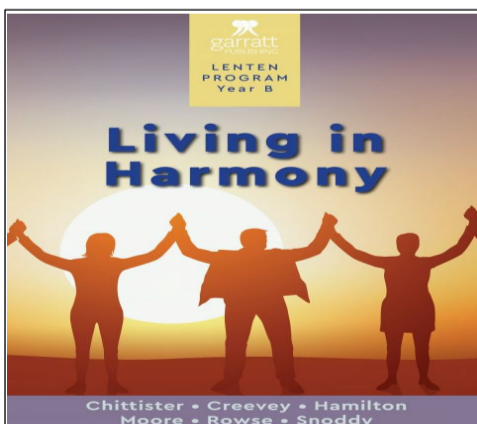
Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Christine Marini	Bredenia Raquel
8.30am	Julie O'Donnell	Pauline Erickson	Pat Rowland
10.00am	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Miriam Ayoub	Tony Whelan

Landings offers a safe place for those who have disconnected from their faith to share their experiences. The informal meetings over a coffee and cake are all about compassionate listening: to welcome and encourage people to re-engage with their faith. The meetings are run by lay people. The program begins on 21 February: there are 8 weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8.30pm held here in our parish. If you know of any inactive Catholics who may be interested in discussing their faith and/or are considering returning to the faith, please contact Ana Saro, our pastoral worker, at the parish office.

Stations of the Cross will be conducted at 9.45am every Tuesday morning during Lent after the 9.15am Mass and 7.00pm every Friday at St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster.

Our weekly **Lenten Program** in St Kevin's Chapel continues every Thursday morning, directly after the 9.15am Mass during Lent. This program is guided by our Lay Ecclesial Leader, Tiziana D'Costa, who uses the Lenten Program booklet written by various theologians. This booklet is provided for you all to use during the Program or for you to study at home if you are not able to attend every session.

There is no charge for this booklet, however a donation would be appreciated.



LENT MCKINNEY LECTURE

'What is happening to asylum seekers in Australia these days?'

Featuring Sister Brigid Arthur CSB, AO an Australian Brigidine sister, educator, refugee, advocate and activist on social issues.

Tuesday 27 February 7.30pm at St George's Anglican Church, 47-51 Warncliffe Road, Ivanhoe East

All Welcome. Further information bill.edebohls@cam.org.au



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Continues every Wednesday fortnight with the next session scheduled for Wednesday, 28th February. Please feel welcome to come to the Parish House on Wednesday morning at 10.30am for a chat, browse through the book swap library and a delicious morning tea! Hope to see you there!!!

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.

Begin Meditation by sitting comfortably
and calmly.

Start to say the mantra, the sacred word,
in your mind: **'Ma-ra-na-tha'**.

It is then that the Spirit prays in
and through us.

The way forward is fidelity to
saying the mantra.

It brings us to silence,

enables us to open our mind and heart to
the work of God,

and the love of God deep in our being.

Scripture Commentaries

St Kevin's Liturgy Team met this week. It was noted how helpful the commentaries on the back of our weekly newsletter are in understanding the Scripture readings. The suggestion was made that, for Lent, we could develop the habit of reading these commentaries. And if you would like to read them before you come to Mass, they are available on our website by going to stkevinsparish.org.au → Faith → Weekly Readings → Sunday Mass Readings

Parish History

There have been some questions about extra copies of our "Reminiscences of the Parishioners" compiled and written by Margaret Mangan. Unfortunately, it is out of print and the good news is that we have the whole text on our parish website. To access the document go to stkevinsparish.org.au → About Us → St Kevin's History → scroll down to Read the full history of St Kevin's Parish Templestowe [HERE](#).

Words from our PP...

What a wonderful start to Lent, for me at least. Having so many parishioners attend and participate in our Masses for Ash Wednesday: amazing! Our faith is alive, and strong: Praise the Lord!!!

Lenten Regulations remain the same: Fasting and Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Abstinence for all over the age of 14; fasting from age 18-60. Encouraged for others but not binding. And special attention to Prayer, Self-Denial, Helping Others on all Fridays of Lent. More details are on the notice board.

Over the Sundays of Lent we will hear from St Mark telling us of the Temptations of Jesus and of Jesus' Transfiguration. Then we journey with St John telling us of the destruction of the Temple (his death), the nature of Service in faith, the need to die like a grain of wheat. Then back to St Mark's account of the Passion and Death of Jesus, leading us into Holy Week.

The journey of Lent is a journey we make each year. It is a journey with Jesus, a journey that leads us to learn yet again that Jesus is human with us and also the Son of God, divine but close to us. Yes a man but not just a man: God. Yes an inspiring leader but much more than that, the only leader who died for us so that we can be united within the love that is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lent: comes from northern hemisphere roots in a word for lengthening, lengthening of the day as Winter passes and Spring begins and Summer beckons. This year, perhaps, the journey of Lent can be that for us: a lengthening of the light of Christ that shines in us and through us so that we are ready for the joy that is the three days of Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday and then the fifty days that lead to Pentecost.

PS: The pilot of the Alpha experience for our parish is progressing well. The twenty or so people participating are all regular Catholics and everyone is finding the commitment of time worthwhile. You'd think that being Catholics all our lives, most of us, we'd know it all. But no! This intentional journey from ignorance into knowing Jesus as the Christ is engaging and inspirational. We are all learning. As the year progresses, we will begin running Alpha regularly and you will be invited to share this privilege of spending some time renewing the beginnings of faith.

God bless, Fr Charles



**TGI'S YOUTH GROUP
LET'S CELEBRATE
2024!**

**JOIN US FOR FUN & GAMES ON
SATURDAY, 24 FEBRUARY
TWO GROUPS:
GRADE 5-8 & YEAR 9-12**

**6.30PM - 8.30PM - DINNER PROVIDED -
\$8 ENTRY**

**RSVP: WED 21 FEBRUARY
templestowe@cam.org.au**

**SACRAMENTAL
PREPARATION**



Preparing Children for Reconciliation,
First Holy Communion
and Confirmation

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH

Do you have a child/ren who does not attend our parish schools whom you would like to have receive a Sacrament this year? If so, the time to act is now!

Enrolments are currently being accepted for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Children need to be in at least Grade 3 level 2024 for Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist and Grade 6 for Confirmation.

Please hop onto our website and download the registration/payment forms, complete them and send them back to us at the parish office as soon as you can as our first Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered next month: [Sacraments - St Kevin's Templestowe Parish \(stkevinsparish.org.au\)](http://stkevinsparish.org.au)

On our website you will also see a series of diary dates which are most important that our Candidates and parents must attend.

Please contact the Parish Office or Ana Saro if you have any further questions.

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

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading	Second Reading
<p>Genesis 9: 8-15</p> <p>A reading from the book of Genesis</p> <p><i>I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.</i></p> <p>The story of Noah unfolds through four chapters of the book of Genesis, with the flood occupying centre stage in the telling of the tale. Scholars observe that, not only have two accounts been woven together to create the biblical version, but quite similar flood stories were common enough in the literature of the ancient near east.</p> <p>Today's reading presents the happy outcome of the flood. The world has been purged of its wickedness and God establishes a new relationship with the whole of creation. Just as the waters were tamed at the birth of creation, so now, God says, they will never destroy the earth again. Every living thing originally created by God is encompassed by the covenant announced to Noah. The rainbow which could be seen as a divine weapon firing bolts of lightning is now a sign of universal and everlasting peace.</p> <p>The form of the reading is a solemn pronouncement by God. As it conveys good news from start to finish, it lends itself to being proclaimed with positive energy, but at the same time with dignity and authority.</p>	<p>1 Peter 3: 18-22</p> <p>A reading from the first letter of St Peter</p> <p><i>The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.</i></p> <p>In his second letter, Peter complains that Paul's letters can be hard to understand. It has to be said that today's passage from Peter's first letter is equally difficult. Even if we can draw a clear message out of it – that by his death, resurrection and return to God Christ has gained authority over all powers, that salvation is offered to all, and that baptism is our way of sharing in that salvation – much remains obscure.</p> <p>While there is a direct connection with the story of Noah and the flood, no-one is sure what is meant by "the spirits in prison" or by Christ's going to preach to them. There may or may not be a connection with Christ's descent into hell that we confess in the Apostles Creed. Even Peter's description of baptism as "a pledge made to God from a good conscience" is puzzling.</p> <p>This means that readers face a double challenge. Not only are the contents of the reading opaque, but the way they are expressed – in sentences that become longer and more convoluted as the text progresses – is a further hurdle. In that respect Peter is on a par with Paul!</p>



World Day of Prayer Services 2024, Palestine, Friday, March 1st

"I beg you ... bear with one another in love"

East Doncaster Baptist Church – 10.00am

47-53 Tunstall Road Donvale
Speaker: Rev Merrill Kitchen OAM

Lived in Palestine and worked in
hospitals in Gaza and Nazareth

All welcome. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of each service.

Contacts: 0438 034 739 or 9850 1150

St Mark's Anglican Church – 7.30pm

302 High Street, Templestowe Lower
Speaker: Rev Dr Colleen O'Reilly AM

Co-Chair, Council of Christians
and Jews, Victoria

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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

