



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

Second Sunday of Lent

24/25th February, 2024

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from our PP...

Praying!

I have spoken about various forms of prayer over the past couple of months about prayer and the dimensions of prayer and the various ways Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit are present for us.

After a decade of ordained life, I have prayed over many people. Prayed when celebrating or administering Sacraments. Prayed over people when they come needing support and guidance in some need, often for an urgent need.

But ... I have never to my memory been prayed over other than when receiving a sacrament.

This past Thursday I had that experience: being prayed over by two members of our parish life. Obviously this way of prayer is not something new that has never been experienced by anyone ever before. No, it is an old experience, Charismatic groups do it all the time, and we know that Jesus prayed over people so this way of prayer is at least that old. But for me to be intentionally prayed over by others, not priests: that was special, new, and it evoked a few thoughts.

I got the gift of the Holy Spirit I had asked for – the prayer was answered in my heart, new confidence arose. It took courage for me to name to others an area of my life for which I wanted prayer, an area of vulnerability. It took trust to allow two people to come close enough to put their hands on my shoulders and speak and even greater trust that the words they would speak would be the right words. It took openness and patience in myself to wait for the touch of the Holy Spirit arising from the prayers spoken over me by people who in turn were trusting that the Holy Spirit would give them the words I needed to hear.

Awesome! God's grace is multifaceted and efficacious! Praise the Lord.

God bless, Fr Charles.



Second Sunday of Lent 24 & 25 February



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	8.45am	Stations of the Cross
	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
	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:

Claude Natoli, Len Saunders, Marlene Shirley Crowl and Bede Header.

Recently Deceased:

Feast Days this week:...

27th February St Gabriel Possenti
Struck with tuberculosis at the age of 24, Gabriel died on February 27, 1862, before his ordination to the priesthood. His fidelity to prayer, joyfulness of spirit and habitual mortifications stand out in his otherwise ordinary life. Pope Benedict XV canonized Gabriel in 1920 and declared him a patron of Catholic youth. His patronage is also invoked by the Church for students, seminarians, novices and clerics. Thousands of divine favours are attributed to his intercession with Christ Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother Mary.

LITURGY ROSTER

Second Sunday of Lent – 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	Margaret Turner	Janet Parsons	Lynne O'Brien
8.30am	Pauline Erickson		Frances Bettiol
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Lucy Halliburton	Geraldine Williams

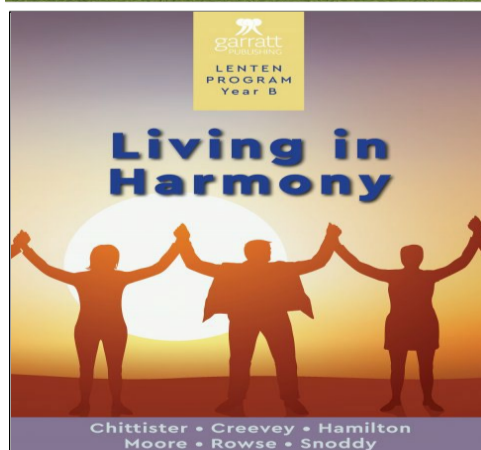
Third Sunday of Lent – 2nd/3rd March 2024

1st Read: Exodus 20: 1-17 2nd Read: 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25 Gos: John 2: 13-25

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Pauline Erickson	Kathy Pearce	Maryanne McNamara
8.30am	Paul Polidano		Pat Rowland
10.00am	Tony Byrne	Liz O'Connell	Lyn Robinson



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 continues every Wednesday evening 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 are conducted at 8.45am every Tuesday morning during Lent after Adoration at 8.15am 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.

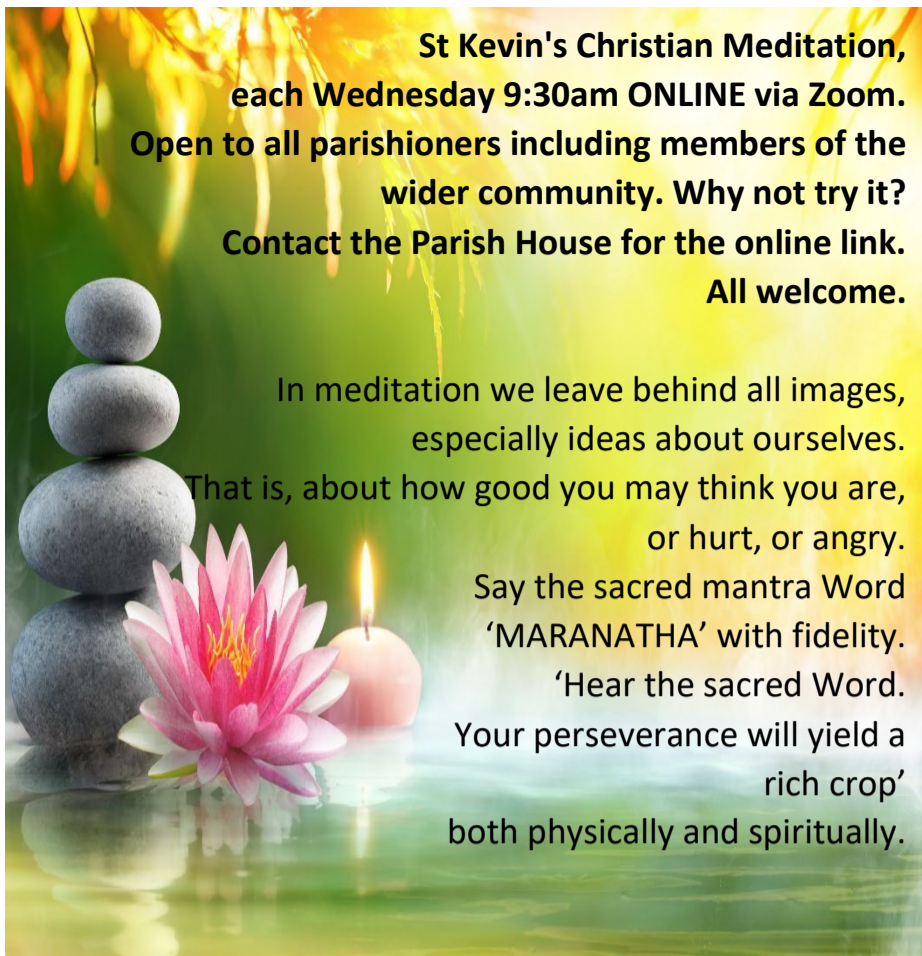
Tuesday 27 February 7.30pm at St George's Anglican Church, 47-51 Warncliffe Road, Ivanhoe East

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.
 Open to all parishioners including members of the
 wider community. Why not try it?
 Contact the Parish House for the online link.
All welcome.

In meditation we leave behind all images,
 especially ideas about ourselves.
 That is, about how good you may think you are,
 or hurt, or angry.
 Say the sacred mantra Word
 'MARANATHA' with fidelity.
 'Hear the sacred Word.
 Your perseverance will yield a
 rich crop'
 both physically and spiritually.



The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes
 place on **Friday, 8th March @ 7.30pm in the
 Church Gathering Space.**

Open to men of any age (older teenagers are welcome (with their guardian) -
 parishioners and non parishioners alike. All are welcome.

Invite a friend, relative or neighbour along. Supper is provided. BYO alcoholic
 drinks. \$8 donation suggested to cover costs. For catering purposes, please ring
 the parish office on 9850 5983, or email Tiziana at tiziana.dcosta@cam.org.au

Help Wanted!

We are now in the Season of Lent and Easter is fast approaching.
 As we enter into this extremely busy time of the Liturgical Year,
 we are asking for some assistance please with our Easter Ceremonies.



If you are not planning time away this Easter Season, please consider being
 involved in your parish this year, even if it is in a small way – every little bit helps!

Please call Fr Charles on 9850 5983 for more information or indeed to express
 your desire to offer any support. Thank you.

**Invitation to parishioners to participate in the final (critical) stage of the
 'Synod on Synodality'**

Following strong past participation by St Kevin's Parishioners in providing inputs to the
 Plenary Council, then (and independently) to the Synod on Synodality, recent Parish
 Newsletters have foreshadowed invitations to all parishioners to participate in a collective
 Parish input to what will soon be the critical 2nd and Final stage of the Synod on Synodality
 in August 2024. Our input and others will be used by the Archdiocese towards an Australian
 Bishops input to that process. Specifically this invitation is to **respond to the documented
 outcomes so far** from the Synod phase 1 last year, and to **suggest how syndodality might be
 (or is already being) introduced into our Parish.** To enable us to finalise arrangements and
 while background documentation will be made available, **this is to invite all parishioners
 NOW PLEASE to express your interest** in participating. Please email or phone the Parish
 Office now to express your interest in participation in this process.
 Further details from **Peter Sheehan** or **John Costa**, Parish Pastoral Council.

**A Note From Our
 Archdiocesan Vocations Office**

I would like to thank you for your prayers
 for Vocations over the years. We were
 delighted to accept eight men to the
 Seminary for Melbourne this year:

Chinh Tran, Rohan Prince,
 Luke Kennedy, Luke Emslie, Tung Phan,
 Joseph Maae, Patrick Harris and Mathews
 Noble.

Many of you have personally helped and
 encouraged these men along their
 journey to apply to the join the Seminary;
 it truly is a team effort!

Please continue to pray for them!

Part of the work of the Vocations Office is
 to promote Vocations throughout our
 Archdiocese. Please feel free to contact us
 if you have any thoughts/plans of how we
 can do so better.

In Christ,
 Fr Dishan and the Vocations Team

Come Away Day

The first Come Away Day of the year will be held at Holy Cross on **Wednesday
 28th February**. The theme of the day is **'Welcome the freshness of this new day'**. The
 day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in
 the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you
 are. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The program concludes with a
 celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around 2pm. The cost of the day
 is \$25.00 or a donation according to your means. For any further details contact
 Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com .

Do you want to be well informed about world Catholic Church matters?

We all have the opportunity to be part of our parish group subscription to an online
 International Catholic News Service – "LA CROIX International".

You don't need to pay anything as the parish has a group subscription.

LA CROIX is an online Catholic daily service which provides quality news and information
 content about topics that matter in the world such as politics, society, religion, culture,
 education and ethics. There are regular journalists as well as guests from time to time,
 including from Australia and New Zealand. Inspired by the Second Vatican Council, it offers
 commentary and analysis on the Church in the world.

We need your email address to sign you up. If you would like to take this opportunity to
 have full access to the website <https://international.la-croix.com/>

or to receive email updates, email your name to one of the parish offices-

St Kevins – Templestowe@cam.org.au or St Greg's Doncaster@cam.org.au

Please use the subject heading as **LA CROIX**.



Church Parking

We encourage you very strongly to please
 park in the school grounds carpark NOT
 in the street. Please think of our neighbours!
 With cars parked sometimes on both
 sides of the street in front of the Church it
 makes it difficult if not dangerous for our
 neighbours to use their driveways and
 similarly for others just driving down the
 street. We are sure we have all noticed
 the increased difficulty at the top of the
 hill since the apartments have been built.
 Let's not add to the difficulty.

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

[Genesis 22: 1-2. 9-13. 15-18](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

This story is often called "The Sacrifice of Isaac," but such a title is misleading. Isaac is spared, not sacrificed. In Jewish and Islamic tradition it's called "The Binding of Isaac," referring to Abraham's tying up of Isaac before placing him on the altar. It might well be named "The Sacrifice of Abraham" since the patriarch is being asked to surrender both his son and his hope of descendants. But "The Testing of Abraham" best captures the essence of the story. It's one of the most emotionally powerful and dramatic stories of the entire Bible. The growing pathos in God's naming of Isaac as Abraham's "son...your only child...Isaac whom you love" sets the scene for the almost unbearable increase in tension towards the climax of the episode. This is swiftly reached in the abbreviated lectionary text, allowing the longer half of the reading to be enjoyed in peace.

Second Reading

[Romans 8: 31-34](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

Before he moves into a lengthy and anguished reflection on the failure of his fellow Jews to find faith in Jesus, Paul brings the first half of Romans to an eloquent close. He assumes the role of a barrister addressing the court in full flight, arguing the case for the surpassing goodness and faithfulness of God. He poses a series of rhetorical questions, each of which implies a resounding "No!" He's intent on persuading his distant readers that God is on their side. The gift of his Son testifies to God's boundless generosity and mercy. Unlike Isaac who is saved from being sacrificed by Abraham, Jesus is not rescued from death but raised out of death. Above and beyond his saving self-sacrifice, Jesus remains a permanent advocate for us at God's right hand.

This short and exuberant text deserves to be delivered with enthusiasm. It's an energetic endorsement of God's love for us in Christ.



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.

