



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



Parish Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9am to 4pm
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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

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10/11th February, 2024

Thank You to our Volunteers Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

From the desk of our Parish Priest...

Raising our Tribal Voice for Justice: An Indigenous Theological Revolution

During this past week I attended some sessions of this four-day conference at the Yarra Theological Union. This missionary-oriented school in the Melbourne University of Divinity has recently created the School of Indigenous Studies, the first university degree capable school in the country focussed on an indigenous perspective.

It was wonderful, eye-opening, challenging, educative, spiritually uplifting.

Archbishop Peter asked me to attend in his place, to give a 'response' to the conference from a Catholic perspective (he couldn't make it). Quite an honour I must say. Unfortunately, communications had broken down and there ended up being no slot in the program for me to speak, but it meant I got to go to a conference I would otherwise not have known of (despite my interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters).

There were over 100 participants, 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, 50% people of faith in Jesus Christ from various colleges and churches across the country.

I outline some of my personal learnings below.

Don't jump to conclusions / don't judge on first impressions: The first talk I heard seemed to be all fire and revolution – but ... I listened through the whole keynote address and ... surprise surprise – yes there are some difficult discussions that were being called for about conciliation, treaty, truth telling: but they were all framed arising from the teachings of Christ Jesus. It would have been a mistake of epic proportions to stop listening.

Be prepared to be surprised: there were several prayer moments during the sessions I attended for. The first, was the opening ceremony – a smoking ceremony followed by a welcome to country – it is always moving to walk through the smoke but ... something was missing, it was almost just a token ceremony, or so I found it, maybe I was preoccupied. There is a warning to me, and to all of us there: if we become blasé about celebrating the Mass, Word and Eucharist, it could become a token, meaningless ritual (God's sacraments are always efficacious of course, but it is possible for us to hide that glory by our carelessness). Later sessions were amazing, deeply spiritual moments of encounter with God's love. But dramatically enriched by the Aboriginal element woven into the prayer.

There was a discussion of 'reparations' and several non-Indigenous people were talking about selling their houses and giving the money to Indigenous groups – and to a person, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people in the room said "No, NO, that is generous but that is not what we want. We don't want to put others in poverty as we often are, we want everyone to grow and benefit and be whole" – or words to that effect.

All in all well worth much of my week.

I shall be keeping a close eye on this space and asking our Social Justice Action group to get involved.

PS: There are opportunities to support the School of Indigenous Studies: You can donate via EFT: Account name: University of Divinity School of Indigenous Studies Fund; BSB 013 345 Acct # 312879608, put your full name as reference.

Or go to pay.divinity.edu.au for a credit card donation.

God bless, Fr Charles

Thank You to our Volunteers Weekend

We pray for all volunteers at St Kevin's Parish, whether it has been in years gone by or the present. Thank you for your tireless work in so many aspects of Parish life. You are a shining example of the Holy Spirit working among us. We see Jesus in your enthusiasm, your humility and your constant offers of help. Please stay and celebrate after Masses on Sunday morning.



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 |
| | 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 | |
| Thursday | 10.15am | Adoration |
| | 8.30am | Adoration |
| Saturday | 9.15am | Mass |
| | 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: Reynaldo Tagala, Jim Hannon, Roger Anthony & Meng Kong Cheng, Frances Alexander, Masino Cappadona, John Watts, Joe Luca, Daphne Clark, Joyce Woodroffe, Jill Hodson, Betty Natoli and Tim Mullin.

Recently Deceased: Cheryl Richmann (niece of Liz Mullin)

Feast Days this week:...

14th February Ash Wednesday

In the course of today's Mass, ashes are blessed and distributed. These are made from the olive branches or branches of other trees that were blessed the previous year.

St Valentine

Was a 3rd-century Roman saint associated with a tradition of courtly love. St Valentine was a clergyman who ministered to persecuted Christians. Relics of him are in, Dublin, Ireland, a popular place of pilgrimage, especially on Saint Valentine's Day, for those seeking love.

LITURGY ROSTER

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 10/11th February 2024

1st Read: Leviticus 13: 1-2 2nd Read: 1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1 Gos: Mark 1: 40-45

| 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 |

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 |



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.

Ash Wednesday this year is Wednesday, 14th February

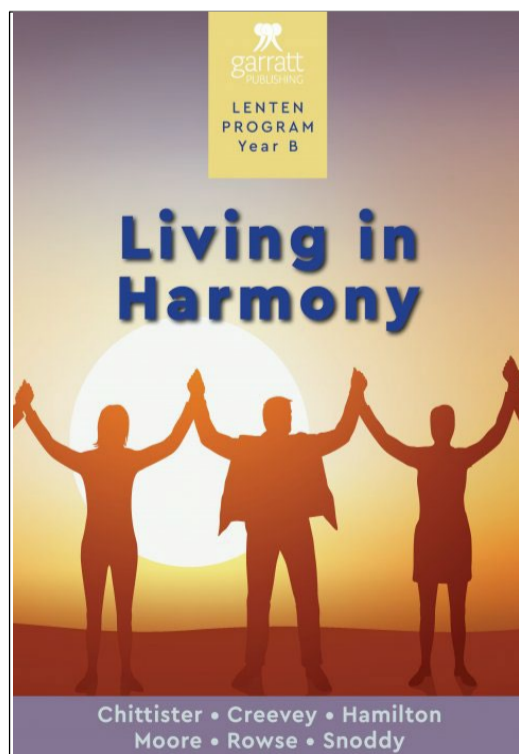
Masses will be held at St Kevin's Parish Church on that day as follows:

11.45am (please note change of time) and 7.30pm in St Kevin's Church
2.20pm at St Charles Borromeo School

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.

We will be conducting a weekly Lenten Program in St Kevin's Chapel commencing on Thursday, 15th February, directly after the 9.15am morning Mass, and will continue every week during Lent. This program will be guided by our Lay Ecclesial Leader, Tiziana D'Costa, who will be using the Lenten Program booklet written by a variety of theologians. The booklet will be provided for you all to use during the Lenten Program or for you to study at home if you are not able to attend every session.

All are invited and very welcome to attend any/all of the above.



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Recommences this Wednesday, 14th 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.**

When we start to meditate we have to learn to say our mantra from the start to the finish of meditation.

We start to sound the mantra silently in our mind and then deep in our heart.

We then learn to say it over and over, until the end.

When we find that we are not saying it, we simply return to the sacred word.

Our progress in meditation is linked to our stillness.

Think only of the mystery we have entered.

Further Opportunity for Hope Many of us will recall just a few years ago active Parish participation with much discussion and prayerful discernment providing substantial input to the Australian Plenary Council concerning the Future of our Church. Our discernment lead us to consider the times in which we live. Based on that we subsequently also provided input to the global 'Synod on Synodality' in Rome, which was modelled on and drew from the Australian Plenary and global inputs. As Fr Charles foreshadowed in a News item 'Synod on a Synodal Church' last Newsletter, we now have a significant further opportunity to *respond to outcomes* of the Synod's 1st phase, in preparation for its 2nd and final phase in October 2024. Just over a week ago our Parish Pastoral Council set in motion a planned process to begin with a meeting of interested parishioners, for collective development of a short Parish response via the Archdiocese, with a tight May deadline. Watch out for details shortly of that next step in a Parish meeting, and your opportunity to help guide this response. The focus now is not so much on the 'what' but on the 'how', so to that end we can draw from recent Parish developments and other ideas towards a 'synodal parish' as we prayerfully begin such a journey, respectfully listening to one another. It all gets back to our individual and collective Christ-given missions as a Parish. **FURTHER** but different good news is that our collective December Collections towards our pet Philippine Elementary Schools Loyo (via St Kevins School) and now also Manyayupan (via St Charles School) raised \$1.726. a great effort -*John Costa SJA and PPC member*

The Parish Pastoral Council met on Thursday 1 February 2024 for the first time this year.

The following items were discussed:

- The Council has begun work on the Pastoral Plan. The Plan is in line with the strategy discussed at the Open Forum and the evening with Ron Huntley which were held last year. The work is based on the vision and mission areas of development:
 - Evangelisation
 - Ministries
 - Eucharist
 - Developments in the broader church: Synod and Plenary Council.
- The Council is considering contributing to the global discussion on the future of the Church. Catholics worldwide have been asked to consider the question of how we can enhance synodality and co-responsibility in the Church. This will be discussed at the next session of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.
- The parish schools (St Charles Borromeo and St Kevin) have had a positive start to the school year. In our schools, there is a large proportion of non-Catholic families – this can be as much as 50% of the total school families. Non-Catholic families enroll their children in our Catholic schools because they are drawn to the Catholic ethos and the pastoral care they provide.
- In the months ahead, the reports circulated during the Pastoral Council meetings will be published on the website to keep the community abreast of what is happening around the parish. More details to follow.

If you have any questions or wish to make a suggestion about the work of the Parish Council do not hesitate to approach me, Fr Charles or any of the Council members: John Costa, Pauline Erickson, Claudia Raiola, Peter Sheehan, Carmel Shiel, Adrian Teo, Margaret Turner.

Tiziana D'Costa (Acting Chairperson)

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 Warnclyffe Road, Ivanhoe East

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



Valentine's Day is not just for lovers.

It is for celebrating it with the people whom you love, expressing heartfelt love to the people who are in our lives.

Happy Valentine's Day to the best parish family!



Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes available from our parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling

1800 024 413

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

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

[Leviticus 13: 1-2. 44-46](#)

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

It's safe to say that chapters 11-15 of the book of Leviticus are rarely read for inspiration. They set out regulations about dealing with what is clean and unclean. They cover animals, diseases, sex and birth. Today's reading is a short extract from chapters 13-14 which deal at length and in detail with a wide variety of skin diseases.

Community concern about such diseases was twofold. The first was the risk of spreading infection. The second was the associated problem of ritual impurity. Contact with an infected person made one unclean and thus disqualified from participation in the worship life of the community. As a result, the prescribed measure was to isolate infected persons until their condition had cleared and they could be judged clean by the priests. The underlying issue was maintenance of the boundaries that defined Israel as a people.

The generic term used for skin diseases, both in the Old and New Testaments, was leprosy. This is now understood to mean many more afflictions than leprosy proper.

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11: 1](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

With today's reading Paul brings to a close his lengthy response to the Corinthians' question about eating meat offered to idols. His practical advice, prior to this passage, is that believers should feel free to eat whatever is set before them, provided this does not offend someone with a more sensitive conscience. "There are no forbidden things," he wrote, "but not everything does good" (10:23). It's a matter of balancing the exercise of one's freedom with the effect this has on others.

He concludes with a general principle. Do everything for the glory of God and don't offend anyone. He then returns to the point he had made earlier in the letter: "I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could" (9:19). He is determined to give priority to others' benefit over his own. Not being shy of offering his own behaviour as a model to be followed, here he sets that counsel in the context of his own imitation of Christ. Apart from the very first verse, we hear nothing more from chapter 11 of this letter, except on Holy Thursday evening and on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ when Paul's account of the Lord's Supper is read. He has other things of importance to say about the community's meal practice but they are not to be found in the Sunday lectionary.



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.