



# 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](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

Third Sunday of Lent

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024

**Our Presider today is:** Fr Gerry McKernan

### A word from the Lay Ecclesial Leader...

It's a busy time in the parish. We are more than halfway through the Alpha Pilot; we have commenced the Landings program, and we offer a Lenten program weekly.

I am grateful to you for showing such goodwill towards these programs. Thank you for keeping an open mind and for participating. It is the first time (maybe ever?) that we have this many faith sharing groups in our parish going on at the same time.

The advantages are obvious. The programs provide an opportunity for participants to pray, reflect and learn together; to share their thoughts and questions in a safe, comfortable and confidential environment. Often, the natural consequence is that fellowship and relationships with others are built and cemented. We also practice compassionate listening, learn to respect views that may be different from ours and we will likely learn something new to help us along our own faith journey.

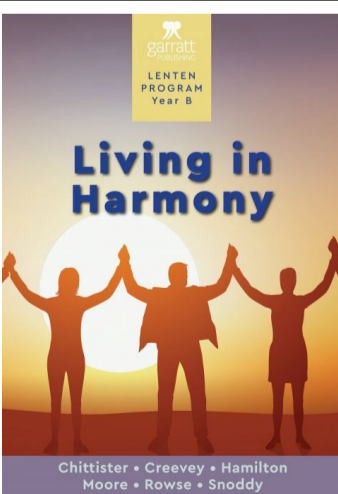
These programs help to build community and serve an important function: if not in a parish, where else would we get the opportunity to explore, learn and even pose some questions about our faith?

We made an excellent start. We began 'in - house'. Next, we'll be more intentional about inviting others in the community to participate. May these programs help us to bring about a deepening of our faith and a building of community in our parish and beyond. It is one way to ensure St Kevin's remains vibrant, vital and viable now and into the future.

*Blessings, Tiziana*

## EASTER TIMETABLE 2024

- 27<sup>th</sup> March: Communal Penance Service at 7.30pm – St Gregory the Great, Doncaster
- 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> March: Palm Sunday – Masses as per usual
- 28<sup>th</sup> March: Holy Thursday – Mass at 6.00pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> March: Good Friday – Stations of the Cross @ 10.00am – St Gregory the Great  
– Passion of our Lord @ 3.00pm – St Gregory the Great and St Kevin's
- 30<sup>th</sup> March: Easter Vigil Masses @ 8.30pm – St Gregory the Great 6.30pm – St Kevin's
- 31<sup>st</sup> March: Easter Sunday Masses @ 8.30 and 10.00am



**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.



### BOOKISH MORNING TEA – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

Due to a clash of dates, our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Please note this change of date in your diaries. All are welcome to come to the Parish House on this morning at 10.30am for a chat, browse through the book swap library and a delicious morning tea! Hope to see you there!!!



## 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:

Peter Di Rosa, James Paul Whelan, Betty Whelan, Mary Gage, Sheldon Fernando, Joseph Bonaventure, Leo Holt, Tony Bendall, Pauline McKenzie, Roger Bannister, William & Alice Cowsley, Les Carlyon, Eric Salter and Gillian Elizabeth Scully

### Recently Deceased: Arthur Bonser

### Feast Days this week:...

**4<sup>th</sup> March** St Casimir Jagiellon  
Was a prince of the Kingdom of Poland. He became known for his piety, devotion to God, and generosity towards the sick and poor.

**7<sup>th</sup> March** Ss Perpetua & Felicity  
Were Christian martyrs who lived during the early persecution of the Church in Africa. They are patron saints of expectant mothers.

**8<sup>th</sup> March** St John of God  
Patron saint of the dying and of all hospitals.

**9<sup>th</sup> March** St Frances of Rome  
Patron saint of automobile drivers and widows.

## LITURGY ROSTER

### Third Sunday of Lent – 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Exodus 20: 1-17 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Fourth Sunday of Lent – 9/10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Read: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16. 19-23 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Ephesians 2: 4-10 Gos: John 3: 14-21

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Bredenia Raquel	Anne Maguire
8.30am	Jessica Bartholomeusz		Penny Teo
10.00am	Frances Johnson	Carmel Shiel	Lyn Murphy



**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.

**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.**

Meditation is not about success or winning, or proving we are good at it.  
Meditation is about losing ourselves, that is 'lose' our ideas, our plans, our fears.  
We leave ourselves behind and enter the space of God.  
We allow God to live in us.  
Saying the mantra is one way to do this.  
We sit still and say our mantra:  
*Ma-ra-na-tha.*



The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. Or add your name/s to the sign-up sheets on the table in the Gathering Space. 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.



### 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.

### Words from our PP...

I am not sure the extent to which I've ever spoken about why I acknowledge our First Peoples at the beginning of our Vigil and Sunday Masses each weekend, and sometimes during the week.

My understanding of the need for recognising our First Nations had its genesis sitting around the campfire on two occasions outside (the Old) Parliament House in Canberra way back in 1971/1972. I came to the realisation then that the Aboriginal people I met had no simple pathway into university as my brother and I had: we got scholarships—the Aboriginal people had no such access. In the process I began to understand, had the glimmerings of knowing, that their idea of land was almost about being owned by the land, or of being stewards, caretakers of the land. Certainly not "ownership" in the way I understand our British Common Law sense.

This understanding lay dormant I suppose until 2004 when I became involved with the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, Vicki Clark, Sherry Balcombe, Aunty Alice Parker, Aub and Barbara Kinchea and others. And then through a journey around Alice Springs in 2006 which took me to several Sacred Sites (public ones) and to the Mass and liturgies around the 20th Anniversary of Pope Saint John Paul II's 1986 visit. And then in 2013 an immersion retreat in Lake Mungo only deepened my sense of appreciation of the Land and its First Peoples.

The evening discussions around campfires and at other times enhanced my understanding of the connection to land. I am not an expert, indeed I never could be. But the deep, deep, deep sense of belonging, of being called to be with the land, being responsible for the land has struck me deeply again and again.

I begin Masses with words like "We acknowledge the Wurundjeri People, traditional custodians of the land with which we live and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging." When I do this I am speaking to an underlying truth about the reality of our First Peoples.

These words are explicitly about custodianship, not ownership. Looking after someone else's land, the land of the Creator Spirit (Bunjil, Rainbow Serpent, Daramalan, Father-Son-Holy Spirit), not possessing the land. It's not Stewardship either where there is a greater sense of being in the place of the owner. My words don't try to argue a case for Truth Telling or Treaty, though both are indeed necessary. Rather they speak of respect, and recognition.

Our First Peoples have demonstrably walked this land for at least 60,000 years, possibly longer. Even the areas where our knowledge goes back the least, the arrival of our First Peoples happened well before Abraham. And these spiritual people have cared for the land as its custodians all that time. I don't claim they were perfect, they like all of us are 'fallen' as part of the actions of humankind captured in the story of Adam and Eve. But they have carefully and actively cared for and continue to care for this land and with their care they bring a deep spiritual connection which I have come to see and appreciate.

I begin our Masses with recognising these wonderful people because it is natural, polite, like saying when I visit people 'hello, thank you for allowing me to share your home.' I hope this explanation is of use.

**God bless, Fr Charles**

### 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 First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Children need to be in at least Grade 3 level 2024 for 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 time is running out! [Sacraments - St Kevin's Templestowe Parish \(stkevinsparish.org.au\)](https://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. Thank you.

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

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

## Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Merciful Lord, hear our prayer.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading	Second Reading
<p><a href="#">Exodus 20: 1-17</a></p> <p>A reading from the book of Exodus</p> <p><i>The Law was given through Moses.</i></p> <p>This is not the place to debate the pros and cons of the catechism version of the Ten Commandments, but it's worth noting that even the shorter form of today's first reading has a bit of flesh not found on the catechetical bones. Like its longer counterpart, it begins by setting the "Ten Words" in the context of God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The unabridged text enlarges this perspective to encompass God's original work of creation. The effect of these statements is to establish the identity of Israel's God as creator and redeemer. The commandments in turn identify Israel as God's own people. Far from being abstract moral imperatives, they are the norms that distinguish Israel from other peoples and make it a saving sign for the nations. There is no fixed and final formulation of these norms. A variation of the list is found in the book of Deuteronomy (5:6-21), and individual commandments are mentioned in other places. Allied with the scriptures of the prophets, they reveal that Israel's creed and code were always a work in progress, forged in the furnace of history.</p>	<p><a href="#">1 Corinthians 1: 22-25</a></p> <p>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians</p> <p><i>We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.</i></p> <p>As the season of Lent progresses, the cross comes into sharper focus. This short passage from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians has Paul doing what "the Greeks" prided themselves on, engaging in rhetoric and the play of ideas. Paul writes eloquently about the paradox of the cross. On the one hand it defies the logic and rationality so beloved of Greek philosophers. On the other it is an enigma for Jewish interpreters of the Torah. Paul accuses them of wanting a sign that would persuade them to believe that the crucified Jesus was indeed the long-awaited messiah.</p> <p>The challenge of the cross is not confined to Paul's contemporaries; it is perennial. Paul lays down the gauntlet for believers of every generation.</p>

### 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](mailto:Templestowe@cam.org.au) or St Gregory the Great - [Doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:Doncaster@cam.org.au)

Please use the subject heading as LA CROIX.



# Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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