



# 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

Palm Sunday

23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Baptism Weekend

**Our Presider today is:** Fr Charles Balnaves



### Words from the PP...

It is always humbling to spend time with children, and I have had several opportunities to do that this week.

Two celebrations at which children from the three schools and two catechist groups participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Two sessions of Question-and-Answer with children—one group was Grade 1 and one was Grades 3 & 4.

I can't tell you anything about the content of the Sacrament of course. But I can tell you that it is amazing how insightful children are about right and wrong; about knowing deep down that something happens that separates us when we sin. We used the story of Zacchaeus as the touchstone for reflecting on sin and forgiveness: and the children were able to see deeply into the story and understand the links between Zacchaeus and sin and the need for confessing our sins; doing something to start us on a new path of life (penance); and forgiveness.

The Question-and-Answer sessions showed a different insightfulness. I have never thought to ask: What did Pontius Pilate, Ananias, Caiaphas, Herod Antipas die of? (Just about the only question I've ever been asked I couldn't answer properly.) Did Jesus have to die? Why did Jesus fall (while carrying his cross)? What did Veronica say to Jesus as she wiped his face? Jesus was laid in a tomb, why did you say he was buried (such subtle distinctions of language, but important)?

And then separately, we had a session on Wednesday evening to discuss what we might say in a two page / seven-point submission about the Synod on being a Synodal Church. I put forward the Question-and-Answer sessions as an example of being synodal—listening, allowing silence for God to speak, walking together searching for truth under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. That is what happened! If you reflect on it—the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a synodal journey as well: a journey with Christ Jesus, a journey of trust and openness, inspired by / guided by the Holy Spirit.

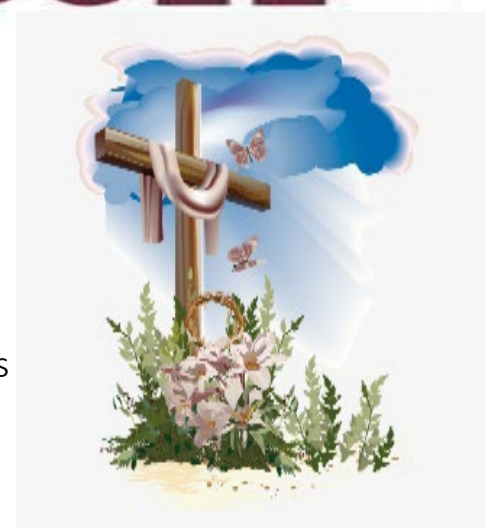
One week till Easter. A journey from Hosannah! Hosannah! to Crucify him!! From adulation through death to full belief: "He IS alive! Resurrection." We are called to walk this week listening with open ears and heart; allowing silence—time with Father, Son, Holy Spirit, allowing space for God to communicate; knowing that what we are seeking is Truth—the truth that lies in Christ Jesus our Lord. Does that sound synodal? It should because it is.

*God bless, Fr Charles*



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- 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



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	(Baptism @ 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
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	Masses



### We pray for Better Health:

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, Fr Terry Kean, Teresa Paolilli, Frankie Pettinella, Margaret Enriquez, Lucia Butler, Rosanna Campagna and Fr Brendan Dillon.

### Anniversaries:

Maria De Luca, Ralph De Souza, Joe Malone, Rita Skubal, John Clarke, Yvonne Wilson, Nancy & Joseph Amalfi, Victor Liew, Tanya Balnaves, Julie Batanta and Dorothy De Goldi.

### Recently Deceased:

### Feast Days this week:...

#### 29<sup>th</sup> March Good Friday

*This day is the day of the Crucifixion. The Church is in mourning, for it is the anniversary of the death of Christ. But this is not a funeral service. The powerful note of hope sounds through it all – hope in the Resurrection and in eternal life won through the cross of Christ. He died that we might live.*

#### 30<sup>th</sup> March Easter Vigil

*In accord with ancient tradition, this night is one of vigil for the Lord. It begins with a brief service of light and ends with the whole Church being called to the table which the Lord prepared for his people through his death and resurrection.*

## LITURGY ROSTER

### Palm Sunday – 23/24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Isaiah 50: 4-7 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Philippians 2: 6-11 Gos: Mark 15: 1-39**

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Bredenia Raquel	Anne Maguire Maryann McNamara
8.30am	Julie O'Donnell	Pauline Erickson	Adrian Teo Penny Teo
10.00am	Frances Johnson	Tasha Vercauteren	Lyn Murphy Raffaella Dinelli

### Easter Sunday – 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Acts 10: 34, 37-43 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Colossians 3: 1-4 Gos: John 20: 1-9**

Thank you to our wonderful and talented team of Volunteers who selflessly give of their time to organise and prepare our Easter Ceremonies., so that all may participate and be moved.

You have been contacted with your allotted task. Thank you once again.

**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.**

Even though we may feel empty or alone,  
God is never absent or lost to us.  
God is present in Jesus who is in our hearts.  
Meditation is the awareness of God in Jesus.  
So in our prayer,  
we try to be fully open to this,  
through the mantra.  
Through meditation, we are set free.  
We enter into the light and life of Jesus.

### MEDITATION NEWS:

**There will NOT be a Meditation Session during Holy Week nor the week after Easter. We shall recommence on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am.**

**The Swag Catholic Magazine** is now available from the table in the Gathering Space. It is full of interesting articles. Please make sure you pick up your copy before you leave today!

### Help Wanted!

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.

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



### A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is for YOU...

#### “Live Your Best Married Life in Love”

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!! The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome.

**Please check our website for more details**

**Date: 12-14 April, 2024 - St Paul Retreat - Wantirna South**

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

St Kevin's Parish warmly welcomes  
through the Sacrament of Baptism...



Claire Harper Butterworth

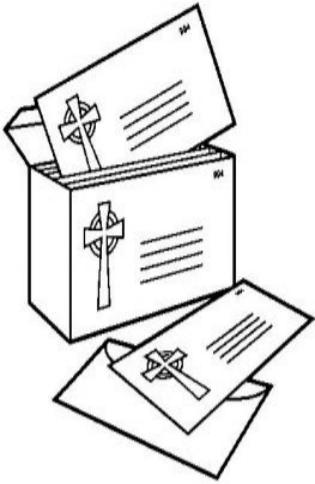
Daughter of Jamie and Laura

Baby sister of Mason, Riley and Hunter

  
**YOUR  
PARISH  
NEEDS  
YOU**

**Would you like to be a Lector, Commentator or Eucharist Minister at St Kevin's?**

New volunteers are always welcome. As you would be aware, we are now requiring two Eucharist ministers at each Mass, so the need is there for more volunteers not only for Communion, but in all areas. Please call the Parish office or speak to Father Charles, Tiziana or Pauline Erickson after Mass.



### Thanksgiving Envelopes

The next batch of parish thanksgiving envelopes have been prepared and are awaiting your collection from the table in the Gathering Space. In order to save the parish from postage costs, please make sure you collect yours before leaving Church today.

Thank you everyone for your generosity in supporting our parish.

A huge *thank you* also to Peter Norman for all his help and dedication towards this ministry.

### Parish Lenten Communal Penance Service

Will be held on  
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7.30pm at

St Gregory the Great Church,  
71 Williamsons Road,  
Doncaster.



### Children's Reconciliation

Our following parish children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week:

Irene Ye	Kane Young	Sonny Toscano	Elana Albert	Sebastian North
Austin Harrison	Phoenix Harrison	Isabella Fernandez	Dominic Fernandez	Jackson Novoselac
Archer Gaffy	Liliana Ferlito	Imogen Paterson-Caracoglia	Isobel Paterson-Caracoglia	

Let us maintain our prayers for them as they continue to travel along the path of their faith journey.



### Our little parish of St Kevin's has endured some sad losses of late...

We have already said goodbye to Connor Whyte, son of Nicholas and Elizabeth, who died suddenly a couple of weeks ago. His funeral was held at Marcellin College where Connor had just completed his VCE. It was held in the gymnasium where 1,000 friends and family attended. After the funeral, the students gave Connor a guard of honour.

Last Friday, we farewelled Anthony (Tony) Fitzsimons. A stalwart and pioneer of our parish who lived in and supported us for many, many years. We said goodbye to his wife Shirley a few years ago and now they are reunited once again.

We have also lost our beautiful Margaret Mangan. Such a kind and soft-hearted person. Her family lived and supported our parish right from the very start back in the 60s. Margaret's mother worked as our Catechist Teacher for many years and her father played a big role in getting St Kevin's Parish up and running. Margaret wrote the book of our parish history and remained in the family home she shared with her sister and parents even after their passing. A great loss for our parish. Her Funeral will be celebrated here at St Kevin's Church on Monday morning, 25<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am.

May they all rest in peace.



### Photos of Margaret Mangan

Our hard-working bereavement team are preparing a photo montage to display during refreshments after Margaret's funeral.

If you have any you are happy to share with us, please email them directly to Vianney Shiel: [vianneys@airtroniccircuits.com.au](mailto:vianneys@airtroniccircuits.com.au) or Carmel Purdey: [carmelpurdey@gmail.com](mailto:carmelpurdey@gmail.com).

### THE 25<sup>TH</sup> MELBOURNE PASSION PLAY

Will be performed at Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe. Free entry. Free parking. BYO chairs, rugs, umbrellas, other personal items.

Duration of the play is about 2 hours.

PALM SUNDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH @ 1.30am

GOOD FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH @ 10.00am



**HOLY LAND COMMISSARIAT**

**HOLY LAND COLLECTION - GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, March 29th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2023 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.4 million [\$1.4 million (2022) \$1,126,098 (2021), 406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. 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

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

### Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

#### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

##### First Reading

###### Isaiah 50: 4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The book of the prophet Isaiah is the longest of the prophetic books and the most frequently used in the lectionary. The breadth and diversity of its material allows particularly pertinent passages to be chosen for liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent. This is especially the case in Holy Week. Each day features a reading from one of the four oracles known collectively as the Servant Songs. They are scattered through chapters addressed to the exiles in Babylon. The servant is a mysterious figure who could be the prophet himself, Moses, another salvific individual, or the people of Israel personified. Parallels with the suffering undergone by Jesus have led to the songs being given a Christian interpretation. Like Jesus, the servant is singled out by God for a mission that provokes hostility and involves suffering but advances the cause of salvation. The last and longest of the songs is proclaimed in full on Good Friday because the servant's ordeal is described in terms that are matched in the various passion narratives.

Today's reading, from the third of the songs, has been chosen for the same reason. It reports the servant's personal experience. He identifies himself as a disciple who declares what he has heard from the Lord, suffers physical abuse in return, but refuses to resist. "I set my face like flint," he says, in words that echo how Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Lk 9:51).

This reading signals a marked change of mood after the upbeat celebration of Jesus' palm-strewn entry into Jerusalem.

##### Second Reading

###### Philippians 2: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

At the very outset of Jesus' public ministry, as we heard on the first Sunday of Lent, the devil tempts him to use his divine powers for his own interests. At the very end, while Jesus hung upon the cross, onlookers taunted him to save himself (Lk 23:35). From start to finish Jesus refuses to play god. These stories are crystallised in the early Christian hymn that is today's second reading. "Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself ... and became as human beings are ... even to death on a cross."

Coming on Palm Sunday, this reading serves as an overture to the Paschal Triduum, encapsulating all the themes of the paschal mystery that will be teased out over those holy days. It imagines Jesus' itinerary as an inverted parabola, starting on high from the divine realm, descending to the depth of the cross, and ascending again to glory. For Paul, as for the hymn, the cross is at the heart of the whole movement. It's the key to the mystery.

The reading as it stands gives no clue to the community issues that prompt Paul to cite this hymn. It is self-contained enough to stand on its own merits.



## Holy Week



**Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)**  
**23 & 24 February**



As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent.

This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.

There is still time to donate! Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations.**