



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 Easter

6/7th April, 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Thoughts from your Parish Priest,

Did you get caught by April 1? April Fools Day? I was slightly caught by an article about the 25m high monolith in St Peter's Square being removed, unseen, overnight.

Did you miss "Fall Backward" this weekend? Putting your clock back by an hour at the end of Daylight Saving for 2024? Most of my clocks, and particularly my alarm clock, advance automatically these days so my alarm goes off on time. But ... it's easy to look at one of the analogue clocks after I get up and ... almost get caught.

Did you miss Easter? It seems some people did. I visited the Aboriginal Community Elders Service to lead a prayer service last Wednesday and met a lovely lady leaning on her gate holding two homegrown cucumbers. We said "hi". I said "Happy Easter!" And ... she said "that's over and done with". "No," I said, "we've got 40-something days to go till the end of the season". "Ah," she said—"you must be a pastor of some sort" ... (and then we talked some more). We know of course that The Resurrection is every day and we celebrate the whole Easter Triduum every time we celebrate the Mass. Christ Jesus is always with us. This special season merely helps us to know that more and more deeply every year.

Thank you to ... everyone who helped bring about Holy Week this year. I've been totting it up very roughly and there were about 75 people at St Kevin's and over 150 at St Greg's who helped make Holy Week run so beautifully and sacredly and joyfully. From working bee to church cleaning and flowers and choir and readers and lectors and altar servers and liturgy people and ... so on and on: yes—it takes a lot of work to ensure that we present a meaningful moment of spiritual growth with the journey from Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem through death and into Resurrection. And the journey continues: Ascension and Pentecost are just a few weeks away. And thank you to those of you who participated with your presence, your prayer, your singing, your being part of the community.

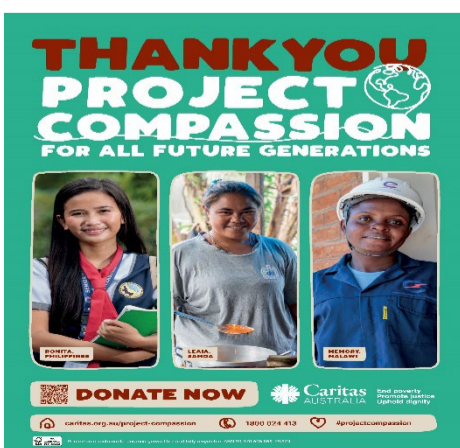
On another topic: volunteering for the parish, if you don't already. What holds you back? Why can't you provide some of your time and talent? We have many volunteers but nowhere near enough. We need more of you to help. What is holding you back—or more importantly how could I/how could the parish, help enable you to be willing and able to offer your time and talent? To give a little more so you can help us all to spread the Good News even more effectively.

PS: a joint submission from St Greg's and St Kevin's about being synodal is almost ready for final approval by Parish Pastoral Councils. I will share this with everyone once it is finalised and has been submitted. It is amazing to see the ways in which we are already working in a synodal : working in a way which shares responsibility for our faith life between myself and the whole parish.

Easter Blessings Alleluia Alleluia. 43 days to Pentecost! Fr Charles



Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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 donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, 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	
Tuesday	8.15am	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
	10.15am	Adoration
Thursday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	Masses (Baptism Presentation @ 10am)



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:

Esther Ronay, Paolo Mazzetti, Patricia Mary Tan, Pauline Maloney and Ennio Andrea Raiola.

Recently Deceased: Franco Paolucci and John Driver.

Feast Days this week:...

8th April Annunciation of the Lord
It is a feast of the Lord, commemorating the announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Word made flesh. Mary's acceptance of God's will, and the conception of Christ. Its occurrence close to Easter links the incarnation with the whole mystery of human redemption in Christ.

11th April St Stanislaus
He was murdered on the orders of the king of Poland for his outspoken condemnation of corruption. Remembered for his reforms, his preaching and his pastoral concern.

LITURGY ROSTER

Second Sunday of Easter – 6/7th April 2024

1st Read: Acts 4: 32-35 2nd Read: 1 John 5: 1-6 Gos: John 20: 19-31

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Kathy Pearce	Lawrence Ceconello
8.30am	Pauline Erickson		Frances Bettiol
10.00am	Miriam Ayoub	Bernard Butler	Tony Robinson

Third Sunday of Easter – 13/14th April 2024

1st Read: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19 2nd Read: 1 John 2: 1-5 Gos: Luke 24: 35-48

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Margaret Turner	Anne Maguire
8.30am	Frank Ozzimo		Pat Rowland
10.00am	Tony Byrne	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Kaye Byrne

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.

Our spirit is planted in God.
 Each of us has an eternal life.
 Each of us is important, now,
 and in the time to come.
 This is why we make the pilgrimage to our centre,
 our own heart,
 through meditation.
 'How long does this journey take?'
 This does not matter.
 What matters is that we are on the way.
 Though we cannot see the growing,
 the commitment to truth and freedom is taking place.

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 Website: wwme.org.au



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.

On Monday, 8th April, we celebrate the
Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.



Mass will be celebrated at
 St Gregory the Great Church,
 71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster
 @ 9.00am. All welcome.

**This is a call-out for some desperately needed help with
 operating the computer for the 8.30am Sunday morning Mass.**



Frank will give full instruction and he says it's quite easy.
 It would be great to see one of our young people take on
 this most important job. Please see Frank or Fr Charles
 after Mass or call the Parish office.

**Also, across all weekend Masses, we need more people
 to act as Eucharist ministers.** Please speak to Fr Charles.

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP



ST KEVIN'S PARISH, TEMPLESTOWE

The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 12th April @ 7.30pm
 in the Church Gathering Apce.** 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 add your name to the sign-up sheet at the entry
 of the church, or you can ring the parish office on 9850 5983, or email Tiziana at
tiziana.dcosta@cam.org.au



Our next Parish Bookish Morning Tea
 will be held on **Thursday, 18th April** at
 10.00am and continues every fortnight.

Please feel free to come to the Parish house and
 have a browse of the library and stay
 for a chat and a cuppa!!



As you can see from this photo on the right, we all
 have a lovely time.



A Night on the Camino De Santiago

Join Lawrence Cecconello from St Kevin's Parish Social Justice
 Action (SJA) group in a fascinating journey of discovery, as he
 takes you through the origins, history and culture that
 surrounds this legendary pilgrimage to the shrine of the apostle
 St. James, in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in
 northwest Spain. The Camino de Santiago is a UNESCO World
 Heritage Site and a global treasure, attracting many thousands
 of seekers, adventurers, and pilgrims from all over the world
 each year, with each individual taking on their own challenge,
 be it spiritual, physical or psychological. There are various
 routes but ours will be the Via Podiensis, from the French town
 of Le Puy En Velay to St. Jean Pied De Port at the foot of the
 Pyrenees mountains, which he completed in May 2023. The
 Camino de Santiago is not just a path or a walking trail, but a
 transformative journey that enriches mind, body, and soul. This
 (free) online ZOOM EVENT is from 7:30pm-8:30pm on
 Wednesday 17th April 2024. REGISTRATION is
 essential, at <https://www.trybooking.com/CQMXU>
 Full details on Parish website SJA page.



Anzac Commemoration



Defence services invitation

Sunday 21st April 2024 @ 10.00am

**At – St Kevin's Parish. 26-44
 Herlihys Road. Templestowe Lower.**



2023 St Gregory's the Great Photos inserted



All welcome to this special Mass service.

Lest We Forget!

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

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 4: 32-35

A reading from Acts of the Apostles

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

Luke's second pen portrait of the first Christian community in Jerusalem is full of appeal. The disciples are united in every way – in their faith, their witness, their sharing of goods and their acceptance of apostolic authority. Luke's account is deceptively simple. With great skill he weaves together themes from the book of Deuteronomy, his own gospel and Greco-Roman culture.

The believers were "united, heart and soul," echoing the call of the Shema (Dt 6:4-6) to love with all one's heart and soul and strength. They ensured that no-one "was ever in want," like the ancient Israelites who were bade to have "no poor among you" (Dt 15:4). Of all the evangelists Luke is the one who stresses most the need to give one's possessions away (12:33; 18:22), and this is what those early Christians did. Motifs of mutual love, respect and care were common in Greco-Roman writings about social life and friendship; Luke presents the fledgling community as fulfilling these ideals.

This reading is full of attractive ideals.

Second Reading

1 John 5: 1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

The first letter of John is the source for the second reading for the Sundays of Easter in Year B. It's also heard from on a few feast days, but on no Sunday in Ordinary Time. It's interesting that John's second and third letters are never heard on a Sunday or feast day. Like its counterparts in Years A and C (1 Peter and the Apocalypse), 1 John suits the paschal season. Its core themes are life, light, love, truth, and God's and our mutual indwelling. Unlike Paul's letters, many of which are prompted by problematic issues that lead to theological exposition, 1 John is reflective, unsystematic and repetitive. Where and when it was written, for whom and by whom, remains unclear.

Unusually for a series of readings, we begin with a passage from the last chapter of the letter, presumably because of its parallels with key features of the gospel story – the Spirit, faith, Jesus' divine-human identity, and signs. The logic of the argument is somewhat circular and the exact meaning of some references (eg the water and blood) may not be certain. The reading proceeds as a series of assertions, each one prompting another, without them being fully developed or tightly linked.



Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the **Second Sunday of Easter**. It originated from a series of revelations to **St. Maria Faustina Kowalska** in the 1930s. In these revelations, our Lord called for a special feast day to be observed on the Sunday following Easter. Pope St John Paul II officially named this feast **Divine Mercy Sunday** during the canonization of St Faustina on **April 30, 2000**.

The heart of Divine Mercy Sunday lies in the concept of God's **inconceivable mercy**. In her diary, St Faustina recorded Jesus' desire for this feast:

"Tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, especially for poor sinners. On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that goes to Confession and receives Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity".

Divine Mercy Sunday is not solely based on St Faustina's revelations. Liturgically, the Easter Octave has always centred on the theme of Divine Mercy and forgiveness. This day points us to the merciful love of God behind the entire **Paschal Mystery**—the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ—made present for us in the **Eucharist**. It beautifully sums up the entire Easter Octave. As Pope John Paul II emphasized, "the whole octave of Easter is like a single day," and the Octave Sunday serves as a day of thanksgiving for the goodness God has shown to humanity in the Easter mystery.

In summary, Divine Mercy Sunday invites us to reflect on God's mercy, overcome sin, and face life's difficulties with confidence in divine benevolence.