



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

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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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

27/28th April, 2024

Our Presider today is: Fr Noel Brady

A word from the Lay Ecclesial Leader

At the end of summer, it is time for the grape harvest. In Italian, this is called 'la vendemmia'.

I have fond childhood memories of glorious, sun-soaked days at my great-uncle's vineyard in Sicily. The whole extended family gathered for *la vendemmia*, the grape harvest: three generations of children, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins and friends.

If you were old enough, you were given a sharp knife or a pair of secateurs and be put to work. You learnt pretty quickly how to cut the grapes off the vine, remove any dead leaves (they make the wine bitter!) and watch out for pesky wasps attracted to the juicy, ripe fruit.

The women folk spoiled us with a huge spread for lunch; the men lifted the heavy crates and did lots of running around. I clearly remember my Dad driving the tractor surrounded by a gang of smiling children happily joyriding. The weather was invariably hot; we would mark the end of the harvest with a dip in the dam.

The wine that was produced was special because we made it together, with joy and goodwill. Every time it was poured in each household, we remembered the golden harvest day and the special family bond.

This week's Gospel reminds me of those beautiful harvest days. We fulfil God's vision of the vineyard when we work together in our parish to bring God's love, compassion and kindness to the community. We do it together, because it is a labour of love. And it takes different forms, such as our ministry to the local aged care homes, youth group or social justice. God's vision of the vineyard bids us to do more than come to church once a week. God wants to put our faith into action together.

Blessings, Tiziana

ANZAC Day



It has been an interesting ANZAC Day this year. We had an ANZAC Mass on the 21st for veterans and services men and women with Keith Wolahan MP (3 tours of service in Afghanistan) speaking meaningfully, eloquently, about the vast array of army, navy and air-force personnel who have lost their lives serving their country but also for so many family and friends, and the flow on impact their self-giving has had for our freedom.

The readings for the Mass on ANZAC Day spoke deeply into the peace that Christ brings: *Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.*

It is that peace which is embedded in the spirit of ANZAC Day, and in the words which Keith spoke: not a spirit of winning wars but the Holy Spirit, deep within each of us, speaking towards actions of love and mercy every day of our lives, in every circumstance of our lives, even amidst the extremes and complexities of war.

We Remember Them. ... Lest We Forget.

God bless, Fr Charles

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| Saturday | 5.30pm | Mass |
| Sunday | 8.30am & 10.00am | Masses |
| 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 @ 10.00am) |



We pray for Better Health:

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, Fr Brendan Dillon, Greg Hodson and Brooke Evans.

Anniversaries:

Domenico Iracono, Maria Iacono, Kevin Steven Cheng Su Kong, Maria Mandile, Roberto Milanese, Anthony Smyth, Gonzalo Seno and José Enrico Seno.

Recently Deceased:

Feast Days this week:...

29th April St Catherine of Siena
Remembered for her holiness and determination and though she never learned to write, for the quality of her teachings. Remembered as a mystic and a reformer of religious life.

2nd May St Athanasius
Sent into exile a number of times. Venerated as the 'Father of Orthodoxy' for championing the true and equal divinity of the incarnate Son of God.

3rd May Ss Philip and James
Philip, from Bethsaida, became a disciple of Jesus and one of the twelve. James, son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve called by Jesus.

LITURGY ROSTER

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 27/28th April 2024

1st Read: Acts 9: 26-31 2nd Read: 1 John 3: 18-24 Gos: John 15: 1-8

| Time | Commentator | Lector | Communion |
|---------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 5.30pm | Janet Parsons | Christine Marini | Lynne O'Brien |
| 8.30am | Paul Polidano | | Mary Waddick |
| 10.00am | Vianney Shiel | Carmel Shiel | Raffaella Dinelli |

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 4/5th May 2024

1st Read: Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48 2nd Read: 1 John 4: 7-10 Gos: John 15: 9-17

| Time | Commentator | Lector | Communion |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.30pm | Daniel Marini | Bredenia Raquel | Margaret Turner Lynne O'Brien |
| 8.30am | Pauline Erickson | | Frances Bettiol Pat Rowland |
| 10.00am | Tony Byrne | Bernard Butler | Kaye Byrne Tony Whelan |

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.

Some of us start to meditate because we hear about it.
We are half-interested in it.
Then gradually we see something more,
we want to keep on trying.
When that happens,
the first step is made into God's lifeforce in Meditation.

**LITURGICAL
MINISTRIES**

By now, all Mass volunteers should have received the new roster to begin in May and covering page with rostered dates listed. If you haven't received your email, please ring Pauline on 0407 824 638 or get in touch with the Parish Office. Thank you all for your ongoing support of our parish and offers of help.

Alpha: you are welcome to join.

We are beginning the next Alpha Experience on Thursday May 30th 7:00—8:30 pm for 11 weeks with a retreat day on Saturday July 13th. Everyone is welcome to express interest in participating: so please call the office and put forward your name. We are limited in how many people we can have participate in each experience of Alpha (16 or 24 depending on who is willing and able to help lead the nights), so it is possible that your interest may have to wait until the next Alpha to be fulfilled. Yes I plan, we plan, that Alpha will be an ongoing effort in the parish. It has its limitations, but it is an effective experience to help all of us become more deeply aware of Jesus and who Jesus is for us (and doubly for those who are not baptised).

Experience elsewhere shows that most people come to Alpha because of a personal invitation (as opposed to this sort of notice in the bulletin), so most people coming will probably be invited personally but it is not exclusive: please, express your interest. A limit we are imposing at present is on the number of people from other parishes who can come along. We want to build the experience and the leadership base in St Greg's and St Kevin's before we start being more open beyond our parishes.

Fr Charles

Safeguarding

WWCC/ Code of Conduct: Please make sure you keep your Working with Children Check up to date. Sadly, I've had to sign off on removal of two people from rosters recently due to their not having up-to-date checks. These checks can seem like a vast imposition of an unreasonable government or archdiocese: they are not! They are a piece of the jigsaw of our witness and willingness to be consciously competent in looking to keep our children and others safe from harm in all ways reasonable.

Fr Charles

Mass Count As we enter the month of May it is time for our Annual Mass Count. Please consider assisting with counting the number of Mass attendees. Counters are requested to count the number of folk who are at Mass. Counting sheets will be provided on the bench in the sacristy near the money bags.



Our next **Parish Bookish Morning Tea** will be held on **Thursday, 2nd May** 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!!



MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP



ST KEVIN'S PARISH, TEMPLESTOWE

The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 10th May @ 7.30pm in the Church Gathering Apace**. 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

Recording of "A Night on the Camino De Santiago"

A video recording of the Social Justice Action live Zoom presentation on 17 April of "A Night on the Camino De Santiago" is available on the Parish Website Home page and Social Justice Webpage. The presentation by SJA member Lawrence Ceconello thoroughly describes his powerful 2023 'Camino walk' and experience - physically, mentally and spiritually, and also includes exquisite photos and videos of his experience. The Zoom session was chaired by St Kevin's Parish Social Justice Action Convenor John Costa.

Much to be learned from Courage, Endurance, 'Mateship' and Sacrifice pillars

Yes, last Sunday's poignant ANZAC Commemoration Parish Mass, Thursday's ANZAC day Mass, other ANZAC remembrances particularly including the PM's two-day Kokoda trek prompt much contemplation about profound human values under shared adversity. The word 'Mateship' including in its ANZAC context actually and equally comprises non-gender meaning in the sacrifices of women, those from different backgrounds, races, cultures and ages and, lest we forget, including 1st nation peoples who also sacrificed their lives and health in war. Beyond ANZAC the broad term 'Mateship' equally applies to each one of us every day, meaning working with and dependent on one other, for mutual support and survival in an increasingly challenging world and changing times. The pillars of Courage, Endurance, 'Mateship' and Sacrifice apply to us all in navigating life journeys. Our shared faith and mission in our Parish and private lives say as much. This prompts a reminder that a recording of Lawrence Ceconello's personal Camino journey one-hour presentation last week is now available on the Parish website SJA and Home Pages. Watch out ahead for a similar 1 hour evening Zoom presentation on the *values and initiatives* of St Vincent de Paul Society. - **John Costa, SJA**

Pizza & Wine Night

11th of May, Saturday
St Gregory the Great Parish

All parishioners and friends are warmly invited to a pizza and wine social gathering on Saturday, 11th of May after the 6.00pm Mass.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the foyer. Please add your name if you would like to come to this celebration so we can cater for the appropriate number.



INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

COME & SEE!

An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on **4 May 2024 Saturday, 10:00 -11.45 am** at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne.

More information is available from the noticeboard.

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 will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 9: 26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

The dramatic episode that precedes today's reading – Saul's experience of enlightenment on the road to Damascus – had momentous consequences not just for the fledgling Church but for the entire history of Christianity. Strangely enough, neither it, nor Paul's subsequent re-telling of the story, is to be found in the Sunday lectionary. There's further mystery too, in that elsewhere Paul offers an account of his visit to Jerusalem that is markedly different from that of Luke.

Taking today's text on its merits, we find Saul (not called Paul until 13:9) in a kind of no-person's-land, in that he was at odds both with his ancestral community and his suspicious new companions. But once Barnabas, true to his name ("son of encouragement,"), has introduced him, Saul preaches so boldly that he provokes a hostile reaction necessitating his being sent away for safety's sake.

Luke rounds out the story with another one of his upbeat summaries about the growth of the Church. This fulfils what Jesus had said to the apostles before his ascension, but with the additional mention of Galilee.

The reading is an action-packed narrative that pulsates with the driving force of the Spirit.

Second Reading

1 John 3: 18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

The letter of James and those of John are radically different in style, but the two authors agree on one thing. Faith is testified to by works of love. "I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds," wrote James. Only "real and active" love can give the assurance "that we are children of the truth," writes John.

John links faith and love together later in today's passage. God's commandments are to "believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ" and to "love one another." Believing and loving go hand in hand. While simply put, believing in the name of Jesus is broad in scope. It encompasses the true identity of Jesus as Son of God and Word made flesh, and it acknowledges his active power and presence within the community of believers.

There are differences of opinion as to what John means by conscience and its accusations, but apart from this the reading is clearly expressed. It invites thoughtful delivery that allows the community to mull on the life it is called to, one of faith, love, trust and peace.



Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August).

As the Catholic Church's mission in action, CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Donations from our parish community help CatholicCare Victoria support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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

