



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



Parish Office Hours: Mon to Fri: 9am to 4pm
26 Herlihys Road, Lower Templestowe 3107
PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106
Telephone: 9850 5983 Fax: 9850 1545

Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves
Lay Ecclesial Leader: Mrs Tiziana D'Costa
Business Manager: Mr David Hii
Pastoral Worker: Mrs Ana Saro

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 C

First Sunday of Advent 30th November/1st December, 2024

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

From the Desk of our PP...

Advent:

The beginning! We start a year with the Gospel of Luke as the primary focus in our Sunday readings. Luke's Gospel was written to people like us – 'Gentiles' – unfamiliar with the intricacy and intimate detail of Jewish life and faith, but deeply vested in loving Jesus Christ and wanting to know his story. If you choose to read the Gospel through, please don't stop with the Gospel, read Acts as well – what we include as two books are two parts of one composition – reaching from Christ's birth well into the early life of the church after Pentecost and the Ascension.

There are numerous ways to approach Luke's works: as prophetic works (or works showing the fulfilment of prophecy); as an illumination of the Hospitality of God; as an exposition of who Jesus is so as to bring us to a deeper knowledge of him as THE Christ and the Son of God who brings us God's Holy Spirit.

I look forward to journeying with you and encourage you to read more broadly than just the weekly readings.

As we start our journey you will find some different things happening – to jolt you out of the routine: The Advent Wreath and Candles which are lit progressively; New Banners pointing us to themes we might pray on and read on; The Christmas tree – opening us to continual growth (it is an evergreen, growing even in the coldest of times); At St Greg's we are going to have a brief reflection from some of our Young Adults at the start of each Mass; At St Kevin's we are going to make use of the Aboriginal Symbol of the Coolamon giving a different perspective on how to wait for Jesus.

It is exciting. As I type this, I am excited. In preparing for putting up my Christmas Trees in my home, I discovered some wonderful ornaments that Tanya purchased long ago that have been waiting to be discovered and put out to welcome our Lord and Saviour.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intentions:

Some time ago I started asking for prayers for specific intentions, generally to do with the needs of our parish. I started this in a small way, including the intention in our newsletter each week (have a look for it) and asking two people to include the intention at the adoration and rosary times that they help lead.

My thought was to begin a practice of intentionally seeking through prayer the help of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we seek to grow into the future.

There will be some work to do to grow this effort to be parish wide but it seems to be working in this small way.

If you have a group you pray with, or a bible study group, or a Diving Mercy group or a coffee after Mass group, any other group that gathers in some way related to our faith: please let me know so I can send my prayer intention to you each week.

God bless, Fr Charles

Christmas Carols

Come and join our St Kevin's Primary School community as we sing Christmas Carols and review our year. Monday, 9th December at 6.30pm in the Church. All welcome.



Please note: Christmas Day is a Wednesday this year. The Liturgy Committee is putting a lot of work into helping us prepare. They have made the 4 weekends of Advent into a unique package and urge each one of us to fully participate.



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	Masses
Monday	9.00am	Little Kev's Playgroup
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
Wednesday	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:

Anne Materazzo, Melissa Wirata, Rosemarie Cameron, Dorothea (Dot) Sharkey, Alexandra Franke, Aisha Yahiat, Jane O'Brien, Bernard Mohar, Angelina Amalfi, Alexander, Felipe, Anne, Izabella Fantin, Lucy Bisetto, Guadalupe Cameron, Elysia Pozzebon, Shiela O'Donoghue, Wang Wei Qiao, Nady Botrous and Michelle.

Anniversaries:

Stephen Byrne, June Flood, Ben Skadiang, Sharon McCluskey, Joe Chadwick, Claire Ryan, Margaret Anderson, Ugo Di Corrado, Walter Hohenberger and Kim West.

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week: For the openness of heart to accept the gift of the Holy Spirit guiding us to newly understand the birth of God's only Son.



Feast Days this week:...

3rd December

St Francis Xavier

Met St Ignatius of Loyola while studying in Paris, became one of the first Jesuits, and went to India as a missionary. Travelled extensively through southeast Asia to Japan, winning many converts and leaving behind organised Christian communities. Remembered for the witness of his poverty and for his tireless efforts as a missionary.

7th December St Ambrose

He received St Augustine into the Church. His writings reveal a man of great faith and energy.

LITURGY ROSTER

First Sunday of Advent – 30th November/1st December 2024

1st Read: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 2nd Read: Thess 3: 12-4: 2 Gos: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Bredenia Raquel	Anne Maguire Maryanne McNamara
8.30am	Miriam Ayoub	Erika Castro	Adrian Teo Pat Rowland
10.00am	Tony Byrne	Liz O'Connell	Tony Robinson Lyn Robinson

Second Sunday of Advent – 7/8th December 2024

1st Read: Baruch 5: 1-9 2nd Read: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11 Gos: Luke 3: 1-6

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Kathy Pearce	Lynne O'Brien Anne Maguire
8.30am	Pauline Erickson		Frances Bettiol Mary Waddick
10.00am	Carmel Purdey	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Kaye Byrne Tony Whelan

Our Meditation Sessions have now ceased for 2024.

They will recommence for 2025 online via zoom on Wednesday, 5th February @ 9.30am. Why not try it? Contact the Parish House for the online link. All welcome.

Saying the MANTRA is like a key unlocking the door of our heart to allow the pure light of love to flood in.

Do not expect big miracles.

In fact, do not expect anything.

Although powerful, it is a gentle process.

In the practice itself you will find powers of gentleness, forgiveness and compassion.

Embrace their power to change you.



2025 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

The new Columban Calendars for 2025 are available from the table in the Gathering Space. \$10 each. Please place cash in the box provided. Thank you.



Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2024

12th December - Reconciliation Service 7.30pm

24th December - Christmas Eve 5.45pm Carols

6.00pm Mass

9.00pm Mass

25th December - Christmas Day 9.00am Mass

Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day.

31st December - New Year's Eve 6.00pm Mass

1st January - New Year's Day 9.00am Mass



Our last **Parish Bookish Morning Tea** for 2024 will be held on **Thursday, 5th December** at 10.00am.

All are welcome to join in the fun!

Looking forward to seeing you all then!!



Bookish Morning Tea will recommence for 2025 on 13th February.

A huge *thank you* to all of you who have supported this group over the year and a special *thank you* to our Ana who managed this successful group into our parish. Well done Ana! Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your support throughout 2024.



ST GREGORY THE GREAT DONCASTER
AND ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

CHRISTMAS PARTY

ON SUN 8 DEC AFTER THE 5PM MASS

AT THE PARISH HALL, CHURCH OF
ST GREGORY THE GREAT DONCASTER

Program for the night includes Christmas Raffle,
Sing-Along Carols and Fun Activities!

Raffle tickets will be sold
before the event
and drawn on the night.
Food and drinks
will be provided.

Santa will make
a special visit
with goodies and
treats for kids.

RSVP: Please use sign up sheets at church
or use TryBooking link or QR code
<https://www.trybooking.com/CXDFS>



Parents and carers are requested to
please supervise your children at all times.

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP



ST KEVIN'S PARISH, TEMPLESTOWE

The final **St Kevin's Men's Social Group**
for 2024 takes place on **Friday, 13th December**
@ 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

Christmas Celebration - Alpha Come and See Night.

Join us for a Christmas Celebration as we make merry and
celebrate our Alpha journey this year!

Monday, 16 December, 6.30 pm to 8 pm. Dinner provided.
St Kevin's Church gathering space.

Open to all our Alpha participants and to anyone who is
interested in finding out more about Alpha. All welcome!

For catering purposes, RSVP by Friday 13 December
to templestowe@cam.org.au - or use the signup sheets
provided in the gathering space.

The St Gregory and St Kevin's Alpha Team.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....

Advent season has begun. Let's journey together as we prepare for the
coming of the Messiah.

Come along to our parish Advent Group Reflection.

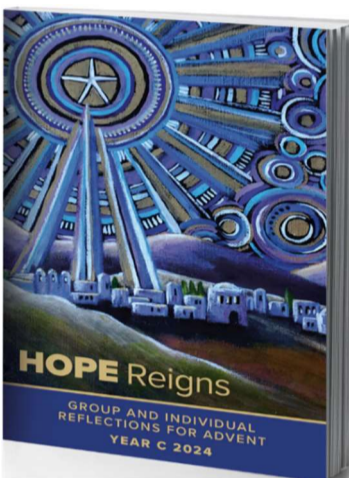
How does God speak to us in this time of preparation?

Advent Group Reflection gives us an opportunity to pray and reflect
together so we can see and hear one another with compassion and
understanding.

It runs once a week during Advent, after morning Mass, at 9.45 am and
runs for about 40 minutes.

All welcome!

Tiziana



HOPE REIGNS ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH

When: Tuesday/Thursday mornings @ 9.45am

Dates: 5th December (Thursday)
12th December (Thursday)
17th December (Tuesday)

Where: St Kevin's Church Gathering Space

Come and join our Lay Ecclesial Leader, Tiziana D'Costa, as she leads us
into a reflection and discussion series on learning what 'Hope Reigns'
means – seeking to help prepare you for the birth of Emmanuel, God
with us.

Booklets are available from the table in the Gathering Space. They cost
\$10 each (please place money in the same collection box as for payment
for Columban Calendars).

All are welcome to purchase a booklet to take home, read and reflect
upon, regardless of whether you would like to attend the Advent
Reflection Series or not.

HOPE



*Solemnity
of the
Immaculate
Conception
December 8*

This Feast Day will be celebrated with a special Mass at
St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster
at 9.00am on Monday, 9th December. All welcome.

Pope names Melbourne's Bishop Mykola Bychok as one of 21 new cardinals

In a historic announcement, Pope Francis has nominated Melbourne's
Bishop Mykola Bychok, Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Sts Peter
and Paul, as one of 21 new cardinals to be created at a consistory in Rome
on 8 December 2024. Bishop Bychok's elevation to the College of Cardinals
is not only a moment of great joy for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia and
Oceania, but also marks an important milestone for the broader Australian
Church. Warmly congratulating Bishop Bychok—who at 44 is the youngest
of the new cardinals-delegate—Archbishop Peter A Comensoli noted how
closely he 'lives after the heart of the Good Shepherd, working tirelessly
among the lives of the faithful entrusted to his care'.

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

To you, O Lord,
I lift my soul.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Merciful Lord hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

[Jeremiah 33: 14-16](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

The book of Jeremiah is a mix of material diverse in style, time and origin. Here, Jerusalem has been sacked and the people exiled to Babylon. In these turbulent times, Jeremiah's preaching was full of warnings, laments and threats of disaster, but there are also splendid oracles of hope. Today's short passage is one of these.

It is a message of encouragement for God's downcast people. The prophet speaks God's promise to them. A new leader will bring honesty and integrity to the land.

There is emphasis on all the positive expressions: "fulfil", "promise", "virtuous", "honesty", "integrity", "saved" and "confidence". The tone is buoyant.

This very first reading of the time of Advent strikes a thrilling note of spirited hope that will keep sounding throughout the season. Already we catch glimpses of the birth story of Jesus, son of David.

Second Reading

[1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

When Paul wrote this letter to the community at Thessalonica, he was in Corinth. Earlier he had spent some time with the Thessalonians establishing the Christian community there. Now he is writing as their mentor to encourage them.

Written around the year 51, it is the earliest part of the New Testament. The main concern Paul addressed was the community's worry about those who had already died because they expected Christ's imminent return in glory to complete his saving mission. Paul calls on them to remain calm and quietly live the life that God wants of them so that, when the Lord comes, they will be ready.

The first half of the reading is a prayer of blessing upon the community. Paul is impressed with the life they are living and asks that God will confirm them in holiness.

The rest of the reading is an exhortation for them to keep up the good work. Paul is making a heartfelt appeal that the Thessalonians grow in the Christian life.

It is a personal letter.

Taken from "Break Open the Word"

Suffering & Hope?

How can we reconcile the strong hope that Advent calls us to embrace, and the worldly and at times local horrors that so often otherwise surround us. TV Screens and audiences seem sometimes to delight in the extremes of warfare, bombings, destruction, hatred, and human misery. Yet sustaining such awareness hopefully eventually prompts outrage, with instinctive and faith-based responses. As election time approaches there is further hope for meaningful conversation on a wide range of important issues, although clearly that doesn't happen at all elections. Perhaps Advent might allow time to reflect further on the Beatitudes? It would be good to think that our forthcoming elections might provide opportunity for identifying and resolving important issues, but clearly that's not always the case, as for 'debate' on 'The Voice'. The Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) exemplifies an opportunity by currently provide factual and faith-related information on the consequences of proposed new immigration laws. But as was seen with The Voice, and recent overseas elections, facts don't always drive serious debates, or good outcomes. Over time, Synodality provides further opportunity for bringing hope and Mission to many issues - John Costa SJA

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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