



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



Parish Office Hours: Mon to Fri: 9am to 4pm
26 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower 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

Second Sunday of Advent

7/8th December, 2024

Our Presider today is: Fr Barry Caldwell

From the Desk of our PP...

Advent:

I have recently found myself answering questions about Advent and its difference from Lent. Advent is about waiting for the coming of Christ – Lent is about journeying with Christ into his passion, death and resurrection. Advent is about opening our hearts to the joy of the reality of God's love for us that is so great he sent his only Son to be Emmanuel 'God-is-with-us' while Lent is about reflecting on how unworthy we are to have Jesus go willingly to death for our sins, to bridge the gap we create by our sins and sinfulness between God the Father and ourselves. Both Advent and Lent are in fact about the same thing: The Father's never ending, unbounded love for us and sending Christ to redeem and save us. But ...

The perspective is different: Advent opens us to the surprise of God's boundless love; Lent prepares us for the cost that God chooses to bear for us, through his Son, because of his boundless love. Throughout the liturgical year we are asked to hold those two sides of the truth in constructive tension: the joy and the sadness; the pleasure and the pain, the birth and the Passion/Death/Resurrection/Ascension/Coming of the Holy Spirit – they are both a part of the same story of Salvation. Please learn from each and enjoy Advent – God-is-with-us.

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Descending to Hell / Fear of the Lord:

At a recent RCIA session we spent some time delving into The Creed (both the Nicene and the Apostles Creeds) and how they say essentially the same thing but with differences. That led to a discussion of what it means to say that Jesus "descended into Hell", and why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is needed for forgiveness of Sin; and what it means to Fear the Lord.

I can't repeat the whole 75 minute discussion, with all its digressions but I feel a few points are worth mentioning:

1. Jesus came for each and every person that has ever and ever will live, including us: He came for those who love him and who hate him. To say Jesus descended to Hell, and arguably the translation could be better, is to say Jesus remains close to each of us regardless of the severity of sin we might commit.
2. The Sacrament of [Reconciliation – Confession – Penance] is one of three ways we can say sorry (in personal prayer; at the start of Mass in the Penitential Rite, and in the Sacrament). The Sacrament is the only one of these where we truly enter into a conversation with Christ (through the priest) and are able to speak with him of our sin in a totally safe environment. I recommend making use of all three of these modes of receiving God's forgiveness, and doubly to build a personal discussion with Christ through the Sacrament.
3. Fear of the Lord: not being afraid of punishment but rather desiring with every fibre of ourselves that we do everything possible to give glory to the God we love and who loves us so totally. As I read the Bible, the story of our Salvation, God's punishment seems always to be to allow us to suffer consequences but at the same time to be providing us with a way forwards to growing in knowing and returning his love.

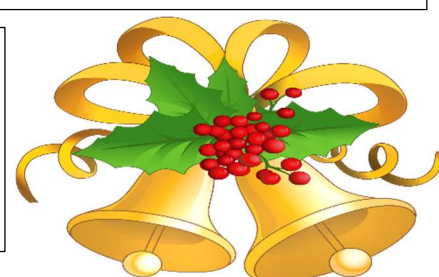
Christmas Gatherings:

Amidst all the gatherings there are leading up to Christmas, I know that I don't have time to celebrate individually with each of you. There are not the hours in the day. But each of you is in my prayers and I give thanks for the contribution each of you makes to bringing about the Kingdom of God – in our parish – today.

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.



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 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:

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:

Laurie Sheehan, Chris Adams, Merna Monaghan, Norman Ronald (Ron) Chambers and Ivan Mihelj

Recently Deceased:

Aaron Cianci

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week: For the Power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future as we seek to fulfil Christ's call to us as disciples who worship, who help those on the margins, who go and make disciples.



Feast Days this week:...

9th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

13th December St Lucy
Probably because her name is suggestive of light, her intercession has been sought for eyesight problems.

14th December St John of the Cross
A Carmelite priest who joined St Teresa of Jesus in the work of Carmelite reform. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

LITURGY ROSTER

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

Third Sunday of Advent – 14/15th December 2024

1st Read: Zephaniah 3: 14-18 2nd Read: Philippians 4: 4-7 Gos: Luke 3: 10-18

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Christine Marini	Rachel Marini	Fiona Watson Bredenia Raquel
8.30am	Frank Ozzimo	Paul Polidano	Penny Teo Pat Rowland
10.00am	Frances Johnson	Bernard Butler	Lyn Murphy Geraldine Williams

Advent Reconciliation



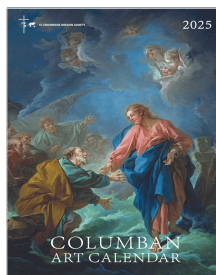
An Advent Reconciliation Service

will be held at St Kevin's on Thursday Evening,
 12th December at 7.30pm.

Reconciliation will be offered in the first rite (general absolution) however, we will have extra priests available for the second rite of individual absolution if you prefer.

Please note: this will be the only Reconciliation Service held during Advent.

Fr Charles



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



MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP



ST KEVIN'S PARISH, TEMPLESTONE

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.


Joy
Love
Peace
Believe
Christmas



Congratulations and Well Done to our amazing and hard-working Craft Group Ladies who have consistently and diligently created bespoke, warm and snug blankets throughout the year for members of our community and beyond.

We are often receiving letters of praise and appreciation from various charitable organisations whom our Craft Group Ladies have been supporting for many years. Particularly over these last few years where they have produced over 100 blankets per year.

Well done Ladies! We are very proud of you all. You are all terrific ambassadors for St Kevin's Parish.

Free to a Good Home!

The next edition of "The Swag" magazine is available from the table in the Gathering Space.

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.

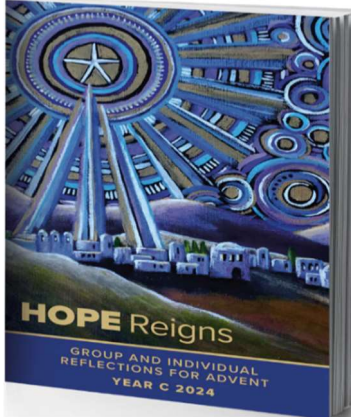
How does God speak to us in this time of preparation?

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: 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.



*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'.

To Lectors, Commentators and Special Ministers

The Google doc has been sent out to you for you to fill in your availability for the Christmas Masses. Please fill it in promptly so the coordinators can complete their organisation of the liturgy.

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

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Merciful Lord hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

[Baruch 5: 1-9](#)

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

The people in exile departed on foot with enemies for an escort. Now God will bring them back in joy with his mercy and integrity for their escort.

This text is pulsing with energy and enthusiasm; it ignites a blaze of hope in the heart of a city lamenting the loss of her exiled children. There are up-beat and stirring images for a people who are at a low ebb, weak or wounded – perhaps like some of us in the Church today.

The passage is poetic in its imagery: beautiful clothes and jewellery, hills and valleys, flowering trees and forests. These images proclaim the celebratory message of joyful hope. They resonate with those of Isaiah which we will hear in the gospel.

The words express beauty, integrity (it occurs three times), jubilant, safety... allowing the radiant glory of God to shine through. It also expresses the tenderness of God's care.

Second Reading

[Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Paul is writing to the Christians at Philippi from prison (this is in verse 7 which has been omitted from the reading). He is obviously very fond of this community where he had ministered. He says he misses them and loves them.

He has heard that the community is facing some challenges: internal divisions caused by a certain self centeredness on the part of some. So he urges them to be generous and to deepen their unity and love. This is Paul's prayer for the community. He asks that they will be wise in knowing and doing what is best. The idea of being ready links it to the Advent season.

Taken from "Break Open the Word"

Little Kev's Playgroup



Enjoyed their last session of the year last Monday.

Sessions will recommence for 2025 on Monday, 10th February @ 9.00am.

Merry Christmas everyone and thank you for your support.

Social Justice Action and you at St Kevin's ahead?

Yes that's you - together with us! Based on our Christ-given faith and Mission what are your thoughts on what you and fellow parishioners together with the Parish Social Justice Action Group (Carmel Purdey, Tony Robinson, Lawrence Ceconello, and myself as Chairperson) could/should pursue in 2025, as in the past, while looking ahead? Amongst much else that also includes Parish 2nd Collections. We're about to start planning our 2025 Social Justice Programme, so right now is a perfect time for your ideas. We always welcome feedback or suggestions. Apart from letting us know through the Parish office you can also directly share your thoughts with anyone of the above committee members. Meanwhile to give you further feedback, just one of our activities is to collaboratively coordinate our Parish 2nd Collections. Here are some favourable outcomes from recent 2nd Collections, which are always received very appreciatively. For World Mission Sunday we raised \$1,242.20, for Sr Arthur's Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) we raised \$722.75; and for Mackillop Family Services we raised \$1,422,70. - 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.