



# St Kevin's Catholic Parish



Parish Office Hours: Mon to Fri: 9am to 4pm  
26 Herlihy's 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](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 C

Third Sunday of Advent

14/15<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

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



### From the Desk of our PP...

#### Parish Pastoral Council:

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) met in November for its last meeting of 2024. Over the past few months we have developed a Pastoral Plan – it consists of strategic directions at present and we will be seeking to blend in outcomes from the Synod on being a Synodal Church and developing specific action plans. More on this in the New Year. If you can see yourself as a PPC member with some capacity to be the Chair – please call and let's chat ... we need someone who is willing to take up being Chair of the PPC. I look forward to an active 2025 with the wonderful women and men who make up this important parish body.

#### Graduations:

During this past week I participated in a Christmas Carols night at St Kevins and Grade 6 Graduation Masses and parties for each of the three schools I seek to help shepherd.

I am always in awe of the enthusiasm of our children for Carol's evenings and I pray that the memory of them will be a small but real part of helping their faith remain firm and alive as they grow. And I am amazed by the capacities of our Grade 6-ers as they graduate – I have now seen children through from 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and the ways in which their parents and our teachers guide them and lead them to grow and flourish is wonderful to see: thank you to all for your dedication and love for these amazing people.

#### Christmas party:

Thank you to all who came to the St Greg's and St Kevin's Christmas Party – well over 200 people came along – lots and lots of youngsters, lots of face painting, lots of chatting and discussing, lots of food, lots of smiles and laughter, a lovely farewell to Fr Isaac (belated) – a double farewell as we prayed over Fr Isaac during the 5 pm Mass and then thanked him with a cake and some gifts of crockery, and a lovely cross from Bethlehem, and a few other things. Many thanks were given by Fr Isaac in thanks for our thanks.

Nothing would have happened for this Christmas Party if not for our dedicated and energetic Social Group, a group which stretches to St Kevin's for major events such as this. Thank you indeed. I can think of about twenty people who worked hard and several who worked tirelessly, and long to ensure our success: to each of you and all of you a most heartfelt *Thank You* and I ask for the blessing of the Holy Spirit on each and all of you as you now seek to get ready for your own Christmas and associated gatherings.

#### January:

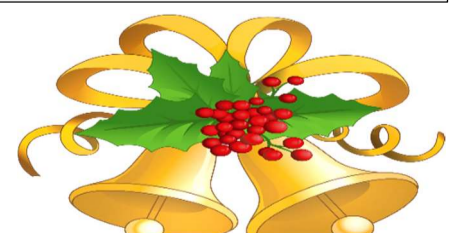
The office will be open most of the time in January. I may take a few days off during the month. Hopefully a quiet month.

*God bless, Fr Charles*

**Journey Stones:** We presented each of the graduating students from St Charles and St Kevin's with a journey stone. These stones are gathered and painted by Vicki Clark, an Aboriginal Mutti Mutti woman who lives by the Murray River in Nyah. The Journey Stones are made with ordinary small rocks but: they are not just stones – they come with a prayer for the journey beyond graduation, they come painted with a story of journey – each stone is unique – and they link the recipient to the land of Australia, the land our Aboriginal peoples have learned to know and love and become part of over the past 60,000 years.



*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 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:

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, Michelle, Tony Costa, Melissa Wirata, Michael Angelo Yambao, Rosanna Campagna and Gabriella Cunico.

### Anniversaries:

Ken McKenzie, Alan Behrendorff, Tom Materazzo, Paul Materazzo and Brian Upton.

### Recently Deceased: Pauline Waring

**Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:** For the Grace of the Holy Spirit to prevail and divert to good all who consider abuse or violence as a solution to their needs.



# Christmas Party

**Are you planning on coming to Christmas Eve Mass at 9.00pm?**

Why not stay for a while afterwards and celebrate together with our parish community. Please bring your own drinks and a plate to share (Fr Charles loves Christmas Cake). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and catch-up with old ones.

## LITURGY ROSTER

### Third Sunday of Advent – 14/15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Zephaniah 3: 14-18 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent – 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Micah 5: 1-4 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Hebrews 10: 5-10 Gos: Luke 1: 39-44

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Fiona Watson	Tasha Vercauteren	Anne Maguire Lawrence Ceconello
8.30am	Erika Castro	Pamela Rivera	Mary Waddick Adrian Teo
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Liz O'Connell	Tony Robinson Lyn Robinson

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

Let's journey together as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

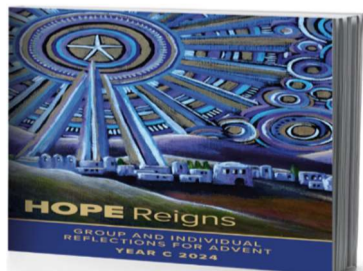
Come along to our parish Advent Group Reflection.

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.

The last session will be held after morning Mass, at 9.45 am and will run for about 40 minutes. All welcome!

*Tiziana*



### **HOPE REIGNS ADVENT REFLECTION AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH**

**When:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December @ 9.45am

**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 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.

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



## Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2024

24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve 5.45pm Carols  
 6.00pm Mass  
 9.00pm Mass

25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day 9.00am Mass  
 Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day.

31<sup>st</sup> December - New Year's Eve 6.00pm Mass  
 1<sup>st</sup> January - New Year's Day 9.00am Mass



## 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, please RSVP to [templestowe@cam.org.au](mailto:templestowe@cam.org.au) - or use the signup sheets provided in the gathering space.

The St Gregory and St Kevin's Alpha Team.



**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.**

### 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.

**January:** The parish offices (at both St Greg's and St Kevin's) will be largely closed over the Christmas/New Year period – nearly everyone is on holiday (surprise 😊). Fr Charles? He will be around – catching up on things, thinking, and taking things a little easier but still available. So if there is something you are thinking about doing over this time – you need to let us know so we can plan it – and I know what is happening. **Fr Charles**



Catholic Mission thanks the parish of St Kevin's for your generous support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Through your contribution of \$1,342.20, you have empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses to share a message of hope and compassion with communities around the world.

Your partnership with Catholic Mission makes an incredible difference. Thanks to you, Cardinal Giorgio Marengo and Brother Andrew in Mongolia can continue delivering life-saving care, essential resources, and educational support. Your gift not only uplifts individuals but also strengthens global mission programs, reaching countless others who need our support.

Thank you for being a light of hope to those in need!



How's that Christmas shopping coming along? Still finding it difficult to find that something special for that someone who's always hard to buy for? Then come along to our Bethlehem Co-Op Market who will be conducting an arts and crafts market stall here next Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December after the 8.30am and 10.00am Masses.

Items include beautifully hand-made goods from many different indigenous communities, including Australian Aboriginals.

Come along and find that special something for someone or keep it for yourself!

### Pope calls 21 new cardinals, including Melbourne's Cardinal Mykola Bychok, to build church unity



Becoming a cardinal is an insistent call to put Jesus at the centre of one's life, to love the poor as he did and to strengthen the bonds of unity within the Catholic Church, Pope Francis said as he created 21 new cardinals from 17 nations. Among them was Cardinal Mykola Bychok of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Sts Peter and Paul in Melbourne, who at 44 becomes the youngest serving cardinal and Australia's highest ranking Catholic.

'To walk in the path of Jesus means, in the end, to be builders of communion and unity,' the Pope told the new cardinals during an afternoon consistory on 7 December in St Peter's Basilica.

The elevation of cardinals took place within a prayer service, attended by thousands of people, including current members of the College of Cardinals and Australian representatives Archbishop Peter A Comensoli of Melbourne and vice-president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) Bishop Greg Bennet of Sale.

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

Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

## Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Merciful Lord hear our prayer.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading

##### [Zephaniah 3: 14-18](#)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

The prophet Zephaniah seems to have been a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah some six centuries before the birth of Christ. Zephaniah is much less well known and has left a much smaller legacy of writings (a book of three chapters compared with Jeremiah's fifty-two).

Like Jeremiah, much of Zephaniah is made up of Oracles of Doom and Judgement. But at the end, the threat becomes a promise and we discover today's summons to rejoicing.

It is a jubilant canticle from start to finish, pulsing with exuberant energy: 'shout', 'rejoice' and 'exult'... And with good reason. Fresh from victory, the Lord their God dances for them whooping with joy. What an image! After the first four lines, the reading can be taken rather soberly, building to a new climax with the victorious Lord who exalts, renews and dances.

#### Second Reading

##### [Philippians 4: 4-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*The Lord is near.*

Last week, we read from the beginning of St Paul's letter to the Philippians; this week, we read from closer to the end. Check last week's reading to give you some context.

It is a powerful testimony to St Paul's faith. Even from prison, he can write that there is no need to worry because the Lord is very near. One could try to imagine themselves as Paul who is addressing his beloved brothers and sisters to encourage them and to help them find peace.

Obviously the reading continues the theme of joy and is proclaimed with a lightness of spirit. The nearness of the Lord picks up the Advent theme of expectant hope.

The third and final sentence is long and elaborate.

*Taken from "Break Open the Word"*



#### Archbishop Comensoli: Advent, a time of preparation and expectation

As we enter into the season of Advent once again, embarking on a new Church year, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reflects on Advent as a time of preparation and expectation.

Advent, he explains, is 'a time of preparation, of anticipation, of preparing ... towards the time of the incarnation, of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, when God became one of us, became human.'

Archbishop Comensoli encourages us to view Advent not so much as a penitential season but as a time of joyful expectation. 'In expectation, we prepare, and in preparing, we look forward,' he says. This season invites us to be attentive and awake, both to the commemoration of Christ's birth and to the eternal gift of life that his incarnation has brought us.

#### Catholic organisations reject changes to Migration Bills

(Extract from CathNews 6 Dec. 2024). Catholic Social Services Victoria, the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum and the Refugee Council, have expressed deep concerns about the implications of the Migration Amendment Bills passed last week by the Senate. These include St Vincent dePaul; Sydney Archdiocese Office of Justice & Peace; Jesuit Refugee Service Australia; Edmund Rice Centre; Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project; and Jesuit Social Services. Amongst other measures, the Bill includes Authority for the Government to: Remove a refugee's protection finding to remove them from Australia; Deny people in immigration detention centres mobile phone connections (so important to relationships and services); Pay undisclosed third countries to warehouse non-citizens; Imprison people who will not return to countries where they fear for their lives; Create travel bans for citizens of certain countries; Permanently and forceably separate more families. Next Year SJA plans to facilitate an information session and discussion on these 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.