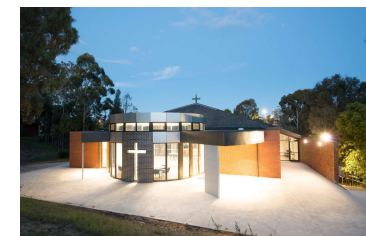




St Kevin's Catholic Parish

26-44 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower



Mass Times

St Kevin's: 5.30pm Saturdays

8.30am and 10.00am Sundays

St Gregory the Great: 6.00pm Saturdays

9.00am, 10.30am and 5.00pm Sundays

Reconciliation at St Gregory the Great every

Saturday morning at 9.30am

Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves

Assistant Priest: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Lay Ecclesial Leader: Mrs Tiziana D'Costa

Business Manager: Mr David Hii

Pastoral Worker: Mrs Ana Saro

Postal Address:

PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106

Telephone: 9850 5983

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 Lent

8/9th March, 2025

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words From the Desk of our PP...

Lenten Focus on Hope: Lent lived through Meditation on the Cross

Melbourne Octet: Singing, reflections, and prayers

Friday 21st March 7:00-8:00 pm: we will have the Melbourne Octet lead us in "A Meditation on the Cross – the Way into Hope"

See video at the end of Mass and the posters and the notice board for further details on booking.



Parish Pastoral Council:

The PPC met this week and had robust discussions about a number of topics.

One discussion was "What happened that St Charles Borromeo School Closed?" the only certain answer is that it had too few students to operate legally and effectively. Beyond that there are at least a dozen different factors that are involved from demographic shifts to changes in faith – they all play a role and newspaper articles suggesting one factor caused the problems are trying to reduce a complex situation to a simple solution.

Another was "what can we do that might draw people to Jesus." It is another complex area of thinking and need. Why don't people respond to the love that we see in Jesus Christ our Lord? Would we be able reach out to the broader non-baptised world by showcasing ourselves and our ministries at some special event or events? Or is that sort of event seeking primarily to help existing congregation members meet and talk to each other and so enliven existing faith?

That wasn't all we discussed, and we ran out of time before we reached the end of the agenda. We will be discussing things further and expect to come up with directions soon.

God bless, Fr Charles.



First Sunday of Lent
8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: 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	Masses
Monday	8.30am	Little Kev's Playgroup
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	
Thursday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Lenten Program
Friday	9.30am	Adoration at St Gregory the Great Church
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass



We pray for Better Health:

Elysia Pozzebon, Shiela O'Donoghue, Wang Wei Qiao, Nady Botrous, Michelle, Melissa Wirata, Michael Angelo Yambao, Rosanna Campagna, Gabriella Cunico, Alexandra Bateman, Alan Benn, Federico Aspromonte, Peter Ryan, Anton Urbas, Rosemarie Cameron, Eugenia Pozzebon, Luisa Yambao, Dr Noel Smyth, Aileen Kent, Ruth Shiel and Fr Frank Maloney.

Anniversaries:

Loretta Kearney, Mary-Ann Southwell, Galdino Marini, Dottie Kasprzak and Connor Whyte.

Recently Deceased: Mario Tabone,

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for the First Sunday of Lent: We give thanks for the dozens and dozens of parishioners who are willing to dedicate their time to serving the operation of the church and its functions.

St Kevin's Parish warmly welcomes through the Sacrament of Baptism...

Sienna Ava Marchesi

Daughter of

Jarrod and Marianne

Little sister of Mason



LITURGY ROSTER

First Sunday of Lent – 8/9th March 2025

1st Read: Deuteronomy 26: 4-10 2nd Read: Romans 10: 8-13 Gos: Luke 4: 1-13

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Pauline Erickson	Fiona Watson	Bredenia Raquel Maryanne McNamara
8.30am	Pamela Rivera	Erika Castro	Pat Rowland Mary Waddick
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Bernard Butler	Tony Robinson Lyn Robinson

Second Sunday of Lent – 15/16th March 2025

1st Read: Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18 27: 4-7 2nd Read: Philippians 3: 17-4: 1 Gos: Luke 9: 28-36

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Tasha Vercauteren	Anne Maguire Lynne O'Brien
8.30am	Frank Ozzimo	Pauline Erickson	Frances Bettiol
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Miriam Ayoub	Raffaella Dinelli Tony Whelan

Little Kev's Playgroup

Operates every Monday morning in our Gathering Space. Doors open from 8.30am. For ages 0-5 years

Dear St Kevin's community,

It has been a privilege to serve as your Lay Ecclesial Leader for these last three years. This is a wonderful parish, so it is difficult to let you know I have resigned from my role to pursue an academic career full time. This was not an easy decision to make.

In a parish, no one works alone. I am grateful for the trust placed in me by Fr Charles, and for the support of the hardworking, caring and talented parish staff (Nadia, Ana, Frances and David), the dedicated and enthusiastic groups of volunteers and all of you. I am heartened to see the fruits of our labour in bringing the parish out of the pandemic times to renewal and vibrancy.

I have led, supported and facilitated many initiatives. My role has been varied: to assist, to problem-solve and to be the conduit between different parts of the parish and to support the office staff. My role is practical - dealing with day-to-day management and pragmatic issues; pastoral (leading and coordinating certain ministries and liturgies) and strategic - looking ahead at parish renewal through ministries, providing leadership and ensuring financial sustainability. In my role, I have been acting Chair of the Parish Council, member of the finance committee, member of the liturgy committee, and member of Fr Charles' support group.

When I began my role in January 2022, we were just coming out of the pandemic and there was a lot of rebuilding to be done. I am delighted to have achieved so much in three years. For a detailed list of highlights, please see my report to the March Parish Council meeting which you can find here from next week: <https://www.stkevinsparish.org.au/about-us/leadership/> (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

My last day is April 16. I leave my role, but not the parish. I remain a St Kevin's parishioner throughout. This is an inclusive parish, a Spirit-filled place where people are beacons of God's love: they care and look out for one another.

I have laughed with you and cried with you. I have learnt so much from you. Thank you very much for trusting in me and supporting me.

Blessings, Tiziana

Feast Days and Days of Solemnity

On **Monday, 17th March**, we celebrate the **Feast Day of St Patrick.**

Masses will be celebrated on this day at St Kevin's at 9.15am and at St Gregory the Great Church at 7.30pm.

On **Wednesday, 19th March**, we celebrate the **Feast Day of St Joseph.**

Mass will be celebrated on this day at St Gregory the Great Church at 9.00am.

On **Tuesday, 25th March**, we celebrate the **Feast of the Annunciation.**

Masses will be celebrated on this day at St Kevin's at 9.15am and at St Gregory the Great Church at 7.30pm.



The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 14th March @ 7.30pm in the Church Gathering Space.**

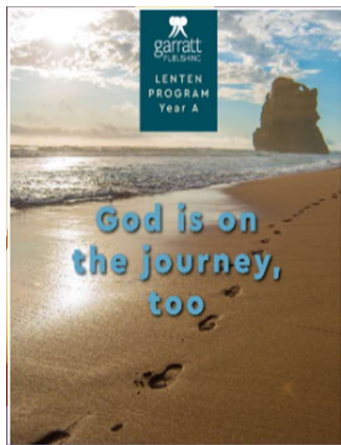
Open to men of any age (older teenagers are welcome (with their guardian) - parishioners and non parishioners alike. All are welcome.

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



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 20th March. All are welcome to come to the Parish House on this morning at 10.30am for a chat, browse through the book swap library and a delicious morning tea! Hope to see you there!!!



Our weekly Lenten Program in St Kevin's Chapel continues every Thursday morning directly after the 9.15am Mass. This program is guided by our Lay Ecclesial Leader, Tiziana D'Costa, who uses the Lenten Program booklet written by Fr Christopher Monaghan, a Passionist Priest. This booklet is provided for you all to use during the Program or for you to study at home if you are not able to attend every session.

There is no charge for this booklet, however a donation would be appreciated.

Stations of the Cross are conducted every Friday evening during Lent at 7.00pm at St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster.



Help Wanted!

We are now in the Season of Lent and Easter is fast approaching. As we enter into this extremely busy time of the Liturgical Year, we are asking for some assistance please with our Easter Ceremonies.

If you are not planning time away this Easter Season, please consider being involved in your parish this year, even if it is in a small way – every little bit helps!

Please call Fr Charles on 9850 5983 for more information or indeed to express your desire to offer any support.

Thank you.





**YOUR
PARISH
NEEDS
YOU**

Would you like to be a Lector, Commentator or Eucharist Minister at St Kevin's?

New volunteers are always welcome. As you would be aware, we are now requiring two Eucharist ministers at each Mass, so the need is there for more volunteers not only for Communion, but in all areas. Please call the Parish office or speak to Father Charles, Tiziana or Pauline Erickson after Mass.

BE UPLIFTED IN YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY
BY THE BEAUTIFUL VOICES OF THE

MELBOURNE OCTET



A MEDITATION ON THE CROSS
THE WAY INTO HOPE

FRIDAY, 21 MARCH • 7-8PM
ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH
71 WILLIAMSONS RD, DONCASTER
FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, VISIT
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CZGUX](https://www.trybooking.com/CZGUX)

OR CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE 9412 8425 | DONCASTER@CAM.ORG.AU
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OCTET, VISIT WWW.MELBOURNEOCTET.COM

Jubilee Year: "Hope does not disappoint" – Being Pilgrims of Hope:

With the Parish Pastoral Council and Liturgy Group, we seek to bring this truth of being Pilgrims of Hope into everything we do. This truth informs and enlivens all that we seek to implement as disciples of Christ to the world around us.



For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School

Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

Deuteronomy 26: 4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The confession of faith of the elect.

The Passover is the key event of God's care in the history of Israel. This summary begins with the call of Abraham. God's people ended up in Egypt where they were enslaved. The Passover is a story of liberation when God frees them and leads them across the waters of the Red Sea to the promised land.

This story will be used at the Easter Vigil to articulate the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, and we regularly speak of the Eucharist as our Passover feast: it is our point of entry into the liberation from sin Christ has gained for us.

As one of the Eucharistic Prayers says: *With a mighty hand and outstretched arm you led your people Israel through the desert. Now, as your Church makes her pilgrim journey in the world, you always accompany her by the power of the Holy Spirit and lead her along the paths of time to the eternal joy of your Kingdom (EP/various needs II).*

We celebrate God's saving work, recount his marvellous deeds and bow down in the sight of the Lord our God.

Second Reading

Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved!

Three times in these few lines, Paul assures the Romans: *you will be saved*. Thus, the Lectionary again embraces the theme of liberation and deliverance which we have already encountered in the first reading and in the psalm. As one would expect from Paul, this is an offer not just restricted to Christians with a Jewish background, it is available to everyone without distinction.

Paul is also insistent that this salvation comes from Christ. To access the liberation of Jesus' death and resurrection, we need to have a relationship with Christ. We call this relationship 'faith'. If your lips confess it and your heart believes in it, *you will be saved*.

This message of reassurance is good news.

Taken from "Break Open the Word"

A Lenten thought - Love your neighbour as you Love yourself?

Extracted from a 3 March Opinion Piece in The Age, senior fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity **Tim Costello** says *"In the flurry of executive orders issued by the 47th US president in his first 100 days, none is more devastating – or more deadly – than the **suspension of USAID**. The agency, founded by president John F. Kennedy in 1961, has been dismantled at the behest of Elon Musk, the world's richest man, now imposing misery on the most vulnerable. More than 2000 USAID staff have already been dismissed.....USAID accounts for less than 0.5 per cent of the US budget, making its suspension ineffective in reducing the deficit but devastating for those who rely on it. I have just returned from Kenya and Uganda, where antiretroviral (ARV) drugs for HIV and tuberculosis treatments have vanished overnight.....USAID administers George W. Bush's historic **President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief**, which has been the backbone of AIDS treatment across Africa. To date, that plan has saved more than 25 million African lives. It has been suspended without warning. In Kenya, thousands of health professionals may lose their jobs, and aid dollars already approved by Congress have been frozen. NGOs and local communities are shocked by the suddenness and the savagery".....Gutting USAID has also thrown Australian aid programs into chaos. The global aid sector works collaboratively to combat poverty and prevent duplication, with many of our agencies partnering with USAID programs. Not any more. - **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.