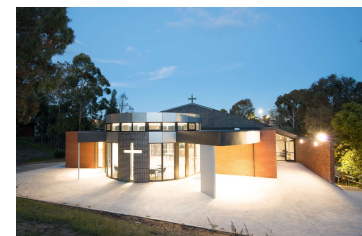




St Kevin's Catholic Parish

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

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

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

31st May/1st June, 2025

National Aboriginal Reconciliation Week

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai



Words from our PP...

Home! By the time you read these words I will be home from my travels and by the time I see you I shall have slept in my own bed (praise the Lord for one's own bed!) This time away has been most life-giving, as well as having some fraught moments (such as turning my ankle, falling once, and having my phone stolen by a pick-pocket whom I chased and whom a bystander stepped in and caught and held for me till I caught up and I got my phone back).

A life giving time – time being absorbed (for a short while) in the lives of family members. Time spent in contemplation as I walked the Camino, in rain and in cloud and in sun, alone and in company. Time spent pondering the Virgin Mary in my heart in Fatima. Time sightseeing in Barcelona (my but there are so many churches in the Gothic Quarter where I stayed) with a trip to Montserrat, time in the Sagrada Familia Basilica, time just walking, going to see Flamenco. Time spent just being quiet, dozing, listening to music or an audio book – allowing tiredness to pass and Christ to enter.

As I wrote most of this it was Sunday, 25th of May, and I had just attended 9 am Mass in the local Cathedral. A big cathedral – but only about 100 people present, I felt part of a small island in an empty sea. At Mass over the weeks, I have heard the similarity but also the differences between Galician, Castilian, Portuguese and Catalan languages. Similar but different. The Mass came more alive as I begin to understand just a little, a few words here and there. And the diction of the priest and lectors and cantors made such a difference. The Mass was effective regardless of the language: the Sacrament in Word and Eucharist is truly effective. But that process of having to listen so carefully made me realise how important it is for me, for all of us to take care to be understood.

God bless, Fr Charles. Alleluia, Alleluia!!!



The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

Bridging Now to Next urges us to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

At a time when Australia faces uncertainty in its reconciliation journey, this theme calls on all Australians to step forward together.

We incorporate Aboriginal symbols, prayers, blessings, and appropriate songs into our Masses this weekend.

Why do we use the Message Stick and the Coolamon?

The Message Stick: A Message Stick is a means of communication in Aboriginal Culture.

The message was inscribed on the stick and “passed on” so that everyone could receive the same message. The message that accompanies the message sticks in catholic communities, is one of “love, hope, forgiveness and peace” (Aunty Betty Pike).

This why it accompanies the Gospel – to remind us that this message needs to be handed on.

The Coolamon: The Coolamon is a strong symbol of life for Australian Aboriginal people.

It is a receptacle for carrying life giving food, water and cradling and rocking small babies.

It is a life-giving symbol.



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
Friday	9.30am	Adoration at St Gregory the Great Church
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	



We pray for Better Health:

Elysia Pozzebon, Wang Wei Qiao, Michelle, Melissa Wirata, Michael Angelo Yambao, Rosanna Campagna, Gabriella Cunico, Alexandra Bateman, Alan Benn, Federico Aspromonte, Peter Ryan, Rosemarie Cameron, Eugenia Pozzebon, Dr Noel Smyth, Aileen Kent, Ruth Shiel, Fr Frank Maloney, Rachel Hally, Vin Natoli, Bob Ulehla and Dot Sharkey.

Anniversaries:

Aidan Balnaves, Charles Reames, Rosario Scaffidi, Maureen Whyte, Maria Beiza Rosales, Laura Torre, Giovannina Mazzei, Marjorie Miller and Michael Sloane (1st).

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For all who are homeless, throughout the world: that they will find hope in Christ's love and practical help in their search for life and a home.



Feast Days this week:...

3rd June St Charles Lwanga and Companions

These 22 martyrs were among many newly baptised Catholics and Anglicans who were killed for their faith and virtue in Uganda by a debauched and brutal leader. They included judges, catechists, soldiers and teenage pages under the leadership of Charles Lwanga, who was burned alive. Remembered for the heroic calm of their fidelity to Christ.

5th June St Boniface
Founded monasteries and established dioceses, presided at synods and maintained close associations with various emperors. Remembered as a determined missionary and as a Church organiser and reformer whose work shaped the future of Europe. He is buried at his abbey of Fulda.

LITURGY ROSTER

The Ascension of the Lord – 31st May/1st June 2025

1st Read: Acts 1: 1-11 2nd Read: Hebrews 9: 24-28; 10: 19-23 Gos: John 24: 46-53

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Christine Marini	Rachel Marini	Lawrence Cecconello Lynne O'Brien
8.30am	Julie O'Donnell	Pamela Rivera	Liz Polidano Mary Waddick
10.00am	Shashi Jayakody	Bernard Butler	Raffaella Dinelli Carmel Purdey

Pentecost Sunday – 7/8th June 2025

1st Read: Acts 2: 1-11 2nd Read: Romans 8: 8-17 Gos: John 14: 15-16, 23-26

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Tasha Vercauteran	Lawrence Cecconello Anne Maguire
8.30am	Pauline Erickson		Frances Bettiol Adrian Teo
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Carmel Shiel	Lyn Murphy Carmel Purdey

On Tuesday, 3rd June we celebrate
St Kevin's Feast Day

Saint Kevin of Glendalough (c. 498 – June 3, 618) was an Irish saint and the founder of the monastery at Glendalough in County Wicklow, Ireland. He is known for his hermit lifestyle, miraculous deeds, and his role as one of the patron saints of Dublin. His life is deeply intertwined with the natural beauty of the Wicklow Mountains, and he is celebrated for his spiritual contributions and monastic foundations. His feast day is observed on June 3.

A special commemorative Mass will be celebrated on this day at 9.15am together with the schoolchildren. All are welcome to attend.



WINTER COAT DRIVE

May 20 – June 30

We are collecting warm clean coats, jackets and wool blankets (not quilts) for refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable people

DROP OFF:

St Kevins Church or Parish House 26-44 Herlihy Rd, Templestowe Lower

St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster

Queries: Carmel Purdey carmelpurdey@gmail.com





Thank you to those of you who have already confirmed your attendance to the Parish Office. Another way of responding is via the sign-up sheets on the table in the Gathering Space.



Our next **Parish Bookish Morning Tea** will be held on **Thursday, 5th June** at 10.00am and continues every fortnight.



Renting of Town House in Lower Plenty

Close to shops and public transport.
Not suitable for families.



A very modest rent would be asked on the condition that the owner could stay with the renter for a few days on the odd occasion that he comes over from Adelaide to visit family or for business.
Contact Michael Lynch 0409 933064.

The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group**



takes place on **Friday, 14th June @ 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 at

templestowe@cam.org.au

Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession Sunday 22 June 2025 - 11.00am–3.00pm

On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), all are invited to this special Corpus Christi Procession as our Archdiocese of Melbourne publicly and joyfully bears witness to Christ—the hope who does not disappoint—in this Year of Jubilee. Following the 11am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, a Eucharistic procession will commence from the Cathedral, making a pilgrimage through Melbourne CBD in prayer and song before concluding with Benediction at Federation Square.

'My dear friends in Christ, I ask you to join me for this extraordinary Eucharistic Procession, bringing along your parishes, schools, and communities to bear witness to Christ in our midst. In this grace-filled Jubilee Year, may we share the living hope of Christ with every step we take.' – Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au or (03) 9926 5761

Melbourne prepares to host Australia's largest Catholic event this December

Preparations are ramping up as Melbourne prepares to welcome more than 10,000 young people later this year for the fifth Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), the largest event on the Australian Catholic calendar. Taking place from 30 November to 2 December at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, this year's festival marks a special homecoming, with the very first ACYF held in Melbourne back in 2013.

'This festival is going to be the largest Catholic gathering in Australia,' said festival director Teresa Rhynehart. 'And it's going to be a place of encounter for our young people. They will encounter the Church—our bishops, religious congregations, various Catholic organisations—and see the incredible breadth of the Church that exists in Australia. But most of all, hopefully, there will be an encounter with our Lord. And that might be an encounter that they are having for the very first time in their life,' she said.

The festival will bring together thousands of young people from Year 9 to 25 years old from across Australia, offering a range of activities including talks, Mass, prayer, workshops, live music, games, engagement with justice issues and an interactive expo.

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

Christians, who meet together to meditate, are a group aware of its power: a power that arises from the presence of Jesus in their midst. They meet to deepen their silent awareness of Christ's presence becoming a community of one mind and one heart.



Vinnies
good works

We are excited and pleased to announce that we now have our own St Vincent De Paul Team here at St Kevin's Parish! We are only a small group at the moment so we are looking for volunteers to join us to help support the most vulnerable. If interested please contact Ana Saro via email on Ana.Saro@cam.org.au or call her directly on 7064 3948.

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

A Pilgrims of Hope prayer card is now available for you to take: pick up your copy from the gathering space.

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
God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Response to Prayers of the Faithful
Lord, graciously hear us.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	
First Reading	Second Reading
<p><u>Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11</u></p> <p>A reading from the Acts of the Apostles</p> <p><i>Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.</i></p> <p>We have been reading from the Acts of the Apostles since Easter Sunday. Now we go back to the start of the book which sets out Luke's chronology. Christ appeared to the disciples for forty days; now at the ascension, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit who will come with power and the disciples will go out to witness to the risen Christ; then he is taken from their sight.</p> <p>Surprisingly, the apostles still expect some kind of political restoration in association with the coming of the kingdom. This is the context for the promise of the Holy Spirit which places the events in a different realm. The mission Christ gives – to be witnesses – expands from Jerusalem to 'the ends of the earth'. Indeed, it is just this story which will be told in the rest of the book.</p>	<p><u>Ephesians 1:17-23</u></p> <p>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians</p> <p><i>He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.</i></p> <p>One can read the beautiful blessing from Ephesians 1:17-23 each year on this feast, but optional second readings are given for Years B and C.</p> <p>This year the optional text is from the letter to the Hebrews. It will be difficult for both the reader and the assembly. The two sections here juxtaposed speak of Christ entering the sanctuary, that is, the sanctuary of heaven. But the metaphor is the high priest who enters the Temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifice.</p> <p>The author is arguing the superiority of Christ's priestly self-sacrifice over Jewish sacrificial and atonement rites which have been superseded by the unique and eternally efficacious sacrifice of Christ. When he offered himself on the cross, Christ did away with sin once and for all and laid open the heavenly sanctuary.</p> <p>The close argumentation and high literary style add to the difficulty of the content. <i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i></p>

Catholic Social Justice highlighted following the death of Pope Francis (Part 5)

Continuing this SJA series on Pope Francis' legacy of Catholic Social Justice action which Pope Leo is conspicuously continuing, the following extracts are from "Evangelisation central to Pope Francis' vision", Vatican News, Lisa Zengarini -Cardinal Re at Requiem Mass. 26 April 2025:

Part 5. "Evangelisation, Cardinal Re explained, remained central to his vision, most notably expressed in his Apostolic Exhortation 'Evangelii Gaudium'. His image of the Church as a “field hospital” characterised a Church actively engaging with the world’s wounds. His outreach to migrants and refugees, exemplified by the visits to Lampedusa, Lesbos, and the US-Mexico border, was deeply symbolic of his solidarity with suffering. “His gestures and exhortations in favour of refugees and displaced persons are countless. His insistence on working on behalf of the poor was constant.” Among his **47** Apostolic Journeys, Cardinal Re highlighted his visit to Iraq, which, he said, stood out as both a “pastoral balm” and a call for interreligious dialogue. His global travels often brought him to places of deep need and conflict, culminating in his 2024 visit to the Asia-Oceania region, which extended the Church's presence to the furthest peripheries."....." His call for human fraternity, notably in his encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' and the 2019 Abu Dhabi joint Declaration on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, underscored his desire for global solidarity and peace."

On a related topic fyi, while cash donations are no substitute for direct action, when that's not possible cash donations greatly help. Associated with the Ascension and Christ's call then to *all of us* to carry on his earthly mission, our appreciated 2nd Collection on 26/27 April raised \$518 for Catholic Care's lifeline to some of the most vulnerable: children, youth, families, and individuals facing crisis. - **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.

