



ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE

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Parish Council Agenda 1st May 2025

- 1) Opening Prayer
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Matters arising from the minutes of April meeting
- 4) Parish updates – questions on circulated reports
 - A) Fr Charles' report
 - B) School Principal's update: Gabee Leone
 - C) Pastoral Worker: Ana Saro
 - D) Chairperson's report: Pauline Erickson
 - E) SJA: John Costa
- 5) Other matters for discussion
- 6) Next meeting: Thursday 5th June 2025 at 2.30pm.



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St Kevin's Parish Council Meeting 1st May 2025

Minutes

Meeting opened at 2.30pm,

Present: Fr Charles, Margaret Turner, Adrian Teo, David Hii, Pauline Erickson, Ana Saro, Gabee Leone, Claudia Raiola, Peter Sheehan.

Apologies: Fr Anton, Carmel Shiel, John Costa.

Opening Prayer. Margaret Turner read some inspiring words from Pope Francis. Prayers were also requested for John Costa's friend Robert. Claudia expressed hope that the Holy Spirit guide our Cardinals during the coming Conclave.

Discussion arising from previous minutes. Nil

Current reports. Information and discussion.

- 1) Fr Charles. Holy week and Easter ceremonies were well attended. Fr Charles once again expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all those involved in every aspect of the very successful ceremonies. He has received very positive feedback.

Some discussion on the role of LEL and what the parish needs going forward. How do we extend our ideas and efforts to attain our missionary goals? Invitation to PPC members to ponder on the subject.

There is now a general Parish email list.

- 2) School principal. It has been a quiet time because of the holidays. Grades 5 and 6 had a successful trip to Canberra. Excursions are planned to suit the curriculum. Election on 3/5 earns the school some funds.
- 3) Pastoral Worker. Ana reported that she is working (with David) on all aspects of safeguarding requirements.
- 4) Social Justice Group. No report. John advised there was nothing to report for the preceding month.
- 5) Chairperson's report. Pauline together with Fr Charles, provided some preliminary thoughts on the combination of 8.30am and 10am Sunday Masses. The report points out both for and against ideas. Ana to draw up a draft survey for parishioners for next meeting.

- 6) Business manager: David reported that plans for the columbaria and modifications to the altar are progressing. MACS is considering the future use of St Charles' school building. David working with Ana on safeguarding.
- 7) Fr Charles taking leave from 5/5 to 30/5/25.

Next meeting 5th June 2.30pm.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm.

St Kevin's Mass Times – Preliminary Discussion

Some thoughts in support of a discussion about replacing Sunday 8.30am and 10am Masses with a suggested 9.15am Mass, the following pros and cons are noted.

Note: 9:15 am is suggested purely on the basis of being halfway between existing Mass times. Fr Charles is thinking perhaps we need to ask rather than 'assume' what time.

In favour of:

- 1) A combined Mass would bring a larger congregation together with a stronger voice and a greater sense of the life that is at the core of our Liturgy celebration.
 - a. If the community grows and an additional Mass is needed again, we can always add a Mass back in. that would be well down the line though on current trend as even with amalgamation we would normally only have 100 – 120 people in a church that can comfortably seat 200.
- 2) If the parish is to become (even more??) Vibrant and Vital and so grow and become viable, then our Masses need to become even more welcoming and complete and inspirational and larger numbers help this to happen.
- 3) Larger numbers would (hopefully) engender more community spirit and a stronger sense of belonging which may be reflected in the "cuppa" after Mass.
 - a. It should be possible to broaden/deepen our welcoming ministry with more people able to assist.
 - b. The possibility of starting up Children's Liturgy may become evident over time as there are a few children at 8:30 and others at 10:00
- 4) Easier to manage timewise from a clergy point of view. This is not a major issue while we have an Assistant Priest, it becomes so when we don't have an assistant priest (a probably reality as time goes on unless vocations grow significantly).
- 5) The Mass roster would be very/more workable. At the moment, all Masses need more volunteers in all roles. With parishioners ageing, their mobility, versatility and willingness are diminishing and not many new volunteers are stepping up. Three volunteers are now required at each Mass as Eucharist ministers (to enable communion under both species), but because of a lack of volunteers on the roster, only two are rostered. Therefore, the same people step up week after week as the third person to help. Lectors and Commentators are also thinly spread. There have been no complaints about this but there have been one or two occasions when an extra person is not available.
- 6) Multi-media presentation (including PowerPoint operation) could also be rostered allowing that people are not rostered for nearly every week.

Against:

- 1) People don't like change.
 - a. Just changing the time can upset people, regardless of any real sense of attachment to a Mass time.
 - b. The very strong group that stops for a 'cuppa' after 8:30 am might not stay for a later time?
 - c.
- 2) Some people prefer a quieter non "social" Mass. But the 8:30 am Mass now has (recorded) music just as does 5:30 pm. There were some comments (complaints?) when the Mass started with music but generally people (50% of congregation) sing at a volume sufficient to be heard along with the music recording. The biggest complaint about the 'music' was the disjoint for a while between the words on the screen and the progress of the liturgy.
- 3) On some occasions, there could be a very crowded church.
 - a. If this is a real issue, then for special occasions (??? Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday), we could add a Mass
 - b. Holding First Eucharists as a part of normal Sunday Masses might become more of an issue if the church is already full – but this can be managed.
- 4) A potential impact on Baptisms. Is 9.15am too early for families with small children or with relatives / friends travelling some distance?
 - a. This would be an argument for a time like 9:30 instead of 9:15 am.
- 5) Parishioners who no longer live in Templestowe may be impacted. 9.15am could be too late for some and too early for others. Saturday night Mass is not always an option.
- 6) With change, there is a potential loss of some parishioners which in turn leads to a potential loss of income.



BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT – MAY, 2025

Columbarium (Wall Niche)

I have been advised by Planning Officer Daniel Yu that a Planning Permit is required for the construction of the columbarium. We are currently in the process of engaging a landscaper/draftsman to handle all necessary works, including the preparation and submission of council permit applications. A detailed quotation will be obtained and reviewed prior to the commencement of any work.

Modifications to the Sanctuary

Sandy Law from Law Architects had been on leave for the past few weeks and returned to work on 30th April, 2025. She will now be reviewing all work completed to date regarding the proposed design alterations to the sanctuary.

Defibrillator (AED) and First Aid/CPR Training

A defibrillator (AED) has been purchased from St John Ambulance. A First Aid and CPR training session, including instruction on the use of the AED, will be held on 1st May 2025 (Thursday) from 7pm to 930pm at St Kevin's Gathering Space.

Safety Essentials Training

We are organising a Safety Essentials Training for all volunteers and staff. Participants may choose to complete the training either online or in person.

(a) Online Training

The online training is easily accessible via the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding website: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding>

(b) In-Person Training Sessions

We are offering three in-person sessions to choose from:

1. **8th May 2025 (Thursday)** – St Kevin's Gathering Space, 7pm to 830pm
2. **15th May 2025 (Thursday)** – St Gregory's Parish Room, 7pm to 830pm
3. **18th May 2025 (Sunday)** – St Kevin's Gathering Space, 230pm to 4pm

We encourage all volunteers and staff to attend or complete the training as part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive environment.

Pastoral Worker PPC Report April 2025.

Sacramental Program.

- Confirmation classes commence on Monday 12th May. Currently there are 7 students enrolled.

Safeguarding.

- WWCC and COC continue to be updated on PACEM.
- Safeguarding meetings continue monthly.
- Safeguarding Essentials Training scheduled Thursday 8th May 7 Sunday 18th May. Reasonable response but disappointing in how many need to be chased up.

Outreach and Nursing Home Visits.

- Continue to visit 3 nursing homes a week. Templestowe Manor has worked with me and we are now doing a monthly morning tea after Thursday mass – the residents are bussed out to us.
- Bookish Morning tea continues and is growing. We now average 6-8 people each time. Lots of fun!!

Youth Group.

- Each meeting remains very energetic. There was no Youth Group in April due to the clash with Easter, Anzac day and school holidays.

Playgroup.

- Advertized in Manningham News – good response- we now have 7 interested families. Recommences Monday 5th May.

Bereavement Team.

Continues to work well – one volunteer assists with the set up of mass and I do carpark duty!!

St Vincent De Paul

We have a dedicated team of 4 – Nicole, Daniel, Adrian and myself.

Mother's Day with St Kevin's school.

Tomorrow – Friday 2nd May the Parish is putting on a breakfast for the mums. Open from 0700-0830 we are offering crumpets, pancakes, pastries, fresh fruit and cereals. Fr Charles will give a blessing at 0800 and all mums receive a prayer scroll.

First Aid Training.

All staff and some chosen members of the parish community are meeting tonight for CPR and defib training. Organised by David – this is a great opportunity to increase our skills and confidence in case of a medical emergency.

Baptism.

There is one family booked for May so far. Another family that had booked in and attended the preparation class has postponed.



PPC Meeting

01/05/25

Easter Re-enactment	<p>On Tuesday the Year 1 and 2 students presented the "Alleluia" part of the Easter story. It was a respectful roleplay and showed reverence. It was wonderful to see the juniors working together and showcasing their artistic talents. Well done and thank you to the teachers for supporting the students.</p>
Democracy Sausage and cake stall	<p>St Kevin's Catholic Primary school will be a polling place for the upcoming Federal Election on Saturday 3rd of May.</p> <p>St Kevin's will be hosting a combined Cake Stall and Sausage Sizzle on the day. This gives us a chance to raise funds from the public, rather than from the school community.</p>

Canberra Camp

What a fun filled 3 days of learning! We had an amazing time on our Year 5 and 6 Camp to Canberra. The students were learning on the job, with a strong government concept of CHANGE but also managed to squeeze a lot of fun into the trip.

The Canberra camp provided the opportunity for our students to expand on their understandings of Civics and Citizenship. Some of the experiences our students had included;

1. Old and New Parliament House, including their own role play in the House of Representatives
2. The National Electoral Education Centre - How elections are conducted and the process behind preferential voting
3. Questacon - experiencing science in an interactive engaging manner
4. Australian Institution of Sport (AIS)
5. National Capital Exhibition Centre - The Story of Canberra.
6. CISAC (Canberra International Sports and Aquatic)
7. Australian War Memorial