



ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE

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PPC Agenda 4th September 2025

- 1) Opening prayer. Pauline Erickson
- 2) Apologies.
- 3) Matters arising from minutes of August meeting.
- 4) Parish updates
 - a) Fr Charles
 - b) Fr Anton
 - c) School Principal – Gabee Leone
 - d) Pastoral Worker – Ana Saro
 - e) Finance – David Hii
 - f) Social Justice – John Costa
 - g) Chair – Pauline Erickson
- 5) Other matters for discussion.
 - a) Fr Charles feels with the current advertisement for the position of Evangelisation Leader, it is an opportune time to have a sizeable, synodal parish discussion on what people see as the emerging future of the Church and bring visibility into what people want going forward. Fr Charles to expand.
 - b) Feedback from SJA on parish fund to help people in need.
 - c) Visual display of proposed alterations?
- 6) Next meeting: Thursday 2nd October 2025



St Kevin's PPC Meeting 4th September 2025

Minutes

The meeting opened at 2.30pm.

Present: Fr Charles, David Hii, Ana Saro, Claudia Raiola, John Costa, Adrian Teo, Carmel Shiel, Peter Sheehan & Gabee Leone.

Apologies: Fr Anton, Margaret Turner & Pauline Erickson.

Opening prayer. David Hii read the opening prayer, written by Pauline Erickson, invoking the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom to support our decision-making process.

PPC members gathered at the church to view the temporary stage, constructed using plywood in the sanctuary, along with the rearranged altar, which provided a clearer visual representation of the proposed modifications. The members raised no objections to the proposed changes.

Reports

Fr Charles:

- 1) To discuss with the Liturgy Group regarding the proposed sanctuary modifications before a final decision is made.
- 2) Alpha, Clergy Conference and Staff Retreat all went well.
- 3) St Gregory's Safeguarding Audit: Questions regarding St Kevin's safeguarding compliance may also be raised during the audit, as Fr Charles is the priest for both St Gregory's and St Kevin's. The purpose of the audit is to assess current capabilities and to provide guidance for improvement, rather than to assign blame or impose punishment.
- 4) Peter Norman, the parish accountant, has tendered his resignation, effective at the end of February 2026. The parish is currently seeking a replacement for the role.

Pastoral worker. Ana Saro:

- 1) Ana is applying for a \$6,400 grant from Manningham City Council.
- 2) A gentle reminder to all PPC members to complete their Police Check as part of our safeguarding requirements.
- 3) The Father's Day breakfast went well.
- 4) Ana will be stepping down from leading the Youth Group, and Charlotte will be taking over the role.
- 5) Volunteer numbers for the Communion to the Sick and Bereavement ministries are declining. Exploring ways to encourage more people to volunteer in these areas.

- 6) Fr. Anton's birthday will be celebrated during the 8:30am and 10:00am Masses on Sunday, 7th September 2025.

Finance Report, David Hii. David advised that the parish will be doing a survey to check interest in the Columbarium project starting next weekend (13th - 14th September 2025) and continuing for two weekends.

David reported on the parish's safeguarding status.

School Report, Gabee Leone. Gabee shared her wonderful and memorable experience attending the Australian Catholic Education Conference (ACEC) in Cairns, highlighting the meaningful connection and integration of Aboriginal culture with the Catholic faith.

SJA report. John Costa:

- 1) One person has expressed interest in becoming a commentator/lector.
- 2) What is missing in our church? What are we currently doing, and what are we neglecting? What more should we be doing, especially in terms of social outreach to the poor? The parish should adopt a synodal approach that emphasises walking alongside the poor and marginalised. Our parish is already empowered and takes the lead in practicing synodality in this regard. Further discussion will take place at the Synodality Forum scheduled for February or March 2026.
- 3) How to fund ad hoc requests for special needs? A Special Second Collection will be held once a year specifically for this purpose. SJA will continue with its existing second collections despite some complaints about the number of collections throughout the year. It is important to note that all donations are voluntary and not compulsory.

Chair report. Pauline Erickson. Pauline (in absence) shared that a training session for lectors and commentators will be held on Saturday, 4th October, 2025 at 11am in the Gathering Space. The date has been advertised in the Bulletin together with invitation to all those that are interested in joining the team.

Meeting closed at 4.00pm

Next meeting: Thursday 2nd October, 2025 at 2.30pm.



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Chair Report - Pauline Erickson

Training for lectors and commentators.

It has been decided that the date for the above training session will be on Saturday 4th October at 11am in the gathering space. A "save the date" has been advertised in the Bulletin, welcoming lectors, commentators and anyone who may be interested in joining the team. I have prepared revised instructions for both jobs as well as a revised general information sheet on speaking to an audience. Further notices and an email reminder will be forwarded closer to the date. Ana Saro and Julie O'Donnell are on board with the session and the exact format will take shape in the coming weeks.

Pastoral Worker PPC Report August 2025.

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Sacramental Program.

First Eucharist – 7 enrolled. Series of 5 classes started on Monday 1st September. The classes are weekly in lead up to the Sacrament.

Safeguarding.

- WWCC and COC continue to be updated on PACEM. Meeting weekly with various parishioners to get the WWCC and Police checks done.
- Safeguarding meetings continue fortnightly whilst we prepare St Gregs for their audit on 6th October.
- A new series of dates for Safeguarding Essentials training.

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 fortnightly and is growing. We now average 6-8 people each time. Lots of fun!!

Youth Group.

Average 20-25 teenagers. The August theme was 'Masterchef!' I am stepping away from attending on the night but remain involved in the preparation for the night.

Playgroup.

We have reached 10 families! we average 8 children each week.

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 5 – Marie Holt, Jenny Coates, Adrian and myself. And we now have the lovely Lolita!

Baptism

Spring is here and we now have 3 baptisms booked in over the next 8 weeks! Busy with the Baptism preparation classes.

Manningham Grant

Worked with Carmel Shiel and Frances Johnson to submit an application to Manningham Council for a free grant - to pay for the ongoing costs of the knitting group.

We have asked for \$7500.



For PPC Meeting

04/09/25

**ACEC
Conference in
Cairns**



News from the ACEC Conference

I feel blessed to share highlights from the 2025 Australian Catholic Education Conference (ACEC) in Cairns. The Australian Catholic Education Conference has been an incredible week of learning and networking. Under the theme '*Hope, Anchored in Faith*', the conference was largely focussed on exploring the strategic vision and mission of Catholic education through the pillars of Faith, Excellence and Access. The program featured a rich variety of presentations, workshops, and panel discussions. In the opening plenary, Nicholas Moore - chair of the NCEC - provided an overview of the impact that Catholic education has across the nation, where more than 800,000 students attend school. The conference, 1,400 delegates in attendance, instilled a great sense of solidarity.

Day One – Wednesday 20 August

The conference opened with a warm welcome and bustling atmosphere as we North Eastern Principals arrived. *Understanding Faith* was positioned at the main entrance, speaking with educators about how our resource supports student learning.

Key moments included:

- A keynote from Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ on how the Synod on Synodality can enrich Catholic education.
- A moving conference Mass attended by nearly 3,000 people, enhanced by beautiful music from school choirs and led by Bishop Joe Caddy.
- Inspiring sessions on faith leadership, the role of AI in education, and cultivating vision in Catholic schools.
- A standout panel on Catholic education's transformative role, reminding us: *"As we are forming minds, we should also be forming hearts."* – Professor Renée Kohler-Ryan

Day Two – Thursday 21 August

The day began with music and prayer, followed by a conversation between Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Federal Education Minister Jason Clare, who spoke about the value of Catholic education in shaping young Australians

Highlights:

- A panel featuring leading educators discussed the importance of high-quality teaching and student support.
- Keynote speaker Dr Steve Constantino stressed the vital role of family engagement in education.
"Families are the first and most influential teachers of their children."

Engage Every Family – Dr Steve Constantino

- Workshops celebrated the integration of Aboriginal culture and Catholic faith, and the use of music and liturgy in the classroom.

Day Three – Friday 22 August

	<p>The final day focused on the power of storytelling and how it can deepen students' understanding of faith.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A student-led panel offered powerful insights into the real impact of Catholic education. Students shared heartfelt stories about feeling seen and valued in their learning environments. ■ A discussion explored how Catholic graduates tend to experience long-term life benefits in areas like employment, wellbeing and citizenship. ■ Dr Simon Breakspear closed the conference with a dynamic keynote on the future of AI in education with the strong message to keep our core skills in mind. <p>It was a privilege to be part of this rich and inspiring event. Cannot wait to share all my learning with the school community.</p> <p>A massive thank you to Eva, the Leadership Team, and the super staff for all their efforts while I was away!</p>
<p>School Performance</p> <p>'The Sleepover'</p>	<p>Our students are busily preparing for the upcoming St. Kevin's Whole School Performance, and excitement is building across the school. The performances will take place on Wednesday, 10th September (matinee session 11:45am – 1:15pm), and Thursday, 11th September (evening session 6:45pm – 8:00pm), with two shows in total.</p> <p>Tickets, as advertised in our previous newsletter, are available via TryBooking. We encourage families to secure their seats early, as this event is always a highlight of our school calendar.</p> <p>Ticket link: https://www.trybooking.com/DEJVP</p>

	<p>The performances will be held in the Glendalough Stadium at St. Kevin's Primary School, with 200 tickets available for each show. Please note there is <i>no allocated seating</i>. Ticket pricing details are available once you click on the link.</p>
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BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT – SEPTEMBER, 2025

Columbarium (Wall Niche)

The Parish will carry out a survey **this month** to find out if parishioners are interested in the columbarium project and how likely they are to buy a niche at different prices. The results will help decide whether to move forward with the project.

Modifications to the Sanctuary

The next stage forward for the proposed alterations to the sanctuary?

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) – Safeguarding Audit

We currently have a total of 81 volunteers. Of these:

1. 11 volunteers have yet to obtain or renew their Working With Children Check (WWCC)
2. 13 have yet to sign or resign the Code of Conduct (COC)
3. 22 have not yet completed the required safeguarding training

The Volunteer Overview and Position Description will be emailed to all volunteers this month for their review, confirmation, and acceptance.

1. **The SJA Letter to the Australian PM** supporting the Australian Government's position on the unacceptability of avoidable ongoing Starvation and Malnutrition (in Gaza), since shared for information with some others, including the Local Member for Menzies, has consequently been strongly supported by Catholic Social Services Australia, CSS Victoria, the CAM Episcopal Vicar, and some other Parishes including Mary Mother of the Church Ivanhoe, which has consequently been prompted to similarly write on this to the PM. Apart from simply speaking-out and sharing awareness, such letters in themselves may sadly do little more. However as a *personal observation* on this and other unacceptable ongoing human rights violations in the world, perhaps it's the case that if male-only decision-makers in such situations obsessed with 'winning at whatever cost' were equally balanced by equally powered female decision-makers, such ongoing extreme violations of human rights might never be allowed to continue?

2. **Possible Parish Fund** to help people in need. As invited by the past PPC Meeting, the last SJA Committee Meeting on 14 August considered this and offers some thoughts and options for discussion, as verbal feedback to Agenda Item 5 b for the 4 Sept. meeting.

3. **2nd Collections.** The last SJA Committee meeting also agreed that John Costa with Carmel Purdey will explore with St Greg's parish the possibility of some particular joint 2nd Collection campaigns, e.g. including Opening The Doors Foundation, and perhaps the Philippine Elementary school formerly supported by St Charles Borromeo. All this relates to timing for preparing the 2026 Second Collection Schedule

4. **Future Presentations and Promotion.** The last SJA Committee Meeting reaffirmed intention in principle to conduct Parish presentations/Discussion on i) Catholic Social Services, and ii) Update on Refugee & Asylum seeker issues/developments, subject to determining propitious timing. We are similarly exploring other potential topics (always welcoming suggestions), now in the context of some possible shared events with St Greg's Parish and (selectively) also the wider community. In accordance with SJA's new "wider-community online marketing model" which we verbally advised the PPC of briefly at its last meeting we will also *selectively* promote these events in the wider community (we already selectively promote them in neighbouring Parishes).

5. **Nungalinya College.** Members of our our Parish have been invited and will (hopefully) meet once again in October (the first time was October 2023) with a representative of Nungalinya College, to update us on their activities and achievements. This Christian college is supported by a small number of Churches including the Catholic Church, very helpfully to train Indigenous Christians living in remote communities for important leadership roles in the Christian and wider community.

6. **Promotion of Synodality** (a Social justice perspective on 'synodality' as it relates to Agenda item 5 a). At the recent second visit to Australian and CAM, the Vatican Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ appropriately reminded us that "One of the most practical and important ways for parishes to be more synodal is to 'walk with' the poor and marginalised" adding that "on our parish or in our community, we have to go where they are, and I think especially in

the Church, we have to partner with those who are already journeying with them."
(Extract from Melbourne Catholic, 26 August 2025)

John Costa