



St Kevin's Catholic Parish

26-44 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower



Mass Times

St Kevin's: 5.30pm Saturdays

9.15am 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:

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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 A

First Sunday of Advent

29/30th November, 2025

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai



From the desk of the PP...

Advent 2025: Year A: This week we begin our journey towards Christmas, towards once again celebrating the wonderful truth that God has come among us. Jesus Christ comes to be with us so that we can know God's love and be welcomed into the Father's loving embrace.

With the start of Advent we finish our journey with the Gospel of Luke and enter a journey with the Gospel of Matthew. We move back to the beginning of our three-year cycle (Yr A Matthew, Yr B Mark, Yr C Luke, with John presented largely during the Easter season).

We go through this cycle of the Gospels so that we can intentionally approach our understanding of Jesus Christ from different perspectives. This coming year, with the Gospel of Matthew speaking to a mixed community of Jews and Gentiles, we see Jesus through the lens of God being in control of salvation. Matthew shows us that the trajectory of history leads inevitably from our separation from God (the Fall told of in Genesis) to our access to God's love through Jesus Christ himself. Stay tuned, listen closely as the year progresses.

ACYF!!! Australian Catholic Youth Festival: The festival starts this Sunday and this Sunday at the St Greg's 10:30am Mass, we will bless and commission our pilgrims and leaders from both St Kevin's and St Greg's. These three days are an opportunity for the pilgrims to grow in faith, in developing their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and in understanding the call of the Holy Spirit. Let us stand with them in our prayers.

Budget 2026: We are in the process of developing our budget for 2026. If you have ideas about things that we should be or could be doing but that might cost a few dollars, please let me know, or send us an email and we can consider what budget allowance can be made. Our budget is healthy but needs careful management. Which means we can't do everything at once but can make room for things that can grow our capacity as disciples who are faithful and welcoming and seek to go and make disciples.

Thank You / Emergency Response: We had an incident last Sunday when a parishioner collapsed and fell and suffered severe injury in our Gathering Space: I am sure you will be relieved to know that she is doing well now, thank God. And thank you. Thank you to Ana who stepped in, as she does, and provided excellent first aid care and to Carmel who assisted her most ably. And thank you to others who helped in the initial response. And thank you to everyone for accepting the oddity of entering the church via the sacristy: that helped significantly to make proper emergency care possible safely.

In recent months we have acquired an AED (defibrillator), updated the first aid kit, obtained a wheelchair, had staff undergo CPE training, and reassessed the safety of our church and gathering space. All of this helps ensure that we can gather safely and if a health emergency arises we can respond effectively and quickly.

God bless, Fr Charles

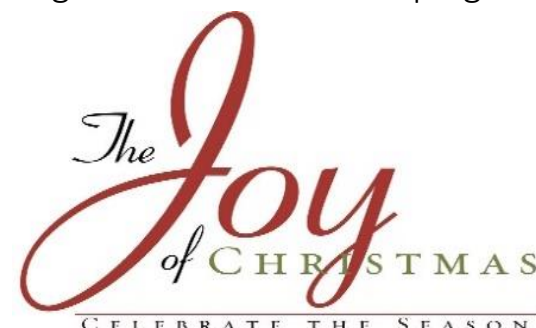
Christmas Carols

Come and join our St Kevin's Primary School community as we sing Christmas Carols and review our year. Monday, 8th December at 6.30pm in the Church. All welcome.



Please note: Christmas Day is a Thursday this year. The Liturgy Committee is putting a lot of work into helping us prepare.

They have made the 4 weekends of Advent into a unique package and urge each one of us to fully participate.



What's happening in our Parish this week?...

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Mass
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	9.15am	Mass



We pray for Better Health:

Alexandra Bateman, Alan Benn, Federico Aspromonte, Peter Ryan, Eugenia Pozzebon, Dr Noel Smyth, Louis Amalfi, Aileen Kent, Ruth Shiel, Rachel Hally, Vin Natoli, Bob Ulehla, Dot Sharkey, Shirley Loo, Lianny Susanto, Jewly Wylie, David Cullen, Peter Ryan, Tony Robinson, Julie-Anne Oldfield, Dylan, Shane, Lyn Murphy, Marie Cameron and Peter Zeantti.

Anniversaries:

Stephen Byrne, June Flood, Ben Skadiang, Sharon McCluskey, Joe Chadwick, Claire Ryan, Margaret Anderson, Ugo Di Corrado, Walter Hohenberger and Kim West.

Recently Deceased:

Louis Amalfi, Immaculata Raiola and Noeline Holman.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For our 23 young people and leaders going to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival: that they will respond to the call of the Holy Spirit with strength and faith.



Feast Days this week:...

3rd December St Francis Xavier
*Born in 1506 in Navarre (Spain).
Died on this day in 1552 off the coast of China.
Met St Ignatius of Loyola while studying in Paris, became one of the first Jesuits and went to Goa (India) as a missionary.
Travelled extensively through southeast Asia to Japan, winning many converts and leaving behind organised Christian communities.
Remembered for the witness of his poverty and for his tireless efforts as a missionary.*

LITURGY ROSTER

First Sunday of Advent – 29/30th November 2025

1st Read: Isaiah 2: 1-5 2nd Read: 1 Romans 13: 11-14 Gos: Matthew 24: 37-44

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Tasha Vercauteran	Margaret Turner	Anne Maguire Lawrence Cecconello
9.15am	Marie Arbogast	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Lyn Robinson Mary Waddick Pat Rowland

Second Sunday of Advent – 6/7th December 2025

1st Read: Isaiah 11: 1-10 2nd Read: Romans 15: 4-9 Gos: Matthew 3: 1-12

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Christine Marini	Rachel Marini	Lynne O'Brien Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Pauline Erickson	Phil Brooks	Raffaella Dinelli Adrian Teo Paul Polidano

Our last Meditation Session for 2025 will be on Wednesday 3rd December.

They will recommence for 2026 online via zoom on Wednesday, 4th February @ 9.30am.

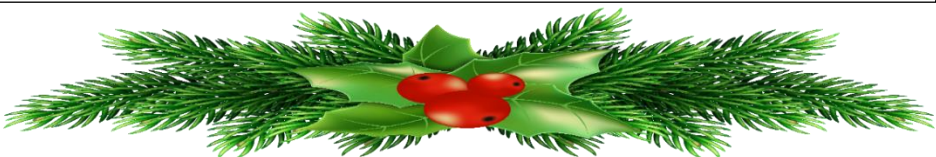
Why not try it?

Contact the Parish House for the online link. All welcome.

Saying the MANTRA is like a key unlocking the door of our heart to allow the pure light of God's love to flood in.

Do not expect anything, it is a gentle process. In the practice itself you will find power of gentleness, forgiveness and compassion Embrace their power to change you.

November is traditionally the month when we remember our deceased loved ones. If you would like Father to include them in our prayers, please complete the appropriate envelopes which are on the table in the Gathering Space and hand them directly to him. Thank you.



Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2025

18th December - Reconciliation Service 7.30pm
24th December - Christmas Eve 5.45pm Carols
6.00pm Mass
9.00pm Mass
25th December - Christmas Day 9.00am Carols
9.15am Mass
Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day
31st December - New Year's Eve 6.00pm Mass
(at St Gregory the Great)
1st January - New Year's Day 9.15am Mass



Our last Parish Bookish Morning Tea for 2025 will be held on Thursday, 4th December at 10.00am.

All are welcome to join in the fun!
Looking forward to seeing you all then!!



A huge thank you to all of you who have supported this group over the year and a special thank you to our Ana who managed this successful group into our parish. Well done Ana! Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your support throughout 2025.

ST GREGORY THE GREAT
DONCASTER AND
ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas Party

DECEMBER
SUNDAY 7 6.00PM

AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH HALL
71 WILLIAMSONS ROAD DONCASTER

Program for the night includes
Christmas Raffle, Children's Performances,
Sing-Along Carols and Fun Activities!
Food and drinks will be provided.

Raffle tickets will be sold before the event and drawn on the night.

Santa will make a special visit with goodies and treats for kids.

RSVP Please use sign up sheets at church, scan QR code, or use TryBooking link
<https://www.trybooking.com/DHFQQ>

Parents and carers are requested to please supervise your children at all times.

Little Kev's Playgroup

The last session for 2025 will take place with a Christmas Break-Up Party on Monday, 8th December. Come along and join in the fun! Open to all children ages 0 – 5 years. Doors open at 8.30am. A big **thank you** to Ana for successfully running this group throughout the year.

International Morning Tea

THANK YOU!

A huge **Thank You** to Ana and to everyone who came and brought traditional food to share to celebrate our vibrant parish. There was a large variety of foods to taste and enjoy. Thank you also to all who assisted with setting up and clearing up afterwards. We truly are a blessed parish.

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

Advent season has begun. Let's journey together as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

How does God speak to us in this time of preparation?

THE PROMISE ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET

Booklets are available from the table in the Gathering Space. They cost \$5 each (please place money in the same collection box as for payment for Columban Calendars).

All are welcome to purchase a booklet to take home, read and reflect upon and to assist in preparing ourselves for the arrival of Christmas.

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

ST KEVIN'S PARISH, TEMPLESTOWE

The final **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** for 2025 takes place on **Friday, 12th December @ 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 templestowe@cam.org.au

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8

This Feast Day will be celebrated with a special Mass here at St Kevin's Church, at 12.45pm on Monday, 8th December, together with the schoolchildren. All welcome.

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

The new Columban Calendars for 2026 are available from the table in the Gathering Space. \$10 each. Please place cash in the box provided. Thank you.

HOPE

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

A Pilgrims of Hope prayer card is 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

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, Hear our Prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
First Reading	Second Reading
<p>Isaiah 2:1-5</p> <p>A reading from the prophet Isaiah</p> <p><i>The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.</i></p> <p>We live in hope.</p> <p>Isaiah lived in a turbulent time under the threat of invasion. He presents a glorious vision of a holy mountain where the Lord God dwells – all the nations stream to it so that they will learn the ways of the Lord. It is a way of peace. There will be no more conflict between nations, nor training for war. Then he offers us the famous images: <i>swords hammered into ploughshares; spears into sickles</i>.</p> <p>Our world today is still badly scarred by war and violence. We cannot escape it. But if we heed the message of Isaiah, we can live in hope. How important it is for the reader to proclaim this vision with upbeat confidence and conviction.</p> <p>The three stanzas will help structure the message: first the nations streaming to the Lord’s mountain; then the eager resolve of the people to walk God’s paths; and finally the affirmation that peace is possible (since, for God, nothing is impossible!).</p> <p>With the final invitation (<i>let us walk in the light of the Lord</i>), the assembly is called to give heartfelt assent.</p>	<p>Romans 13:11-14</p> <p>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans</p> <p><i>The time has come, our salvation is near.</i></p> <p>The Isaiah reading finishes with the invitation to ‘walk in the light of the Lord’. This phrase is powerfully developed in these lines from St Paul. He uses the image of night and day, associating night with the nasty works of darkness. He urges his listeners to wake up and live decently and harmoniously in the daylight.</p> <p>The time has come – we are to be awake and alert. It is a call to conversion of heart, but this is not a fearsome prospect. It is the dawning of a new day that we embrace in hope. <i>Taken from ‘Break Open the Word’</i></p>



Imperative to stand with and serve the Disadvantaged. Further 2nd Collection Feedback

(Extract from CSSV) Catholic Social Services Victoria is the peak body for Catholic social services across the state. Underpinned by Catholic social teaching, CSSV works with its 40+ member organisations to assist the bishops and broader Catholic community across Victoria, to fulfil the gospel imperatives to stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. As Pope Francis said in Fratelli Tutti, #186 “If someone helps an elderly person cross a river, that is a fine act of charity. The politician, on the other hand, builds a bridge, and that too is an act of charity. While one person can help another by providing something to eat, the politician creates a job for that other person, and thus practices a lofty form of charity that ennobles his or her political activity.”

Since 2001 Sr Brigid Arthur has been co-founder of The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP), but aged 92 will now step back from leading day-to day work, continuing a key role around advocacy, community education and connections. She once spoke at a well attended SJA zoom forum. I met with her last week after a BASP Forum and she emphasised her faith in young peoples' social justice commitment. She had just written the following words to us "Thank you very much to the good people of St Kevin’s Community, Templestowe – and to all those involved in the Social Justice Team. We really appreciate your thinking of us and your generous contributions, which will be put to good use in support of some very destitute people. Your support and care enable and empower us greatly (and is received) with sincere gratitude and best wishes. Brigid. - **John Costa, Chairperson SJA**

