



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

Second Sunday of Advent

6/7th December, 2025

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves



From the desk of the PP...

Combines Christmas Party: 6 pm this Sunday, in the St Greg's Hall: come along. Hopefully you've booked but even if not yet: email / text me and please, come along. St Greg's and St Kevin's have a wonderful, fun evening planned for all of you.

ACYF!!! Australian Catholic Youth Festival: All went well. Plenty of rain on Sunday got everyone drenched but not deflated. Missing our first choice workshops – a bit of a downer but ... the alternatives were good as well. Surprisingly little time for reflecting on the days during the days. I am in awe of the amount of work and care and love that Jane and Alfred, and Stephanie and Michael, and Alston put in to prepare (and not forgetting the risk assessment which David and Margaret spearheaded and which worked very well).

If I needed a testament to faith in Jesus Christ, it lies in the trust of those five that amidst all the worry and uncertainty and paperwork: this was worth doing. And their efforts meant that the ACYF was an astounding success.

My own experience became dominated by two things. One the absolute enthusiasm of the young and young in heart to praise God and his Holy Name – loudly and frequently and passionately. Two the deep care for their relationship with God which I observed close at hand during the 3½ hours of Confessions I was privileged to hear. Such deep awareness of Jesus and his love and their love for him. I had expected the first; I am deeply humbled by the second.

In addition to my reflection, I have asked for a 20-100 word reflection from each of our pilgrims. Here is the first.

"Hi Father Charles, Here is my reflection of ACYF.

ACYF was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to encounter God in a new way. It helped to put into perspective how there are so many moments in every-day life in which God is present, that I would usually miss or never realise. I particularly enjoyed the plenaries and talks that we went to, though my favourite was Sister Mary Grace's talk on 'How to hear God's voice' which offered advice that I can use. Finally, I found that I have learnt so much about my faith and the sacraments (especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation) that I will hold for the rest of my life, and I even experienced worship music for the first time!

Thank you for taking us to ACYF and for paying for dinner- I had such a good time. Kind Regards, ..."

2026 Assembly: After discussions in the most recent St Kevin's and St Greg's Parish Council Meetings we have decided to hold a joint-parishes assembly in May 2026. The primary intent will be to discuss how we follow Pope Francis and now Pope Leo in being a synodal church. More information in early February.

Sanctuary Modification: You can see some drawings in the gathering space showing some detailed thinking about how we might modify the Sanctuary. There are two purposes: one to enhance the sense of being around the table with Jesus and one to enhance visibility for everyone (compared to how we are currently using the small altar).

Please give us, me your thoughts. The Liturgy Group and Parish Pastoral Council have discussed this and agree the change would be worthwhile.

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 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, Aileen Kent, Ruth Shiel, Rachel Hally, Vin Natoli, Bob Ulehla, Dot Sharkey, Shirley Loo, Lianny Susanto, Jewly Wylie, David Cullen, Peter Ryan, Julie-Anne Oldfield, Dylan, Shane, Lyn Murphy, Marie Cameron, Peter Zeantti and Tony Whelan.

Anniversaries:

Laurie Sheehan, Chris Adams, Merna Monaghan, Norman Ronald (Ron) Chambers, Ivan Mihelj and Aaron Cianci

Recently Deceased:

Marc Perry and Francesco Menis



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: We give thanks for the successful completion of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival for our 24 Pilgrims, and we pray that the wonderful experience they had will continue to nourish their faith in days and years to come.

Feast Days this week:...

8th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

13th December St Lucy

Widely venerated from the earliest times, her memorial has long been kept on this day. Probably because her name is suggestive of light, her intercession has been sought for eyesight problems.

LITURGY ROSTER



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

Third Sunday of Advent – 13/14th 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	Margaret Turner	Janet Parsons	Bredenia Raquel Lawrence Cecconello
9.15am	Tony Byrne	Liz O'Connell	Kaye Byrne Lyn Murphy Frances Bettiol

Advent
Reconciliation



An Advent Reconciliation Service

will be held at St Kevin's on Thursday Evening,
18th December at 7.30pm.

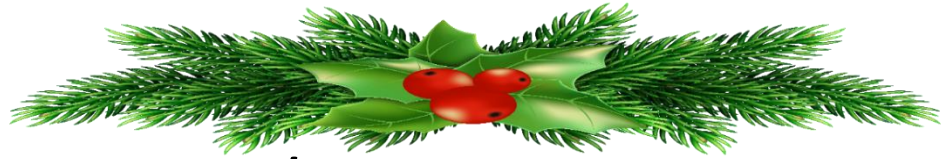
Reconciliation will be offered in the first rite (general absolution) however, we will have extra priests available for the second rite of individual absolution if you prefer.

Please note: this will be the only Reconciliation Service held during Advent.
Fr Charles



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.



Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2025

18 th December	- Reconciliation Service 7.30pm
24 th December	- Christmas Eve 5.30pm Carols 6.00pm Mass 9.00pm Mass
25 th December	- Christmas Day 9.00am Carols 9.15am Mass

Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day

31 st December	- New Year's Eve 6.00pm Mass (at St Gregory the Great)
1 st January	- New Year's Day 9.15am Mass



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

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.

Christmas Music Invitation

Anne and Roger will be leading the music at our Christmas celebrations this year at the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass and the 9:15am Christmas Morning Mass.

There will be a short carol service before each Mass, and we warmly invite anyone who enjoys singing or plays a musical instrument to join us for the music this Christmas. All levels of experience are welcome.

If you'd like to take part, please message or call Anne: 0409 353 129

Our hope is simply to bring our voices and gifts together in a spirit of welcome, participation and joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Cheers Roger

An Advent Prayer

*Lord of Light and Promise,
As the candles of Advent glow against darkness,
we lift our hearts in waiting and wonder.
You are the dawn that breaks upon our night,
the Word made flesh who dwells among us,
the Hope that does not disappoint.
Teach us to watch with Mary's trust,
to serve with Joseph's quiet strength,
to rejoice with shepherds who heard the angel's song.
May our waiting be active —
in mercy shared, in forgiveness offered,
in care for creation and compassion for the poor.
Come, Emmanuel,
into our homes, our hearts, our world.
Make us bearers of your light,
until the day when all creation sings:
"Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth."*

Amen.

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.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8

This Feast Day on Monday, 8th December, will be celebrated with special Masses throughout the day as follows:
9.00am at St Gregory the Great Church Doncaster
12.45pm at St Kevin's Church Templestowe Lower
6.00pm at St Gregory the Great Church Doncaster. All welcome.


Joy
Love
Peace
Believe
Christmas

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



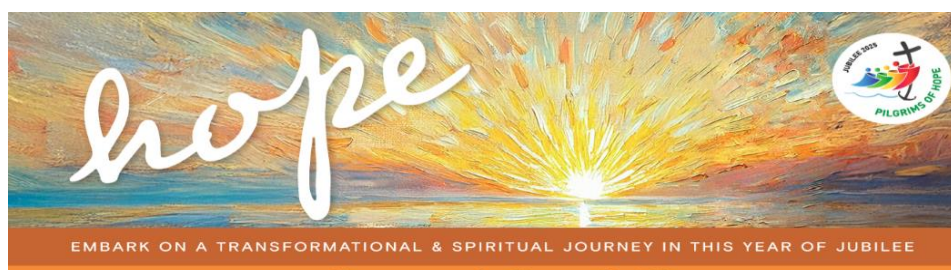
Aria Elisa Bolzonello

Daughter of Jacob and Tayla

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

In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound forever.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful
Lord, hear our Prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading	Second Reading
<p>Isaiah 11:1-10</p> <p>A reading from the prophet Isaiah</p> <p><i>He judges the poor with justice.</i></p> <p>The house of David is like a tree stump. But the burnt-out stump produces a new shoot and thus begins a glorious future. This is Isaiah's vision of hope and consolation.</p> <p>The Spirit of the Lord rests upon the new leader. Here we have a listing of the gifts of the Spirit – a list used to the present day, for example, in the Confirmation prayer. The Spirit enables the leader to rule with justice and integrity.</p> <p>And by the power of the Spirit, the leader inaugurates a glorious, idyllic kingdom of harmony and peace. All creation is restored to its original goodness. As described in the poetic and evocative litany, this fantastic concord is wildly improbable. Yet it articulates a dream for a better future.</p> <p>At the beginning, we hear of the gifts of the Spirit with solemn deliberation. But in the second half, we take delight in the playful images of the new creation. Let us smile and be amazed as the lines unfold.</p>	<p>Romans 15:4-9</p> <p>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans</p> <p><i>Christ, the hope of all people.</i></p> <p>Paul reminds the Romans that the Scriptures contain many stories of believers who did not give up and who were helped by God. This is a source of hope for us all. If we stick at it, being tolerant with each other after the example of Christ himself, then by our very lives we give glory to God.</p> <p>Patience and persistence are good Advent virtues. They point to that conversion of heart to which John the Baptist calls us in the gospel. They lead to a unity of mind and voice so that we can in fact join Christ and his Body, the Church, in praising God.</p> <p><i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i></p>



Cry of the Poor and Cry of the Earth

(The following text is extracted from Advent of Hope and Ecological Conversion, Greg Lopez, Cardijn Community of Australia, 1 December 2025)

"Advent is a season of hope, waiting, and conversion. It prepares us to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas and deepens our longing for his return. Pope Francis calls us to hear both "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" and to live an integral ecology—holding people and planet together in our moral decisions. In Laudate Deum, he warns that our responses remain inadequate and urges a rapid transition away from destructive patterns, with commitments that are effective, monitored, and shared."

(This is one of a set of Cardijn Community Advent Reflections, and integrates) "Scripture, the See–Judge–Act method that Joseph Cardijn* gifted to lay movements, and practical prompts for prayerful action—so that our Advent faith becomes visible in our homes, parishes, workplaces, and streets." It's a useful reminder that care for people and social justice as part of our faith needs to be linked to care for the land and environment, particularly as rapidly growing populations and visible climate changes compete with the Earth for survival' *Joseph Cardijn was a Belgian Catholic Cardinal, founder of the movement of Young Christian Workers (WCW), with a lifetime dedication to social activism. - 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.

A close-up, slightly blurred image of the faces of several children, mostly of Asian descent, looking towards the right side of the frame. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.