



# St Kevin's Catholic Parish

26-44 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower



## Mass Times

**St Kevin's:** 5.30pm Saturdays

09.15am 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

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Website: [stkevinsparish.org.au](http://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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

24/25<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

**Our Presider today is:** Fr Anton Aseervathampilla

### *Words from the desk of our PP...*

Being Welcoming: I love that we have people at the start of each Mass saying hello to people as they arrive and provide them with a Bulletin. Thank you and keep it up! And I love the morning teas that we have and the various social functions we organise to build community. Thank you, and thank you.

Two recent interactions tell me we have more to do and I'd like your help to progress further.

· Last weekend – there was a new couple I met: just arrived from overseas and settling in Australia – I was the only one to greet them.

· A little while ago over dinner with a family here since before Covid they said no-one had ever tried to greet them and welcome them beyond a hello.

We get new people at Mass every week. Please look around and see who you don't know and politely go to them and say hello. Sometimes people are visitors – they need welcoming with a smile and a thank. Sometimes people have moved into the area. A hello is a good start. Maybe, without being intrusive, ask a little more, share something of yourself – listen for things they may need; talk about the parish – be sociable, be willing to refer them to me or the office for help or be willing to commit to help them get settled in the parish - if they wish.

Your welcome makes a difference! Is it always easy? I don't find so, I am not a natural. I know personally thought that being present when someone arrives, saying hello, chatting a little changes people's experience of Jesus. They remember the welcome, even decades later.

We have new people arriving because they move into the area. As Alpha grows (we will have over 40 guests for the Alpha starting on 28th January), we will have people coming new to our faith. Alpha is a start; new members will then need to grow to become part of our community and know deeply that they belong to our community. Your welcome plays a part helping them belong.

Please, look around you each week. Identify someone you don't know – and go up and say hi, and see where it takes you. To be welcoming in this broad way is to be Christ for others.

Finance: The parish finance group met this past week and discussed discussion of the budget for 2026 (because of our accumulated investments the parish is financially healthy but still operating at a significant operating loss that is (slowly) using some of our reserves), the future of the St Charles Borromeo School site (the hand-back and marketing processes are underway – there is a lot of work to do), the columbarium (nearly ready to submit the proposal to Council), modification of the Sanctuary (agreement to get quotes on the cost).

One of the things we will need to do as we assess the future of the St Charles Borromeo site is to provide a Master Plan: a vision of what our medium to long term vision is for the parish. Please, start dreaming: what do you dream with Christ that we might be or become as St Kevin's over coming years and decades? Email the parish with your thoughts.

God bless, Fr Charles.

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Baptism Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism Presentation Mass
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
Thursday	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:

Alan Benn, Federico Aspromonte, Peter Ryan, Eugenia Pozzebon, 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, Rose Marie Cameron, Peter Zeantti and Tony Whelan.

Anniversaries:

Croft Uniake, Men Kong Cheng, Gerard Selleck, Roger Anthony Cheng, Patricia Wood, Jacob Cheong, Andy Sugeng, Frank Farmica, Alan McMillan and Elizabeth Brizzi.

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For a 'Damascus Road' conversion for all leaders of countries around the world: will find their way to accepting the guidance of the Holy Spirit towards peace.



Feast Days this week:...

26<sup>th</sup> January Australia Day  
The liturgy marks Australia's national day with prayers seeking God's blessing on all its peoples and commending its destiny into God's hands.

28<sup>th</sup> January  
St Thomas Aquinas  
Remembered for his modesty, the prayerfulness of his personal life, and the abiding influence of his thought.

31<sup>st</sup> January  
St John Bosco  
Remembered for his cheerfulness and total trust in the providence of God.

LITURGY ROSTER

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24/25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Isaiah 8: 23-9: 3 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17 Gos: Matthew 4: 12-23

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Bredenia Raquel	Pauline Erickson	Lawrence Cecconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Carmel Purdey	Paul Polidano	Frances Bettiol Penny Teo Pat Rowland

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 31<sup>st</sup> January/1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 Gos: Matthew 5: 1-12

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Kathy Pearce	Lynne O'Brien Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Frances Johnson	Pauline Erickson	Carmel Purdey Mary Waddick Tony Robinson



Our Alpha program is returning this month!

Are you or anyone you know searching for life's big questions? Do you wonder: is there more to life than this? Why am I here? Who is Jesus? If you have questions about life, faith and meaning, join our Alpha program this month. There's a seat for you at the table. Alpha is friendly, fun and relaxed. We ran the program last year. It was great, so we are running it again this year. If you would like to find out more, please grab one of the leaflets with the details near the entrance or contact the parish office.

Are you interested in becoming a permanent diaconate?

If you are considering a vocation to the permanent diaconate, it is essential to understand the commitment and preparation required. The process involves a period of discernment, formal formation, and ongoing development as a deacon. Here are some key points to consider:

- Discernment:** Reflect on your desire to serve the Church and your readiness for the commitment required.
- Formation:** Participate in a structured program that includes theological study, liturgical practice, and pastoral development.
- Age and Marriage:** Be aware of the age restrictions and the requirement for a stable marriage or celibacy.
- Support:** Ensure you have the full support of your spouse and family, as well as the guidance of your parish priest.
- Commitment:** Understand that becoming a permanent deacon involves lifelong commitment to the diaconate.

For more information on the process and requirements, please refer to the poster on the noticeboard in the Gathering Space.

Are you interested in becoming a  
**Permanent Deacon?**

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LORD

*'The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.'*  
MT 20:28, MK 10:45, JN 13:1-17

The permanent diaconate is a God-given calling to ordained ministry, open to married and single men, in the service of the Liturgy, the Word and Charity.  
Applicants should be between 30-55 years of age.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Catholic Vocations Archdiocese of Melbourne website:  
[melbournecatholic.org/permanentdiaconate](http://melbournecatholic.org/permanentdiaconate)  
Australian Catholic Deacons' website:  
[www.ausdeacons.asn.au](http://www.ausdeacons.asn.au)

Speak with your parish priest or contact the Office of the Permanent Diaconate:  
Phone: 03 9412 3357  
Email: [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)



# Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

MONDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2026

Australia Day is celebrated each year on the anniversary of the first fleet from Britain landing in Sydney Cove. It is a public holiday, and the significance of the day differs amongst the nation's population.

Many Australians consider January 26 with national pride, flying the Australian flag from businesses, homes and cars. They attend festivals, fireworks, community and sporting events or gather for family barbecues at homes, parks or on the beach.

The main festivities for Australia Day always occurs on 26 January even if the public holiday is moved to an alternate date. Many people become citizens of Australia on Australia Day at Citizenship Ceremonies across the nation. It is also the day that the Australian Government awards the Order of Australia to selected Australians, which is 'an Australian society of honour for according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or meritorious service'.



## Lourdes Day Mass Sunday 14 February 2026 10.30am – 11.30am

The Order of Malta invites you to the annual Lourdes Day Mass — an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm, particularly those who are not able to visit Lourdes.

The Mass will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, with Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli as the principal celebrant.

For more information, please contact Sauro Antonelli AM on 0411 250 288.

**Venue** ➤ St Patrick's Cathedral  
1 Cathedral Place  
East Melbourne

For information on our Parish School please contact:  
**St Kevin's Primary School**  
Phone: 9273 9999

### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Response to Prayers of the Faithful**  
Lord, hear our prayer.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading	Second Reading
<p><u>Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3</u></p> <p>A reading from the prophet Isaiah</p> <p><i>In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.</i></p> <p>Most of this text was heard on Christmas night. Its images of light and darkness, gladness and joy are memorable. The text is read again today because it is quoted by Matthew as Jesus begins his public ministry.</p> <p>For Isaiah, writing in a time of dark defeat and foreign oppression, it is a vision of new hope. There will be light, liberation and joy. For Matthew, this prophesy is fulfilled in Jesus as he begins his ministry, proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom in word and action. Isaiah's message of hope is one we need to hear in our troubled world today as much as people ever did.</p>	<p><u>1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17</u></p> <p>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians</p> <p><i>I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.</i></p> <p>The Christian community in Corinth was blessed with many gifts, but there was rivalry and competition among the people. Paul urges them to focus on their unity in Christ instead of aligning themselves with one faction or another. He tries to persuade them to make up the disagreements between themselves, to live in unity and to be reconciled.</p> <p>Perhaps there will be some parallels in our own Christian communities today as we mark the Australia Day long weekend. Difference of opinion need not produce friction and disagreement but can instead led to a deeper respect for one another. Our unity in the cross of Christ demands no less. <i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i></p>

Meditation Sessions will recommence for 2026 online via zoom on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February @ 9.30am. Why not try it? Contact the Parish House for the online link. ¶ This invitation is also extended to all members of the wider parish community. ¶ All are welcome. Thank you all for joining each week throughout last year. ¶ We look forward to seeing you all again in a few weeks' time. ¶

Philippines School Collection ¶

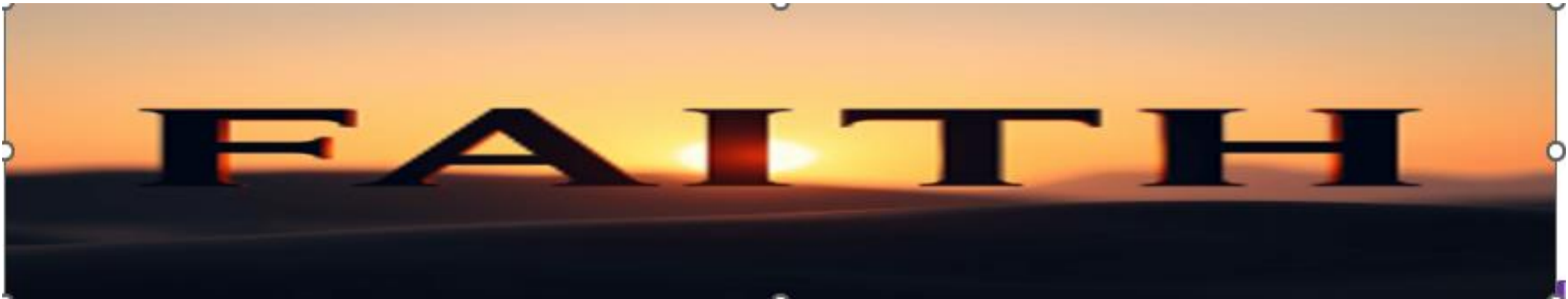
Loyo Elementary School ¶

We are working to improve the lives of children and families in the Philippines through our Friendship School program. ¶

The community of Loyo Elementary is grateful for our donations. ¶

If you would like to make a difference you have the option to use this QR code to make a donation. ¶

We thank you in anticipation of your generosity. ¶



### FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL (5th - 20th May 2026)

Fr. Sebastian A.M invites you to a journey in the footsteps of St. Paul, reliving the Acts of the Apostles and exploring the letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Turkey with a 3-night Greek Islands cruise in this 14-day pilgrimage for an all-inclusive price of \$9790+ tips (25+ pilgrims). The early bird price expires on January 30th.

### SAINTS OF ITALY (8th - 21st June 2026)

Fr. Franco Filippetto invites you to a 14-day journey to Italy, visiting Milan, Padua, Siena, Assisi, Rotondo, Sorrento, and Rome, with an all-inclusive price of \$ 9,290 + tips (for 30+ pilgrims). The early bird price expires on January 30th.

The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in 4-star Premium Hotels, Meals + English speaking professional guides + Entrances as per itinerary and more. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email us [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)



# Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

