



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

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

31st January/1st February, 2026

Baptisms Weekend

Word of God Sunday

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from the desk of our PP...

Archdiocesan Synod / Parish Assembly: In October this year, there will be an Archdiocese of Melbourne Synod. This will be a Melbourne expression of the Australian Plenary Council held in 2021/2 and the world-wide Synod on being a Synodal Church held in 2023/4.

The three focus areas for the Synod will be: Young Discipleship; Missionary Leadership; Formation and Participation. These topics have arisen from consideration of the results of the two gatherings mentioned above. To me they are broad enough that they give us room to address issues relating to our parishes of Doncaster and Templestowe.

I would appreciate your thoughts – or the beginnings of your thoughts at least. They will help me have input for a meeting on 17th February. And they will help us carry on from a meeting on Friday, just gone. John Costa, Gearard O'Donnell, Peter Sheehan, Sauro Antonelli and I met to start the serious work of preparing for our own Assembly of both St Kevin's and St Greg's people with a main focus on discussing synodality and how we are living synodality in our parishes today.

In addition to 'synodality' and what it is, I am thinking that perhaps we could think a bit about the dreams we have for our parishes and take thinking further about which topics the Archdiocesan Synod will form as a part of this Assembly. We are currently thinking a May timeframe, but no firm date has been set.

On 17th February there is a gathering of priests to discuss the Archdiocesan Synod, which is why I would like some early thoughts on "being synodal" or on the Archdiocesan Synod topics: please send them to me Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au.

I have given you all I know about the topics for the Synod but here are a couple of explanatory thoughts around the bald topic statements:

- Young Discipleship – I expect this will be about how we might speak the Good News into the lives of young people in Melbourne, in 2026. It will I imagine also be about you and I needing to reach out to young people and invite them to come and know Jesus; and it would be about trusting young people to be intentional disciples and help us to be better disciples.
- Missionary Leadership – I expect this to be all about how we grow a culture, an active practice, that is welcoming and intentionally invites others who don't know Jesus, to come to find him through personal experience.
- Formation and Participation – I expect this will relate to faith formation and prayer in all its forms but especially about rendering the Mass, Sunday Mass especially, as a 'wow' moment every time.

Extreme Weather: Please be careful – the heat this Summer is extreme – and the lack of cloud and rain mean that even moderate days can have fierce sun. Please ensure you stay covered or inside, keep hydrated, and speak with your doctor about YOUR needs in hot weather.

School is back: Remember! Even after 9 am when the gates are closed there can still be children around: drive slowly, slowly, slowly, watching for children or adults and giving way even when and especially when they are behaving oddly. We will sometimes have School Masses mixed with the parish Mass: please be patient and courteous and respectful of Child Safe needs.

God bless, Fr Charles

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Baptism Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism Mass
Monday	8.30am	St 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	8.30am	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:

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, Julie-Anne Oldfield, Dylan, Shane, Lyn Murphy, Rose Marie Cameron, Peter Zeantti, Tony Whelan and Charles.

Anniversaries:

Tim Mullin, Estefan Rosales, Chris Mullens, Patricia Dyson, Brenda Mary Hatten, Margaret Bath, Peter Bonser, Heather Brady, Natasha Scully and Giuseppe Giannini (40 years).

Recently Deceased:

Giuseppe Ciano

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For our latest Alpha experience (with about 51 guests) that through food and information and conversation we will be able to help them hear the call of the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Feast Days this week:...

2nd February

The Presentation of the Lord
Christ is 'the light to enlighten all nations', and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession.

5th February St Agatha

Venerated in Rome as a virgin martyr. Remembered in legend for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.

6th February

St Paul Miki and Companions
Remembered as a notable preacher.

LITURGY ROSTER

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 31st January/1st February 2026

1st Read: Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13 2nd 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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 7/8th February 2026

1st Read: Isaiah 58: 7-10 2nd Read: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 Gos: Matthew 5: 13-16

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Christine Marini	Bredenia Raquel Lawrence Cecconello
9.15am	Tony Byrne	Miriam Ayoub	Kaye Byrne Penny Teo Liz Polidano

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM AT ST KEVIN'S PARISH 2026

Do you have a child/ren who does not attend our parish school whom you would like to have receive a Sacrament this year? If so, the time to act is now!

Enrolments are currently being accepted for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Children will need to be in at least Grade 3 level 2026 for Reconciliation and First Eucharist and Grade 6 for Confirmation.

Please hop onto our website and download the registration/payment forms, complete them and send them back to us at the parish office as soon as you can as time is running out! [Sacraments - St Kevin's Templestowe Parish \(stkevinsparish.org.au\)](http://stkevinsparish.org.au)

On our website you will also see a series of diary dates which are most important that our Candidates and parents must attend.

Please contact the Parish Office or Ana Saro if you have any further questions. Thank you.

Prayer for the Beginning of the School Year

God of wisdom and might we praise you for the wonders of our being, for mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.
Bless them, their parents, and their teachers and staff.
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their spirits.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.





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.

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

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Venue → St Patrick's Cathedral
1 Cathedral Place
East Melbourne

Meditation Sessions will recommence for 2026 online via zoom on Wednesday 6th 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. We look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday.



Our first Parish Bookish Morning Tea for 2026

will recommence on **Thursday, 19th February** at 10.00am and continues every fortnight

All are welcome to join in the fun!

Looking forward to seeing you all then!!



Lenten Prayer / Groups
Ash Wednesday 18th February

Lent will begin with Ashes during Mass at 9 am at St Greg's; at 11:45 am at St Kevin's and at 6 pm at St Greg's (and at 7 pm at St Clements Bulleen).

We have some resources available for both individual prayer and/or Lenten prayer groups. If you might be interested in one or the other or both of these options, please put your name and phone number down on the expression of interest form in the Gathering Space.

We will order more of the resources if needed.

If you'd like to lead a group: call and leave a message 9850 5983 or 9412 8425.



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

Eva Sepulveda

Daughter of Victor and Melissa

and

Noah Henry Nanoo

Son of Nikesh and Madeleine



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

We are all different and God relates to each of us differently. Spiritual direction/companionship helps us to explore how God is speaking to us. Terry Morton is a certified spiritual director and would be pleased to accompany parishioners on this journey - either in person or on-line.

Contact: 0402 307 384

St Kevins & St Gregory's Parish Seminars Lent 2026

Celebration of the Mass is our central action of worship wherein we seek a close communion with God and our community.

All are welcome to attend the two sessions which are to be held during Lent this year. Our Parish Pastoral Councils have invited **Fr. Frank O'Loughlin, retired priest, author and theologian**, to lead us in better understanding the structure and purpose of the Mass as the central act of faith in our Catholic tradition.

Session 1:

Exploring the fundamental shape of the Mass.

Sat Feb 21 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Session 2:

Gaining a richer understanding of the Mass.

Thu March 5, 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Both sessions will be held in St Gregory the Great Church gathering space to ensure we have a relaxed space that is large enough for all of you to come.

Father Frank will provide a rich encounter with the Mass and put into context your important role within it. He is an engaging presenter, willing to discuss any questions you may have. His presentations and his answers arise from his experience as a priest, a renowned theologian, and an adult educator. He has researched and taught in the areas of fundamental theology, sacramental theology and liturgy in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the last 50 years. In recent years he has published several books.

For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

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

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading	Second Reading
<p><u>Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13</u></p> <p>A reading from the prophet Zephaniah</p> <p><i>In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.</i></p> <p><i>Dies irae, dies illa...</i> (The day of wrath, that dreadful day...). This fearsome medieval poem was once sung at funerals and Masses for the dead. The short prophesy of Zephaniah describes the terrible destruction of this “day of the anger of the Lord”. God’s judgement will make an end of evil, purge the nation and purify the people, leaving a small remnant of the faithful, “humble and lowly”, who seek refuge in God.</p> <p>The prophet urges the people to avoid destruction by seeking the Lord in integrity and humility – be part of the humble and faithful remnant, he says. It is from this small group that God’s reign will grow and flourish.</p> <p>Zephaniah presents a cosmic and apocalyptic vision within which we hear Jesus’ revolutionary teaching of the beatitudes.</p>	<p><u>1 Corinthians 1:26-31</u></p> <p>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians</p> <p><i>God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.</i></p> <p>For once, the second reading – normally independent of the other texts – takes up a theme in harmony with the gospel. The Christian community is meant to live by values opposite to those commonly accepted in society. In the Gospel, Jesus will advocate humility and turn people’s expectations upside-down.</p> <p>Paul does the same thing here. We need to make space for God’s grace in our lives – we do not achieve anything by our own efforts. Our only boast is the Lord and what God does in and for us. Christ is our wisdom, virtue, holiness and freedom!</p> <p>One should notice the draw the contrasts clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Wise/influential/noble – foolish♦ Strong – weak♦ Chosen – common/contemptible♦ Everything – nothing. <i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i>



Edited Extracts from 2026 NATSICC Australia Day Statement

"Contemporary Australia is home to the world’s oldest continuing cultures and to many generations who have come from across the world to make their lives here. It is a nation of many stories, languages, and traditions – a place that invites ongoing reflection about belonging, shared identity, and how ancient cultures are honoured alongside a diverse and changing population.

NATSICC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council) recognises and knows first-hand the persistent disparities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in areas such as health, education, housing, and life expectancy, and acknowledges that reconciliation remains unfinished work. At the same time, there are signs of hope.....

Today, Australians find themselves living in a time of heightened complexity. Global uncertainty, acts of violence both on our shores and in different parts of the world, and the growing pressures faced by families have shaped a national mood in which questions of belonging and identity are felt more acutely. In such times, NATSICC believes it is especially important to approach difficult conversations through a lens of faith and with care, compassion, and a commitment to listening - **John Costa SJA**

