



St Kevin's Catholic Parish

26-44 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower



Mass Times

St Kevin's: 5.30pm Saturdays
8.30am and 10.00am 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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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

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

10/11th January, 2026

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words from the desk of our PP...

Ordinary Time: I read a piece, thank you Thomas, about Christmas traditionally (pre-Vatican II) extending out to 40 days, until the presentation of Jesus in the temple (2nd Feb). There were some useful reflections within the article about how often 40 arises (40 years in the desert, 40 days in the wilderness, 40 (weekdays) of Lent. Which got me thinking: why do we have a season called 'Ordinary Time.' The word Ordinary arises from the Latin 'ordo' for order and it has come to have two usages. The first, and the first to come to mind is that "ordinary" means having no special or distinctive features; normal; commonplace; standard.

And the other usage, the one relevant for us, is that these days are ORDERED, the arise from the fact of our redemption in Jesus Christ and the need for us to live our lives by virtue of being his followers in a way which is ordered towards our salvation at the end of time.

Ordinary time is ordinary only because it is the time during which we focus on living our lives as disciples rather than focussing on the, admittedly important and wonderful, events of Jesus' birth and passion and death.

Which means that during Ordinary Time we should be:

- Practicing the faith – doing the things of faith that the community does (e.g. attending Mass (and thank you for doing so)).
- Living out the faith in action in the world – to draw people to Jesus; to help the poor and marginalised; to be merciful and forgiving and loving and just.
- Growing our intentional relationship with Jesus.
- Developing our appreciation of and knowledge of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.
- Becoming more and more involved in witnessing to the faith (in sensible ways).
- Reflecting on our lives and our relationships, giving thanks for the blessings we receive and considering where we might improve (maybe offering to heal a long-broken relationship with family or friend.)
- Growing in being a forgiving person and community.
- Developing new habits of seeing the good (the presence of Jesus) in others and ourselves and responding to it.
- ... what might be your focus?? Your "Ordinary" thing to seek to grow in so that you grow towards everlasting life?

I am not entirely sure why the shift from 40 days of Christmas came, after the Second Vatican Council I believe, but I am sure that the focus on "ORDINARY" time is vital: time for you and I to live our faith fully in every aspect.

Questions to Ponder:

- Each year we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, an important moment in Jesus' life and a transition to his public ministry. How do you celebrate the anniversary of your own baptism?
- The first reading from the prophet Isaiah seems to contain an oxymoron – the Lord's chosen one will "bring forth justice to nations" while "not crying out, not shouting, / not making his voice heard in the street". Who models this quiet, nonviolent justice for you?
- In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter ends his summary of Jesus' ministry by stating, "He went about doing good / and healing all those oppressed by the devil, / for God was with him." How does your family and parish community continue to carry out the ministry of Jesus?
- After Jesus is baptised, a voice from the heavens proclaims, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." From this place of "belovedness" Jesus begins his public ministry. How would it change your ministry if you were to hear the voice of God proclaim to you each day, "You are my beloved in whom I am well pleased"?

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	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	Baptism Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism Presentation Mass



We pray for Better Health:

Alan Benn, Federico Aspromonte, Peter Ryan, Eugenia Pozzebon, Aileen Kent, Ruth Shiel, Rachel Hally, Vin Natoli, Bob Uehla, 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:

Ivan, Kelvin & Michael D'Silva, Michael Cameron

Recently Deceased: Charles Young, Annaud Luckman

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For the Royal Commission into Antisemitism – that it will lead to outcomes that reflect the living of God's love among all Australians (and not be about finger pointing / blaming).



Feast Days this week:...

17th January St Anthony

Born in 251 in upper Egypt. Died in 356.

At an early age he gave away his possessions and sought the austere life and solitude in the desert.

Yet he remained involved in the theological controversies of his day, defending the divinity of Christ.

He attracted disciples who formed communities of hermits.

The account of his life by

St Athanasius was extremely influential in the development and spread of monasticism. Remembered as the father of monasticism.

LITURGY ROSTER

Baptism of the Lord - 10/11th January 2026

1st Read: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 2nd Read: Acts: 10: 34-38 Gos: Matthew 3: 13-17

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Daniel Marini	Bredenia Raquel Lawrence Cecconello
9.15am	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Phil Brooks	Pat Rowland Carmel Purdey Adrian Teo

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - 17/18th January 2026

1st Read: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6 2nd Read: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3 Gos: John 1: 29-34

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Tasha Vercauteran	Margaret Turner	Maryanne McNamara Lynne O'Brien
9.15am	Julie O'Donnell	Maree McTaggart	Raffaela Dinelli Liz Polidano Mary Waddick

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
Australian Catholic Deacons' website: 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



Joyous News! Pope Leo XIV has announced his recognition of heroic virtues for Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ
– now known as **Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey**

The Cause for sainthood for Australian-born medical missionary Dr Mary Glowrey has advanced after Pope Leo XIV recognised her ‘heroic virtues’ on 21 November 2025. Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey, as she will now be titled, is only the second Australian to be accorded this status.

Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne Archbishop Peter A Comensoli expressed ‘deep joy’ at the news.

‘A proud daughter of Melbourne, Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey was a trailblazer—one of our early female doctors—before answering the call to serve in India,’ he said. ‘Her healing hands, her compassion and her bold spirit were a living sign of God’s tenderness. May her example and intercession continue to inspire Aussies and people everywhere to live lives of service and holiness.’

Born in the Victorian town of Birregurra in 1887, Mary Glowrey was an experienced doctor in Melbourne hospitals and private practice when she travelled to India in 1920, aged 32. In Guntur, located in present day Andhra Pradesh, she joined the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph. Known as Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ, she provided medical care to hundreds of thousands of marginalised people, particularly women and children. She spent 37 years in this service to the most disadvantaged in society.



“Day by day I see more clearly how in healing the sick one comes in touch with souls ...”

Mary Glowrey also established medical facilities and healthcare training programs. In 1943, she founded an organisation now known as the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), which is today India’s largest non-government healthcare network.

Mary Glowrey’s cause was initiated in India by the Bishop of Guntur, where she spent much of her life. It continues to be supported by the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph, the religious society to which she belonged. In Australia, the work of studying and promoting Mary Glowrey’s life and legacy is undertaken by the Mary Glowrey Museum, supported by the Catholic Women’s League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga and the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Once a person’s heroic virtue is established and they receive the title ‘Venerable’, the faithful are encouraged to pray for their intercession. A cause for canonisation continues after this as claims of miracles are documented and investigated. When a miracle is verified, the person may be beatified and granted the title ‘Blessed’. A second verified miracle is then required for canonisation (sainthood).

Meditation Sessions 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. 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.



For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading	Second Reading
<p><u>Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7</u></p> <p>A reading from the prophet Isaiah</p> <p><i>Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.</i></p> <p>This is part of one of the famous 'servant songs' from Isaiah in which he yearns for the coming of a saviour. This mysterious figure would suffer on behalf of the nation and so bring victory. The opening lines resonate with the descent of the Spirit-Dove and the words of the voice from heaven in the gospel. Then at the end, the Light of the Nations who opens the eyes of the blind and liberates captives from a dark dungeon will remind Christian hearers of the ministry of Christ. In the middle section, references to suffering foreshadow the place where Jesus' ministry – inaugurated in his baptism – will end.</p> <p>The reading promises justice and a flourishing for the weak and vulnerable. It is a message of hope. The text is filled with concrete images.</p>	<p><u>Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38</u></p> <p>A reading from the Acts of the Apostles</p> <p><i>God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.</i></p> <p>Peter is speaking to a Roman centurion, Cornelius, telling him of a vision he had which led him to understand that everyone is called by God to be a disciple of Christ, not just those of the Jewish tradition. This message of radical inclusion is good news indeed. The reader should omit the word 'men' in the second paragraph: <i>Jesus Christ is the Lord of all!</i></p> <p>The passage is chosen for today's Lectionary readings because Peter's speech references the beginning of Jesus' ministry at his baptism when God anointed him with the Spirit and with power. The reading is easy to follow: it is, after all, an example of Peter's oratory.</p>

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Catholic Parrots

A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, "Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, but they only know how to say one thing".

"What do they say, my child?" the priest inquired.

They say, "Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"

"That's obscene!" the priest exclaimed, then he thought for a moment. "You know," he said, "I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible. Bring your two parrots over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Frank and Jacob. My parrots can teach your parrots to pray and worship, and your parrots are sure to stop saying that phrase in no time."

"Thank you," the woman responded, "this may very well be the solution."

The next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest's house.

As he ushered her in, she saw that his two male parrots were inside their cage, holding rosary beads and praying.

Impressed, she walked over and placed her parrots in with them.

After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison:

"Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"

There was a stunned silence.

Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot and exclaimed:

"Put the beads away, Frank. Our prayers have been answered!"



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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