



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

Postal Address:

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Telephone: 9850 5983

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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

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

3rd/4th January, 2026

Baptism and Baptism Presentation Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

2026

Happy New Year Everyone and welcome back to our first parish newsletter for the year.

We wish you all a year filled with good health, prosperity, peace, joy, love and happy days.

Your Parish Team

Words from the desk of our PP...

Thank you: Christmas Masses that you made so full of life, the Christmas Season that you have shown extends beyond mid-day on Christmas Day, the New Year wishes, the cards and the gifts you have given me: I am as always overwhelmed with gratitude. Fr Gerry McKernan presided for two of our Christmas Masses and found them both full of energy and life and love of Christ.

I won't have time to send individual cards of thank for the gifts / cards you have given me but thank you to the 30+ anonymous donors, and to Henny, Joan, Ros, Mark, Mel, Paul, Julie, Jeremy, Malia, Dirce, Noel, Cathy, Agnes, Fred, Andrew, Maggie, Don, Lina, Atje, J, B&S, F&H, Matins, Janee, Shirley, Anna, Madeline, Will, Beth, Carmel, Tony, Kim, Chiara, Marian, Mary, Joan, Valda, Mary, J, Ceclia, K&M, Christopher, James, Mary, John, Peter, Michelle, Agness, Rocco, Anthony, Katica, Chanh, Ho, Luke, Tony Enea, Dexter, George, Agnes, Seng, Connie, the Spinass, Boris, Ana, Terry, Young, Georgette, Frank, Maria, Kennedy, Ceclia, Skadiang, Chris, Brianna, Kathleen, Jerries, Liana, Victoria, Roger, Tristan, Elziabeth, Sauro, Lilian, Vera et al, Anton, Miriam et al, Mark, Judy, Peter, Ally, Nadia et al, Gerry, Pat, Kath, Col, Karen, Kai, Aidan, Anselm, Vicki, Trevor, Coco, Marcel, Peter, Rafaella, Bruno, Joan, Geraldina, Joe, Bernadine, Jim, Barbara, Izabella, Mario, Denise, John, Ferd, Agnes, Ian, OiKhan, Gunawans, Hannah, Elijah, Marg, Gail, Lilian, Alan, Issy et al, Ann, John, Frances et al, Colynne, Sylvia, Byron, Christine, Terry, Geralyn, Mandy, Phil, Anil, Dianne, Robert, Nic, Gayle, John, Gabriel, tony, Lynley, Mick, Lyn, Margaret, Gerard, Iris, Andrea, Carolina, Fay, Kevin, Maryanne, David, Roger, Anne, Joan, Hilary, John, Di, Roy, Ana, Barry, Dot, Jan, Peter, Mark, Mar, Sharon, Elmo, Lorraine, Barbi, Baard, Schools, Mary, Maria, Frank, Yvonne et al, Agnes, Gery, Ros, Wendy, Gira, Mary, Christine, John, Margaret, , Jackie, Alex, Margret, Richard, Debbie, Luisa, Mike, Max Tyler, Franca, Proclaim Team, CatholicCare Victoria, Caritas, Catholic Mission, St Vincent de Paul, Opening the Doors Foundation, ... and to all those for whom I managed to not have a written record of your presence..

Thank you all, whether for a gift, a card, a few words, being at our Masses. Your love of Christ and your care for me are indeed appreciated beyond measure.

The Epiphany is not just a memory of the Maji arriving to see and worship Jesus. It is a real event which inspires us to look at the skies of our lives and see the Star shining, calling us to let go and follow Christ in all ways and learn new way, different ways, as the Maji did.

I am looking forward to 2026 with thanks that I have you journeying with me in Christ, and with great hope that you will be a part of our ongoing efforts to become a parish which flourishes and excels at inviting people to come to know Christ Jesus our Lord.

God bless, Fr Charles

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 5.30pm | Mass with Baptism and Bap Presentation |
| 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 | 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, Marie Cameron, Peter Zeantti and Tony Whelan.

Anniversaries:

Louis and Angelina Amalfi

Recently Deceased:

John de Olevreira and Josephine (Jo) Ridgeway

Fr Charles’ Prayer Intention for this Week: For all our youth and young adults: that we will be inspired to help them to know and love Jesus and the Holy Spirit in their lives, and to deepen their desire to be and action as intentional disciples.



January:

The parish offices (at both St Greg’s and St Kevin’s) will remain open over January 😊.

Fr Charles?
He will be around – catching up on things, thinking, and taking things a little easier but still available.

So if there is something you are thinking about doing over this time – you need to let us know so we can plan it – and I know what is happening.

Fr Charles

LITURGYROSTER

Epiphany of the Lord – 3rd/4th January 2026

1st Read: Isaiah 60: 1-6 2nd Read: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Gos: Matthew 2: 1-12

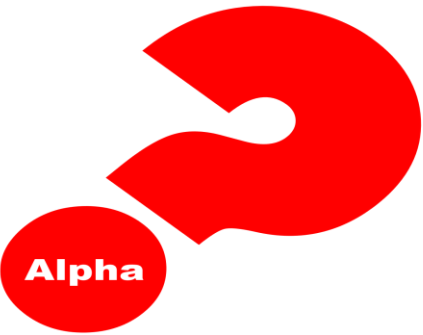
| Time | Commentator | Lector | Special Ministers |
|--------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 5.30pm | Margaret Turner | Kathy Pearce | Anne Maguire Lynne O’Brien |
| 9.15am | Miriam Ayoub | Bernard Butler | Mary Waddick Penny Teo Tony Robinson |

Baptism of the Lord – 10/11th January 2026

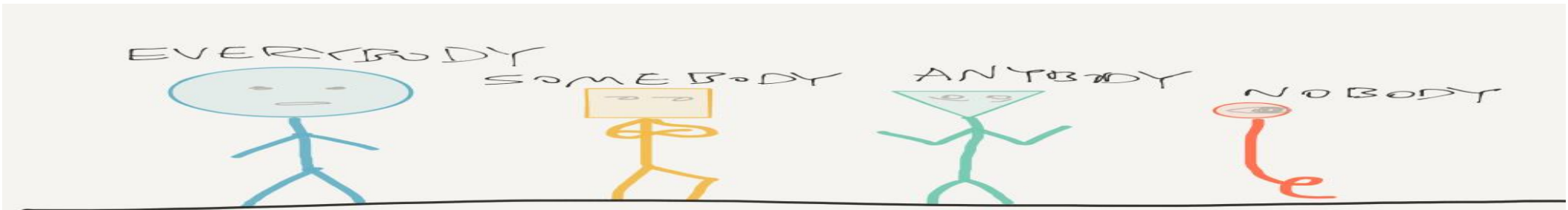
1st Read: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 2nd Read: Acts: 10: 34-38 Gos: Matthew 3: 13-17

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

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.



THE STORY OF EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY

Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.
There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it.
But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.
Anybody could have done it. But Nobody did it.
Somebody got angry about it, because it was Everybody’s job.
Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn’t do it.
It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody and Nobody did the job that Anybody could have done in the first place.
At last report, these four were still arguing and the job they were supposed to do still isn’t done.

Building a Synodal Church in Melbourne

In recent years, we have been gently encouraged to take the practice of synodality into our hearts as a way of being Church, and the Archdiocese of Melbourne 2026 diocesan synod provides another opportunity.

The concept of synodality can be traced to the earliest days of the Church, where members of the Christian community collaborated closely in decision-making through prayerful discernment. Acts 15 is drawn upon as an example of this—a gathering of apostles and elders was held to discern whether Gentile converts needed to follow Mosaic Law. The process involved conversation and prayer, illustrating the foundational role of dialogue and discernment in Church decision-making. Throughout its history, the Catholic Church has continued this practice, as bishops have met regularly to prayerfully discern doctrinal, pastoral and disciplinary issues through Synod of Bishops meetings.

In 2018, the International Theological Commission (ITC) published *Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church*, referring to synodality as an ‘essential dimension of the Church.’ It offered an invitation for all the baptised to walk together in communion, ensuring participation of all to enhance the work of mission. It is a further deepening of our understanding of the shared responsibility of all the baptised:

The ecclesiology of the People of God stresses the common dignity and mission of all the baptised, in exercising the variety and ordered richness of their charisms, their vocations and their ministries. (ITC, §6)

Earlier this year, during a meeting with the members of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Leo reflected on the legacy of the late Pope Francis. He observed that ‘synodality is a style, an attitude that helps us to be Church by promoting authentic experiences of participation and communion.’

The universal Church has called for new synodal practices and structures to strengthen Church life ... This phase calls for synodality to become part of the *ordinary life of the churches* and to *inspire daily practice*.

A key component of participation is the consultation process. This is not new to Australian Catholics! Since the Fifth Australian Plenary Council (2021–2022) and then the work towards the recent XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (2021–2024)—with the theme ‘For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission’—rich data have been gathered about the hopes of people for a missionary Church. Consistent themes emerged regarding young people, how we are to form people for mission and how we can enhance participation in mission. Consultation regarding these themes will assist in shaping the pastoral priorities for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Synods serve a canonical purpose and are convened by the Archbishop to assist in diocesan governance. Following the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference committed to each diocese holding a diocesan synod. The universal Church has also called for new synodal practices and structures to strengthen Church life. This work builds on the recent global synod, in which the universal Church continues to participate through the implementation phase. This phase calls for synodality to become part of the *ordinary life of the churches* and to *inspire daily practice*.

Some questions we might reflect on as we embark on the Melbourne Synod include:

- When have we experienced walking together in our community?
- What helps us think and discern together?
- How have I heard the Holy Spirit speak through the diverse voices in my context?
- What does shared responsibility for mission look like in our context?

More information about the synod and the consultation process will be available in early 2026.

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

Kiara Madison Fernando

Daughter of

Rasika and Dinekshi



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.



Baptism Welcome

This weekend we welcome:

Victor and Melissa

who will be introducing

Eva Sepulveda

to our Parish Community in preparation for her Baptism in a few weeks time.

Celebration
of the
Sacrament of Baptism



Let us not tire of preaching love, for this is the force that will overcome the world.

Even if we see waves of violence coming to drown out the fire of Christian love, love must win out.

It is the only thing that can. – Ocsar Romero

For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

| REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Reading | Second Reading |
| <p>Isaiah 60:1-6</p> <p>A reading from the prophet Isaiah</p> <p><i>The glory of the Lord shines upon you.</i></p> <p>As the second feast of Christmas, the Epiphany star continues the theme of light rising, shining in the darkness. This is firstly the stars and moon during the night, and then the increasing brightness of the dawn. These are visual and poetic images of the glory of the Lord.</p> <p>It is Christ the light who draws all the nations together. All are assembling from far away. The Epiphany celebrates the universality and inclusiveness of the revelation of Christ as king and saviour.</p> <p>In this hopeful oracle, Isaiah speaks about a new age for a people who have been in exile and bondage. His words have been influential: Matthew picks up the gifts of gold and incense, and our Christmas iconography always shows the wise men arriving on camels.</p> <p>In listening to these words, it will assist one to <i>grow radiant, hearts throbbing and full... and singing the praise of the Lord.</i></p> | <p>Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6</p> <p>A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians</p> <p><i>The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.</i></p> <p>Paul is the great champion of the gospel outreach to Gentile Christians, that is, those with a pagan background instead of a Jewish one.</p> <p>The Epiphany as an open manifestation of Christ to all nations captures Paul's central concern: pagans now share the same inheritance, they are part of the same body, they have received the same promise in the gospel. The feast and the reading prompt us to be 'catholic' – all embracing.</p> <p>God's unconditional love for all people is still a surprising revelation for many people today.</p> <p><i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i></p> |

The Epiphany:

This weekend sees us celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Amidst all the New Year celebrations it is vital that we make time for this important moment of insight.



The Epiphany –three wise men coming from the east bringing gifts for Jesus. They journey, they meet Herod, they follow a star, they find Jesus. But ... that is all peripheral: what is key is the change in them: they return by a different path: they are changed forever now they know Jesus and know that he is the Christ.

Let us allow ourselves to follow the Wise Men: let us be changed forever and become each day more fully disciples who go and make disciples.

God bless, Fr Charles

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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