



# 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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Telephone: 9850 5983

Email: [templestowe@cam.org.au](mailto:templestowe@cam.org.au)

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

First Sunday of Lent

21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2026

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

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

**Masses:** my apologies to any who were misled by our mistake on a website advertising a 7 pm Mass time for St Greg's for Ash Wednesday (about 30 people turned up expecting the Mass and I referred them to St Clement's).

Such errors are easily made, but we recognise the need to seek to prevent any recurrence.

You will have noticed that we advertised a Mass or two at St Clement of Rome, Bulleen. We are not taking over, Fr Mark, the parish priest, is unexpectedly away for some time and we offered to help out for some Masses. As a result, Fr Anton presided for two Ash Wednesday Masses at St Clement's and will provide for a number of parish/school Masses over coming weeks.

I am very glad that we have been able to provide some assistance to St Clement's. The fact that such assistance is needed reflects a number of things:

1. The availability of priests to provide help in parishes is on the decline as the retired priests grow older and older (most are retired parish priests so start providing supply in their late seventies; some continue into their nineties). So, we need to be willing to share our time and talents around with nearby parishes.
2. Parish life is getting more complex and pastoral work is becoming more challenging. It is becoming increasingly difficult for a parish priest to manage the needs and still take necessary time off to rebalance and restore physically and spiritually. A difficulty which is causing some parish priests to suffer burnout.
3. There is an on-going need for faithful, available, courageous and teachable lay people to step forwards and where necessary start training and forming as leaders who can take over significant portions of the Parish Priests non-sacramental duties.

Matter to ponder.

### **Lent:**

We have begun yet another Lent: we had a marvellous Ash Wednesday.

Full Lenten regulations are posted on the Notice board – please have a read. Briefly:

- Older than 14 (no upper age): abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- From 18 to 60: fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Everyone prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (in a sensible way) throughout Lent is encouraged.

This year our Sundays of Lent take us on a journey through Jesus' temptation in the wilderness; the transfiguration; the Samaritan woman at the well; the man born blind; and the raising of Lazarus. The reality of temptation in our lives; the glory of Christ present in our lives; the need for conversion at a deep level that changes our lives radically; the reality that we can bind ourselves to God's love in our daily lives; possibility for new life amidst the tragedies of life. Wonderful evidence of God's work that bring us along an intentional path into the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. Please come with me on this journey. **God Bless, Fr Charles**



**Help Wanted!** We are now in the Season of Lent and Easter is fast approaching. As we enter into this extremely busy time of the Liturgical Year, we are asking for some assistance please with our Easter Ceremonies. If you are not planning time away this Easter Season, please consider being involved in your parish this year, even if it is in a small way – every little bit helps! Please call Fr Charles on 9850 5983 for more information or indeed to express your desire to offer any support. Thank you.

## 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
	9.45am	Stations of the Cross
	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
	9.45am	Lenten Reflection Series in the Chapel
Friday	9.30am	Adoration at St Gregory the Great Church
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Mass with Baptism Presentation



## 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 Zeanti, Tony Whelan and Charles.

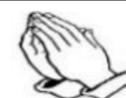
## Anniversaries:

Claude Natoli, Len Saunders, Marlene Shirley Crowl and Bede Header.

## Recently Deceased:

## Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week:

For the safety of all who are travelling.



## LITURGY ROSTER

### First Sunday of Lent – 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-7 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Romans 5: 12-19 Gos: Matthew 4: 1-11

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Christine Marini	Rachel Marini	Lawrence Ceconello Lynne O'Brien
9.15am	Carmel Purdey	Bernard Butler	Lyn Murphy Adrian Teo Paul Polidano

### Second Sunday of Lent – 28<sup>th</sup> February/1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Genesis 12: 1-4 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: 2 Timothy 1: 8-10 Gos: Matthew 17: 1-9

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Margaret Turner	Anne Maguire Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Julie O'Donnell	Maree McTaggart	Carmel Purdey Frances Bettiol Penny Teo



Operates every Monday morning in our Gathering Space. Doors open from 8.30am.

For ages 0-5 years

Registration required

\$5.00 entry

Connect with other parents and bring your little one for nursery rhymes, sensory play, books and more!

Contact Ana in the parish office for more information

## The Melbourne Octet presents



## VIA DOLOROSA SACRED MUSIC, PRAYERS AND READINGS

with the Stations of the Cross

ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, DONCASTER  
FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026  
@7PM

www.melbourneoctet.com



## Lunar New Year Celebrations and Welcoming School Families!

Parishioners and school families are invited to join us for a BBQ following Mass.

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 10.30am Mass followed by celebrations in the oval  
St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster

Enjoy a special **Lion Dance** performance!  
We encourage everyone to dress in red or wear their Lunar New Year outfits.

RSVP: Please use the trybooking link:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/DJEJT> or QR Code or via the Sign Up sheet in the Church foyer

Food and Drinks will be provided and outdoor activities for families (weather permitting)  
Please be mindful of food intolerances or allergies as food may contain allergens.  
Parents and Carers are requested to supervise children at all times






### Come and Join Our Weekly Lenten Reflection Group

Do you want to be more intentional about your Lent journey this year?

Come along to our St Kevin's Weekly Lent Discussion and Reflection Group! Each week, we will gather for thoughtful conversation, prayer and friendship as we reflect on the Sunday Lent readings.

All are welcome!

The group is led by Carmel Purdey following the Thursday 9.15am Mass (approx. 9.45am) and held in the chapel off the Gathering Space.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Stations of the Cross** will be conducted every Tuesday morning during Lent after the 9.15am Mass here at St Kevin's.



All welcome!

### St Kevin's & St Gregory's Parish Seminar 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 session which is 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.

#### Gaining a richer understanding of the Mass – Thursday March 5, 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

The session 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.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2026

Nigeria

'I will give you rest: Come'

www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org



### World Day of Prayer 2026, Nigeria, Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

"I will give you rest: Come"

Doncaster Church of Christ – 10.00am

680 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Speaker: Rev Peter Young,

Who spent Many years in Nigeria

All welcome. Refreshments served.

Contact: 0438 034 739

**Fr Anton will temporarily be celebrating Friday morning Mass at St Clement of Rome Church Bulleen at 9.15am on 27<sup>th</sup> February**



### What are the 'Bookish' Morning Teas?

Bookish Morning tea is a social gathering once a fortnight after Thursday morning Mass.

It is an open invitation to come and share a cuppa and morning tea in the Parish house and get to know other parishioners.

It is called 'Bookish' as it is held in the Parish house where there is a free community library - so come have a cuppa, have a chat and borrow a book if you would like!

Our first session for 2026 is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February!



*Thank You!*

To celebrate all volunteers St Kevin's wishes to hold a morning tea on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March after 9:15 mass.

We wish to say thank you for all the hard work that contributes to making St Kevin's a welcoming home for all to express their faith.

Please let Ana know if you can attend, looking forward to seeing you there!

For information on our Parish School please contact:

**St Kevin's Primary School**  
Phone: 9273 9999

## Responsorial Psalm

Have mercy, O Lord, for we have sinned.

## Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Enliven us with your love, O Lord.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

#### First Reading

[Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis  
*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

We start at the very beginning with the myth of the creation of the world. God is forming the first human and breathes life into him. God plants a beautiful garden for him, centred on the mysterious 'tree of life/tree of the knowledge of good and evil'. Eden is perfect.

Then we get the myth of the serpent/Satan who makes wrongdoing look so very attractive. The human beings yield to temptation. Satan and his temptations return in the gospel, but Jesus, the second Adam, rejects the lures put before him by the devil.

Myths are graphic stories (not in any way historical or scientific) that speak a sacred truth about reality as we know it. The myths in this reading acknowledge the goodness of God the Creator and offer a tale to explain the origin of evil in our world. They should be read with a sense of wonder because they touch upon the sacred, but with the lightness of fantasy because they concern what pre-dates any human experience.

#### Second Reading

[Romans 5:12-19](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

This rather dense theological argument from St Paul sits very comfortably between the first reading and the gospel. In the first reading from Genesis, we see the human beings (Adam and Eve) yielding to the temptations of the serpent. In the gospel, we see Christ (sometimes called the 'second Adam') resisting the temptations of the devil. This is the basis of the lengthy list of contrasts set out by Paul.

The first man (Adam) is associated with sin, disobedience, death, the fall, condemnation. The new man (Christ) is associated with grace, obedience, life, being raised up, justification.

The whole of Paul's argument goes back and forth between these contrasts. The shorter version does this quite clearly; the longer version probably just complicates it for the hearer.

*Taken from 'Break Open the Word'*

## Social Justice Action St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

### Lenten reflection to help further clarify our mission amidst recognised needs

This weekend's Gospel speaks of Jesus' personal deep reflection in the wilderness, recognising his ministry in terms of humble vulnerability, healing the sick, and reaching out to those pushed to the margins (from Readings & Reflections, Liturgy Publications). In March 2026 Catholic Social Services Victoria will more deeply and collaboratively examine real-world examples of unjust barriers, and discern and decide further on the Church's call to human dignity, justice and care for our common home - through a process they further recognise as "a defining characteristic of a synodal Church".

It's no coincidence either that Project Compassion coincides with Lent, during which we too are called to contemplate and follow our Christ given mission. Second Collections throughout Lent this year will as usual unite against poverty via Project Compassion and its provided weekly brief videos. Over Lent we'll progressively listen to stories shared by affected peoples, in Tanzania (population 40m), Bangladesh (population 175m), Fiji (935,000), and directly from someone living with others in the devastated remains of Gaza. Remote from all these places and needs, we can at least do something to help - **John Costa SJA**



**First-Sunday-of-Lent**  
21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



**UNITE  
AGAINST  
POVERTY**  
this Lent

Please donate today.  
You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.  
Or online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
Or by calling: 1800-024-413

Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.