



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

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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

Second Sunday of Lent

28th February/1st March, 2026

Baptism Presentation Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from the desk of our PP...

The Unexpected Fruits of Ministry:

Two stories of the Holy Spirit that surprised me and gladdened me.

One at St Greg's: I received the financial accounting for the past 12 months for our Piety Stall: a lovely profit of about \$1500. That's amazing. But ... just after I heard of the profit, a woman came up to me and asked for her rosary and crucifix to be blessed: and the look of praise and worship and love of Jesus in her eyes as I blessed the items, spoke to the Holy Spirit guiding her. The 'sale of goods' goes so much further and deeper than 'sales' and into helping people live lives full of God's love and love for God.

One at St Kevin's: as I said hello and goodbye to people after Mass at a recent Sunday Mass, a parishioner complimented the Lector for the day saying something like "the way you read the first reading: I heard it freshly, I heard what I needed to hear today." It wasn't me as presider: it was the Lector. Speaking God's word well, and it was heard and changed that person's heart.

Thank you to the people who made these two stories possible. And thank you to all who help us celebrate the Mass and operate as a true witness of Christ in the world today: you are a grace.

There are many more stories to be told, and I'd like to gather them. If you have a story of the way your ministry has touched people and gone beyond what you expected: please tell me, or send it to me at the parish office.

Noise / Talking in the Church AND the use of Projected Images / Words:

I love, and am most appreciative, of the attentiveness and reverence and sense of openness to God that you bring to our Church, thank you.

It has been my observation, though, that we have had a shifting practice in a few things. Partly good / partly drifting too far.

I love the community spirit that is evident when you feel free to talk in the Church. I also love the sense of wonder and awe that arises when it is quiet in the Church – a quiet that helps open my heart to God's love.

A few people have spoken to me about excessive noise inside the Church, and I sympathise. They weren't asking for total silence but asking for a balance: a measure of restraint in voices that keeps conversations in the Church at a low / local level. Talking quietly to each other.

Alongside this are two observations I have as we seek to be full, active and conscious participants during Mass.

The first: we project a lot of the Mass on the screen – please try to make your focus the presider, the lectern, the altar. The screen is an adjunct to our worship but it is easy to end up just focussing on the screen waiting for the next thing to show. I can find this myself when I am in the congregation. Please seek to make the lectern / the altar of meal and sacrifice your primary focus and only look to the screen when a response is required from you.

The second: talking *during* Mass. I know this can be essential, so I am not suggesting zero speech, but please keep any talking during Mass to a minimum and keep it *sotto voce* – at a whisper / low level. Your voice carries and distracts many others.

God Bless, Fr Charles

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Mass with Baptism Presentation
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



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:

Tony Bendall, Pauline McKenzie, Roger Bannister, William & Alice Cowsley, Les Carlyon, Eric Salter, Gillian Elizabeth Scully, Arthur Bonser and Gabriel Chiodo.

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: Father in heaven, we give thanks to you for the gift of the Holy Spirit guiding us and leading us and gracing us to know your son Jesus Christ and to learn to spread the Good News to the world around us.



Baptism Welcome

This weekend we welcome:

Hadrian and Sheena

who will be introducing

Anthony Parveen Phillip Mariathan

to our Parish Community in preparation for his Baptism next weekend.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism



LITURGY ROSTER

Second Sunday of Lent – 28th February/1st March 2026

1st Read: Genesis 12: 1-4 2nd 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

Third Sunday of Lent – 7/8th March 2026

1st Read: Exodus 17: 3-7 2nd Read: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 Gos: John 4: 5-42

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Pauline Erickson	Margaret Turner	Lawrence Ceconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Miriam Ayoub	Frances Johnson	Mary Waddick Pat Rowland Carmel Shiel

Little Kev's Playgroup



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

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, 1st 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 6th

"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

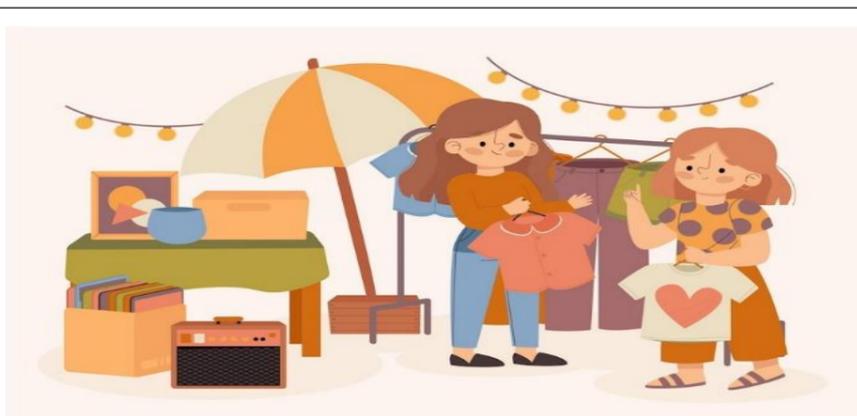
All welcome. Refreshments served.

Contact: 0438 034 739



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 12th March at 10.30am. All are welcome.



Craft Stall: Our friends, the nuns from St Elisabeth Convent, are once again holding a Craft Stall in our Gathering Space after Mass Thursday, 5th March.

Come along and see for yourself the beautiful and bespoke arts and crafts handmade by the locals in Belarus.

Be prepared to indulge yourself or friends/family with some unique gifts, and marvel at the skills and talents of people in different parts of our world.

Thank You!

To celebrate all volunteers St Kevin's wishes to hold a morning tea on Sunday the 1st 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

Let your love be upon us, Lord,
even as we hope in you.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Enliven us with your love, O Lord.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

With the story of Abraham (note, at this stage, he is still called 'Abram'), the Genesis myths of the creation, the fall and the flood begin to morph into what we know as 'history'. Abram will be the father of a great nation, blessed by God. The call that he receives is radical – leave country and family and embark on a journey into the unknown. He does so and therefore is called in the first Eucharistic Prayer, 'our father in faith'!

This story will speak strongly to the elect who are on the journey to Easter when – by Baptism, Confirmation and Communion – they will join a new family with a new culture and tradition.

For all the baptised as well, the call of their Lenten repentance is about making a new start. Each year in Lent, we turn again and embrace afresh the way of the gospel.

These Lenten journeys are an expression of trust in God's goodness and an openness to receiving God's blessing in our lives. We are invited to come to a new place where we encounter God's goodness.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

This passage from Paul's letter to Timothy provides a good foil to the gospel story of the transfiguration. The context of the story in Matthew's gospel is that of Jesus' looming suffering and death and the exhortation that disciples should take up their cross and follow him.

Here Paul speaks of the hardships both he and Timothy suffer for the sake of the Good News. We are saved only by God's grace, revealed in Jesus Christ. He is our passage through death to life, glory and immortality.

The reading is short and clear enough, but the complex structure of the sentences will need to be carefully studied and mastered if the message of encouragement is to come through. The final contrast between 'abolished death' and 'proclaimed life' is emphasised.

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Social Justice Action St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

The Cost of Our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good

The 2026 Social Justice Statement released by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in February invites Australians to reflect deeply on the growing cost-of-living crisis and to respond with faith, hope and love. At the heart of the Statement is the Church's social tradition. Principles such as the dignity of every human person, the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity (a principle of social organisation in which social and political issues should be dealt with at the most immediate or local level consistent with resolution), and the preferential option for the poor, are offered not as abstract ideals, but as practical guides for responding to the crisis in ways that uphold human dignity and promote justice. These principles also challenge economic and political systems that allow some to flourish while others are left behind, and call for shared responsibility across governments, businesses, communities, parishes, and individuals.

Each of us has a role to play through supporting those in need, advocating for fairer policies, fostering just workplaces, and building communities where no one is forgotten. In a wealthy country like Australia it seems inconceivable that there should be so much hardship. Many cannot see a way out of the cost-of-living crisis. This must change. Australia needs to learn to hope again. The Statement calls us to become 'prophets of hope', not only by what we say, but by what we do, and the way we do it, so that together we may help build a more compassionate, resilient and fairer nation, where all can live with dignity (edited extracts from the ACBC Social Justice Statement, February 2026) - **John Costa SJA**



Second Sunday of Lent
28 February – 1 March 2026

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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