



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

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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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7/8th February, 2026

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words from the desk of our PP...

Alpha: Please keep all the Alpha guests and leaders in your prayers as we go forwards with this, for us, we have a large group of about 50 guests including some who are not Catholic. It is intriguing who each person gains something different from the conversation over dinner, the movie about some aspect of who Jesus is and what he means, and the discussion after. We are unique and Jesus speaks to us and invites us uniquely. It can be a challenge, but a rewarding one, to accompany people as they hear Jesus calling – without trying to give them 'my' answers all the time. There comes a time to talk about the deeper things of faith and theology and dogma and practice – but journeying with people as they come to know the invitation from Christ, that is at the beginning and is relevant in some way even for those who are, as they say, 'cradle Catholics' – journeying with Jesus to explicitly meeting him is worthwhile for everyone.

Short Break: I spent Monday to Friday in New Zealand – well Monday afternoon to Friday lunchtime. A lovely time of quiet and walks in balmy beautiful weather – cool at night and warm rather than hot during the days. Delicious weather.

Three or four hours of walking each day amidst the mountains around Arrowtown, just north of Queenstown in the south half of the South Island of New Zealand. Amidst, I will stress, NO-ONE – not climbing mountains but wandering through the valleys. Very gentle walking indeed but invigorating and quite tiring too.

I stayed with friends of long standing, related by my school friend Michael who died some years ago.

Our conversations as we walked and as we sat over breakfast, lunch and dinner were filled with an intertwining of faith things and reminiscing about shared moments from the past.

Catching crabs on the rocks at Mossy Point on the south coast of NSW. Running across the rocks with bare feet or if oyster shells were apparent wearing a pair of thongs. My balance was more sure in those days and my feet well calloused from walking everywhere most of the time in bare feet (outside school hours). Climbing the pinnacle ... isn't it interesting how some memories are strong for others but not for oneself – my friend had clear memories of this effort with her sisters and others in tow – I have only a cloudy memory. Perhaps that was one of those days when I raced on ahead – alone – and failed to gain the benefit of a shared experience.

Sharing experiences of death and grief and how Christ makes a difference in so many ways. Exchanging stories of how parish life can be enlivened and how people can be drawn into greater faith when the celebration of Mass is surrounded by a rich and extensive and vibrant set of gatherings and actions and activities where people get to know each other and help each other. And how fragile this can be when it is grounded in just a few people.

Lots of talking about leadership in parishes and how developing people to take up leadership in their faith lives is absolutely vital. It is what Jesus spent a lot of time doing. It is what this weekend's Gospel is about – be salt for the earth and a light on the hill. Leadership in faith is not about everyone trying to be 'top dog' – indeed it is the complete opposite: it is about everyone seeing the contribution they can make to parish / community / faith / Christian life and taking responsibility for it by living the Beatitudes – starting with the central pair: hunger and thirst for righteousness (God's way) and doing so with Mercy. And ... allowing that the rest of the beatitudes follow on from living those.

Jesus calls me and calls you – each of us – to live our faith actively and intentionally and take responsibility for that in harmony with and in concert with, and in unity with, those around us in parish life.

God Bless, Fr Charles

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
Wednesday	9.30am	Meditation – via zoom
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:

John Watts, Joe Luca, Daphne Clark, Joyce Woodroffe, Jill Hodson, Betty Natoli, Tim Mullin, Cheryl Richmann, Matthew Ryan and Peter Bonser.

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For those whose lives are filled with uncertainty: that they will open their hearts to God's guidance through the Holy Spirit.



Feast Days this week:...

10th February St Scholastica
Together with her twin brother, she dedicated herself to God, through the monastic life. Remembered for her part in establishing Benedictine monasticism.

14th February

Ss Cyril & Methodius
The brothers are honoured as apostles of the Slavic peoples. Remembered together for their contribution to Slavic culture, for their missionary inculturation of the faith, and for establishing links between East and West.

LITURGY ROSTER

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14/15th February 2026

1st Read: Ecclesiasticus 15: 15-20 2nd Read: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10 Gos: Matthew 5: 17-37

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Tasha Vercauteran	Lawrence Cecconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Vianney Shiel	Liz O'Connell	Lyn Robinson Raffaella Dinelli Pat Rowland

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 \(stkevinsparish.org.au\)](https://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.



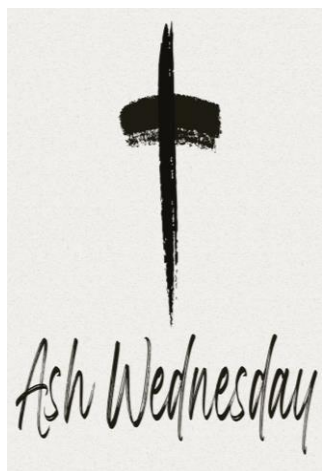
Lourdes Day Mass
Sunday 14 February 2026
10.30am – 11.30am

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.

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

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



Ash Wednesday this year falls on Wednesday, 18th February

Masses will be celebrated by our priests in the times and Churches as follows:

9.00am	St Gregory the Great	Fr Charles
9.15am	St Clement of Rome	Fr Anton
11.45am	St Kevin's	Fr Charles
6.00pm	St Gregory the Great	Fr Charles
7.00pm	St Clement of Rome	Fr Anton

Fr Anton will temporarily be celebrating Friday morning Mass at St Clement of Rome Church at 9.15am on the following dates:

13th February - 20th February - 27th February



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 will be led by Carmel Purdey every week during Lent, following the Thursday 9.15am Mass (approx. 9.45am) beginning February 19. It will be 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 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.



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



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!!



For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

Light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Enliven us with your love, O Lord.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading	Second Reading
<p><u>Isaiah 58:7-10</u></p> <p>A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>Your light will shine like the dawn.</i></p> <p>This passage from Isaiah sets out some inspirational actions in favour of establishing justice and equity in society. If you do these things, says the prophet, your 'light will rise in the darkness and shine like the dawn'. This is the connection with the gospel: you are the light of the world, a lamp shining out.</p> <p>This raises a theme common in many of the prophets: God prefers a life lived in justice and in service of those in need rather than fasts and temple offerings.</p> <p>It is a strong reading. It begins with a series of imperatives: 'share, shelter, clothe, turn not...' The examples are vivid and concrete: 'the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word...'</p>	<p><u>1 Corinthians 2:1-5</u></p> <p>A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians <i>I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.</i></p> <p>In last week's message to the people of Corinth, Paul pricks the bubble of their self-importance which had been leading them to competitiveness and rivalry. This week he follows up with his own example. He did not come with dazzling oratory or learning, he says, but quite simply to witness to Christ, in fact, a Christ who was humbled on the cross. Paul was not promoting himself. He wanted to make it clear that the Christians in Corinth were not his disciples but Christ's disciples by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit. God's power is manifest in human weakness, not in intellectual arguments.</p> <p>Such a personal testimony in which Paul shows his vulnerability in the face of the worldly-wise Corinthians can be proclaimed with genuine sincerity of heart. It should move the liturgical assembly to deeper faith in Christ.</p> <p><i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i></p>

Social Justice Action
St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

"You Can't do that" (Edited Extracts/Title, from CAM, 22 November 2025)

Born in Birregurra, Victoria in 1877, Mary Glowrey defied societal expectations by pursuing a medical career as a woman. She excelled academically, earning scholarships at Melbourne University where she controversially switched from arts to medicine. "You'll lose all your womanly dignity," one doctor warned her. Women didn't become doctors. Period. It was 1906. The idea was almost laughable. Mary enrolled anyway. Picture walking into a classroom where every single face turns to stare at you. Where whispers follow you down hallways. Where professors aren't quite sure what to do with this strange creature who dared to think she could save lives. She graduated with honours in 1910. Twenty-three years old, armed with a medical degree, followed by a further advanced degree in obstetrics and gynaecology, she became the first woman to achieve a medical residency in New Zealand, and established a successful Melbourne practice. A pivotal moment came in 1915 when a pamphlet about Dr. Agnes McLaren inspired her to serve women in India.

Despite church law prohibiting nuns from practising medicine, she eventually earned approval from Pope Benedict XV in 1920, becoming the first nun-doctor in Catholic history and ultimately leaving Australia for Guntur, India, to address severe health disparities among women and children. Death rates were staggering. Mothers dying in childbirth, Babies never having a chance, and Women suffering from treatable diseases because cultural traditions meant they couldn't be examined by men. She treated everyone who came – regardless of caste, religion, or whether they could pay. In 1943, she founded the Catholic Hospitals' Association, brought together nuns from different orders, and tirelessly created a network to spread healthcare across all of India - now the Catholic Health Association of India. It's the country's largest non-government healthcare system. 3,500 institutions, 21 million patients every year. One Australian woman refused to accept what "can't be done", and that some people were "beyond help". She poured out her life and health for strangers in a foreign land, because she believed every human deserved dignity and care. In November 2025 Pope Leo declared Mary Glover "Venerable" – just two steps from sainthood. But for the millions healed by her "doing what's not possible", she's already a light of the world, and a saint. -John Costa SJA

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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