



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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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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14/15th February, 2026

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from the desk of our PP...

Lent and Other Things Coming Along:

This Lent we have something 'extra' on during most weeks. Our aim is to provide you with a variety of ways in which to approach your Lenten Journey. Please get involved in these or some other active ways of listening to the Holy Spirit: -

- Lenten weekly discussion groups (Margaret O'Donnell at St Greg's and Carmel Purdey at St Kevin's) (free sessions but a \$5 donation towards the books appreciated).
- +Mark Coleridge's daily reflection for Lent and Easter. Please only take one if you are seriously interested in following this path of daily reflection (a \$5 donation towards the books appreciated)
- Stations of the Cross (Tuesdays: St Kevin's after 9:15am Mass; Fridays: St Greg's 7.00pm, in the church)
- The Heartbeat of the Mass: Fr Frank O'Loughlin: 21st February 10.00am to 1.00pm and 5th March 7.00pm to 9.00pm – both held at St Greg's in the church gathering space.
- The Melbourne Octet – as part of Stations of the Cross on Friday 13th March at St Greg's.
- Penitential service for both St Kevin's and St Greg's: at St Greg's 7:30pm 26th March.
- And in there is Lunar New year and then all the things of Holy Week and Easter leading to Pentecost.

It is a lot! You don't have to do everything! But! Please! I would love every one of you to participate and come along for at least 2 of these ways of journeying with Christ towards the Resurrection and the new life and deepening of faith that the Holy Spirit gives us.

Alongside and after Lent and Holy Week come all the other things happening in our parishes: Sacramental initiation, Alpha, social gatherings, formation for ministry, RCIA, baptisms, weddings, funerals, ... lots is going on.

And, on a longer horizon:

- A joint parishes assembly, probably in May 2026, to discuss parish life.
- The Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod in October 2026.
- Australian Catholic Youth Festival reunion 28th February – two weeks from now.
- World Youth Day (Seoul South Korea, 3rd-8th August 2027).
- Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2028 and Eucharistic Congress 2028 – Sydney – dates yet to be provided.

Yes the Congress seems far in the future but we have been asked to begin to prepare by spending a Holy Hour in prayer on 1st March (2nd Sunday of Lent) – wherever you are that day – make some time (an hour if possible) and just be present for Christ.

Yes, a lot happening – please take a bit of time to keep track. Think about your journey of faith and commitment as an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ and find out where you are called to offer your time and talent to help the parishes move forwards.

God Bless, Fr Charles



February 14th 2026

Wishing everyone a very
Happy St Valentine's Day!

May your day be filled with love, joy, peace and happiness.

And may all the love that you spread find its way back to you.



Happy Lunar New Year!

Wishing you all joy, health, and endless blessings in the year ahead.

May the Year of the Horse gallop in with success, happiness and prosperity for you and your loved ones.

17th February, 2026

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
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
Wednesday	11.45am	Ash Wednesday Mass together with schoolchildren ** No Meditation Session this morning **
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



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.

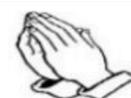
Anniversaries:

Margaret Jones, Murray Weideman, Flora Manarano, Salvatore Casaceli, members of the Hughes and Fernandez families, James Carpenen, Manuel Octavio Rosales, Gordon Weiland and Joyce Balnaves.

Recently Deceased:

Ken Francis

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For each of us, the people of St Gregory's and St Kevin's Parishes as we enter our Lenten journey: that our hearts will be open ever further to the glory of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.



Feast Days this week:...

18th February Ash Wednesday
In the course of today's Mass, ashes are blessed and distributed. These are made from the olive branches or branches of other trees that were blessed the previous year.

LITURGY ROSTER

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 Ceconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Pauline Erickson	Liz O'Connell	Lyn Robinson Raffaella Dinelli Pat Rowland

First Sunday of Lent - 21st/22nd February 2026

1st Read: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3rd 1-7 2nd 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



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION



Preparing Children for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation

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

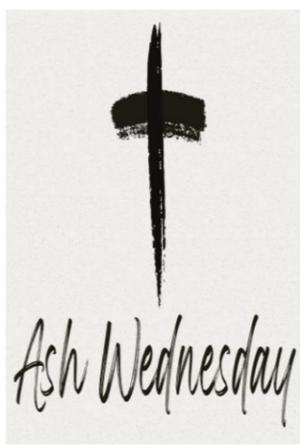
Please contact the Parish Office or Ana Saro if you have any further questions. Thank you.

A Blessing for You

May you be blessed by God when you doubt yourself, when you are unsure about the decisions you've made or the direction in which you are going. May you be blessed with the grace to trust the God who partners with you and is working in you. This is the God who loves you and knows you as God's own work of art. This is the God who transforms even bad choices into gifts for those who are faithful. May the God of Self-Trust bless you.

-Maxine Shonk, OP





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 Bulleen at 9.15am on the following dates:

20th February and
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.



This event is being celebrated at St Gregory the Great Parish after the 10.30am Mass – so beginning at about 11.15am.

Meditation News: As next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and some of you might wish to attend one of the morning Masses, Meditation is cancelled for next week. We will resume Meditation on Wednesday February 25th at 9.30am as usual. Blessings to you all.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF COMMENCEMENT DATE

Due to circumstances beyond our control...



Our first **Parish Bookish Morning Tea for 2026** will now recommence on **Thursday, 26th 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

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Enliven us with your love, O Lord.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Sirach 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
He never commanded anyone to be godless.

The Book of Ecclesiasticus, sometimes named after its author Ben Sirach, is part of a collection called 'the Wisdom books'. Each in its own way offers insight into human life, its challenges and joys.

This brief passage raises the question of free will. Human beings are not puppets in the hands of fate or the gods. We can make our choices: water or fire, life or death, good or evil. Of course, our choices have consequences. That is why God, in all-seeing wisdom, draws us to what is good, to keep the commandments faithfully.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

Paul's next contribution for encouraging humility and reconciliation among the Christians in Corinth is to contrast the masters and philosophy of the time with the mystery of God's wisdom revealed by the Spirit in Christ. The crucified Lord of Glory opens up to us the depths of a God of love, something utterly beyond worldly understanding. Paul, in preaching Christ crucified and risen, is bringing them what is beyond human imagination, what no eye has seen or ear has heard. It is the Paschal mystery which should be the centre of the Corinthians' faith and their source of unity. Paul is attempting to convince the people of an awesome counter-cultural perspective. *Taken from 'Break Open the Word'*

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

Not all have free wills from which to readily make choices. Help for some that don't!

Severe poverty, sickness, physical or mental disability, and abuse are among reasons some are unable to enjoy the luxury of making even basic life choices. On a *trial basis*, Social Justice Action Committee recently launched a 'working used phone & computer' donation scheme. If you have any unwanted but suitable and fully operational Mobile phones, Computers/Laptops/Tablets, we're aware of people who very much need but can't afford these, and would love to hear from you. Since quietly launching this *Trial* program on 27 December 2025 we've already located and passed on a suitable (new & unused) mobile phone to a Melbourne woman to help isolate her physically and electronically from an abuser (former partner) as she completely relies on protection. Sadly this is a not uncommon occurrence.

The provisos for prospective donors include i) that offered devices are operational, ii) do not need any repair or technical support from the Parish, and iii) have personal data removed. Phones may be unlocked, or locked to a particular network provider, but if locked - with the provider identified. Offered phones must also include an associated power adapter. It's a trial scheme because the Parish does not have resources to check or repair faulty or unserviceable devices.

There's already a waiting list of such people. We have in the past collected used PCs/laptops for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker's Project, and have also prompted the Archdiocese to provide a replacement PC for a previous antiquated device for the Catholic Aboriginal Ministry. Will this trial succeed? Prospective donors may enquire or contact SJA Members (John Costa, Carmel Purdey, Lawrence Cecconello, Tony Robinson) or the Parish office - **John Costa**



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Sunday 14-15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



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.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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