



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:

PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106

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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

Third Sunday of Lent

8/9th March, 2026

Baptism and Baptism Presentation Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words from the desk of our PP...

Holy Week Preparations:

Preparations are underway for Holy Week. Your Lenten journey of course but also our planning for the various liturgies held leading up to ... Resurrection.

You will see requests for assistance with all lots of aspects of the various services. Please be willing to **offer help** so that our Holy Week is as prayerful and wondrous and meaningful and joyful as possible. There will be sign-up sheets of Google-Docs – put your name down, please.

Remember: when you help, assist, minister during Mass or in other places – your ministry is rooted in being Christ's presence in the world – it is rooted in Christ's love for us and our being that love for others.

We have the Melbourne Octet accompanying the Stations of the Cross at St Greg's on this coming Friday evening 13th March at 7pm. Please sign up (sheets are on the table in the Gathering Space) so we have an idea of crowd size and how to set up at St Greg's. Plenty of parking available.

We have our Penitential Service on 26th March 7:30 pm at St Greg's (plenty of parking available). This service provides us all with an opportunity to align our Lenten journey more closely to Jesus' journey and to deepen our relationship with him. There will be absolution available at the end of the service.

Safety:

Please think safety all the time. We speak about Safeguarding Children but in addition please think about safety more generally. We've had a nasty fall on a steep bit of path. We've had a car entering the church grounds at 40kph. We've had wet leaves / papers across the ground outside the church doors. We've had toilets left messy with water on the floor. We've had people arrive still infectious with some bug or other.

I care about you and your spiritual and physical and mental health and safety. Please be careful as you arrive and move around and interact. Please be conscious of others and be willing to offer and if needed lend assistance.

Sanctuary / Columbarium

It's taken quite some time and bringing things together but there is movement.

On Thursday, David submitted our application for a Planning Permit for a Columbarium. We will see where that leads, but I am hopeful the application will be successful.

On Tuesday, we had a contractor come and spend some time with us to understand the modifications we want to the Sanctuary. He will provide us with a quote on cost and an estimate of the time needed for construction of an extension of the Sanctuary – as we discussed and provided 3-D drawings for some months ago. I am planning that we go ahead with a one-step addition, instead of the two steps we considered earlier – this seems to garner the best balance of being around the table and being visible and reflecting the central importance of Eucharist to our lives. I look forward to seeing the quote.

God Bless, Fr Charles



Our Parish Lenten Communal Penance Service

Will be held on Thursday, 26th March at 7.30pm at St Gregory the Great Church,
71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster.

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass with Baptism Presentation
Sunday	9.15am	Mass with Baptism
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Stations of the Cross
	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
	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:

Loretta Kearney, Mary-Ann Southwell, Galdino Marini, Dottie Kasprzak, Connor Whyte and Mario Tabone,

Recently Deceased:

Juan Eng (sister of a friend of Marietta De Silva) and John Sheldon.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For our Alpha guests as the Alpha retreat approaches: that they will discover or rediscover the power of the Holy Spirit.



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

Anthony Praveen Phillip
Son of
Hadrian and Sheena

Baptism Welcome

This weekend we welcome:

Richard and Anita

who will be introducing

Anders Piotr and Miriam Sheerah Lee

to our Parish Community in preparation for their Baptisms next weekend.

Celebration
of the
Sacrament of Baptism



MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP



ST KEVIN'S PARISH, TEMPLESTOWE

The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 13th March @ 7.30pm** in the **Church Gathering Space**.

Open to men of any age (older teenagers are welcome (with their guardian) parishioners and non parishioners alike. All are welcome. Invite a friend, relative or neighbour along. Supper is provided. BYO alcoholic drinks. \$8 donation suggested to cover costs. For catering purposes, please contact the parish office on 9850 5983, or email templestowe@cam.org.au

LITURGY ROSTER

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 Cecconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Miriam Ayoub	Frances Johnson	Mary Waddick Pat Rowland Carmel Shiel

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 14th/15th March 2026

1st Read: Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 2nd Read: Ephesians 5: 8-14 Gos: John 9: 1-41

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

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





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!

You are most welcome!

Our Parish Liturgy Team plans our liturgies with a particular focus on Easter, Christmas and special occasions. It is a friendly relaxed group. Why not come to a meeting to simply observe! There will be no pressure to be any more involved than you wish.

Our next meeting will be:

Tuesday March 10 at 5.00pm in the Parish House Meeting Room.

You are most welcome!



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

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



The next batch of parish Thanksgiving Envelopes have been prepared by our ever efficient Peter Norman (thank you very much Peter) and are now ready for collection from the table in the Gathering Space.

If you give via credit card, your receipts have been emailed to you.

Please remember to collect your envelopes before leaving today.



Attention all Mass volunteers re Holy Week and Easter ceremonies

Please check your inbox for the Easter roster availability email. It would be most helpful if you could complete the form as soon as possible please. Thank you everyone.



The Journey Home Daily Reflections for Lent

Copies of this booklet (written by Archbishop Mark Coleridge) are available from the table in the Gathering Space. \$5 each. Please place payment in the box provided. Thank you.



CONVOCATION OF THE MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

Archbishop Comensoli has written a Pastoral Letter to all parishioners. A copy of which is on the table in the Gathering Space for you to take home.

For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to the voice of the Lord.
Do not harden your hearts!

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Enliven us with your love, O Lord.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Moses led the people out of slavery in Egypt, across the Red Sea and into the Sinai desert. There the people complain to Moses that there is no water. They lose faith in God's providence saying, Is the Lord with us or not?

Well, God is with them and provides life-giving water when Moses strikes the rock of Horeb with his staff. This story opens up the powerful symbol of life-giving water in preparation for the gospel reading.

It is a vivid and dramatic narrative with direct speech and strongly contrasting emotions. God's intervention has a solemn dignity.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

We are not judged to be sinners but as people at peace with God. This is grace, pure gift. It happens because of Christ and our response of faith to what Christ has done for us. In a lavish image, Paul says that God's love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. The proof of God's love is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. We don't have to get ourselves right so that God will love us. It is just the other way around.

This is a really important message to communicate to the assembled people. Paul has some great phrases to help us. But as usual he writes with long complicated sentences. Let us ponder these phrases: *not deceptive... poured into our hearts... Christ died for us while we were still sinners.*

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

"Work for Peace, and seek solutions without weapons"

As attacks increase in the Middle East and fear and tensions grow around the world, Pope Leo urged pursuing the goal of peace. At the same time, he called on everyone to "truly strive to promote dialogue" and to "seek solutions without weapons to resolve problems." These words echo those he spoke last Sunday at the Angelus, during which, referring to the attack by the United States and Israel on Iran and Iran's bombings of several areas in the Middle East, Leo XIV said: "Stability and peace are not achieved through mutual threats, nor through the use of weapons, which sow destruction, suffering, and death, but only through reasonable, sincere, and responsible dialogue." (Extracts from Vatican News, 3 March 2026).

"In a lawless world, it may seem idle to judge the conduct of leaders.....by international rules to which they are indifferent. But those who use their power to invade other countries commit what the judgement at Nuremberg described as the supreme war crime — that of aggression — because they bear responsibility for all the death and dismemberment that war inevitably entails, for civilians as well as soldiers. (Edited extract from Geoffrey Robertson, International Human Rights barrister and former leader of an inquiry into human rights violation in Iran, The Age, 3 March 2026) - **John Costa SJA**



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent
7-8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



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

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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