



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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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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

14/15th March, 2026

Baptisms Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from the desk of our PP...

Three Days but One Celebration

Holy Week is nearly upon us: Easter is early this year. Please book the time in your calendar to come along to all of the Holy Week Services.

Palm Sunday begins the journey: remembering the contradiction of triumphal entry into Jerusalem crowned by passion and death.

And our single celebration spread over three days starts on Thursday night with the last supper and washing of the feet, journeys through the Passion and Death of Friday afternoon and finishes on Saturday evening/Sunday morning with the resurrection. One event, three elements.

I encourage you now to put the times in your calendars: block out Thursday evening; Friday afternoon 3 pm; and Saturday Evening or Sunday Morning. Come along and journey with Jesus through the whole of his last hours.

Penitential Service

March 26th! 7:30 pm. At St Greg's (we alternate between parishes).

Prayer and Reflection, Examination of Conscience and Contrition. With individual absolution available at the end.

Please come along to spend a few moments with Jesus as Holy Week approaches – opening our hearts to receive his forgiveness. Sitting with Jesus; offering our lives as a sharing in his suffering.

Prayer Intention

Every week I put a prayer intention in the bulletin. My thought with this is to have the whole parish praying for particular things for the week. I already email to a couple of prayer groups. If you have a prayer group of some sort: let me know and I can email the intention directly.

There is power in prayer and I know many people are not able to participate in parish events/life – praying for my prayer intention is a way of helping the whole parish from wherever you are.

Sanctuary

We received a quote for the sanctuary works which is very reasonable, so we are going ahead with that. Sometime soon we will have this modification in place.

God Bless, Fr Charles

EASTER TIMETABLE 2026

26th March: **Communal Penance Service** at 7.30pm – St Gregory the Great, Doncaster

28/29th March: **Palm Sunday** – Masses as per usual

2nd April: **Holy Thursday** – Mass at 6.00pm

3rd April: **Good Friday** – Stations of the Cross @ 10.00am – St Gregory the Great
– Passion of our Lord @ 3.00pm – St Gregory the Great and St Kevin's

4th April: **Easter Vigil** Masses @ 6.30pm – St Kevin's 8.30pm – St Gregory the Great

5th April: **Easter Sunday** Masses @ 8.30 and 9.15am



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass with Baptisms
Sunday	9.15am	Mass with Baptisms
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



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:

Augusta Gianninni, Eileen Lescai (5th), Betty McClusky, Margaret Lee, Jean Lawrey-York, Peter William Hughes, James Gregory, Margaret Mangan, Tony Fitzsimons and Dennis Berdekovic.

Recently Deceased:

Onofrio Sulfaro

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week:

We pray in thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit transforming lives in our parishes.



Feast Days this week:

17th March St Patrick

Specially honoured in Australia because the many Irish people who came to settle here brought with them the faith and zeal of St Patrick.

19th March St Joseph

A carpenter, though born of the royal house of David, Joseph was an upright man who, as husband of the Virgin Mary, cared for Mary and the child Jesus. St Joseph was obedient to the Father in Heaven, and that obedience deepened his union with Mary his spouse, making their marriage the ideal family for the Son of God.

LITURGY ROSTER

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	Janet Parsons	Kathy Pearce	Maryanne McNamara Lawrence Ceconello
9.15am	Paul Polidano	Marie Arbogast	Liz Polidano Carmel Purdey Tony Robinson

Fifth Sunday of Lent – 21st/22nd March 2026

1st Read: Ezekiel 37: 12-14 2nd Read: Romans 8: 8-11 Gos: John 11: 1-45

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Daniel Marini	Anne Maguire Lawrence Ceconello
9.15am	Tony Byrne	Phil Brooks	Kaye Byrne Lyn Murphy Lyn Robinson



Children's Reconciliation

Our following parish children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week:

Eliana Di Cioccio	Harriett Hall	Xarias Harrison	Jacob Lane	Phoebe Larratt
Rafi North	Luca Pizzo	Sienna Santoro	Ellie Ye	Sidney Warick
Abigail Bousejean	Harvey Russo	Gabriel Barrera	Edward Love	
Valentina Ferlito	Evan Pearce	Elisha Pearce	Billie Opasik	

Let us maintain our prayers for them as they continue to travel along the path of their faith journey.

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



Anders Piotr
and
Miriam Sheerah
Lee
Children of
Richard and Anita

Feast Days and Days of Solemnity

On **Tuesday, 17th March**, we celebrate the **Feast Day of St Patrick**.

Masses will be celebrated on this day at St Kevin's at 9.15am and at St Gregory the Great Church at 7.00pm.

On **Thursday, 19th March**, we celebrate the **Feast Day of St Joseph**.

Masses will be celebrated on this day at St Kevin's at 9.15am and at 12.45pm with the schoolchildren, and St Gregory the Great Church at 7.00pm.

On **Wednesday, 25th March**, we celebrate the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord**.

Masses will be celebrated on this day at St Kevin's at 12.45pm with the schoolchildren and at 7.00pm, and at St Gregory the Great Church at 9.00am.



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.



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 26th March. All are welcome to come to the Church Gathering Space on this morning at 10.30am for a chat, browse through the book swap library and a delicious morning tea! Hope to see you there!!!



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!



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.

Come Away Day

The **Come Away Day program** is a long - time retreat and reflection ministry at Holy Cross. The first **Come Away Day** for 2026 will be held at Holy Cross on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 25th**. The theme of the day is **'CALL TO LIFE ...'**. As we celebrate the Annunciation, reflecting on Mary's YES to the Mystery yet to become known, we have an opportunity to rest, reflect and focus on the deeper meaning and call of our own life journey and how we respond. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. **BYO lunch**. **Registration is from 9.30am**. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around **3pm**. The suggested cost is \$30.00 or a donation according to your means. Registration is helpful for planning purposes. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com . Please put this Date in your Diary and consider inviting a friend along to share the Come Away Day experience this year. Everyone is welcome.

Palm Sunday Walk for the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

This event is in the long tradition of calling for peace and social justice on Palm Sunday.

It will affirm the strength of our multicultural and diverse communities. We all need to feel we belong, be confident that we will be treated fairly, and that our human rights will be respected, by the government, and by other community members. We will also be calling for a fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

1pm: Gather on Princes Bridge with banners and placards

1.30pm: Walk to Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr (near the 'Angel' sculpture) [See map here](#)

2pm - 3.30pm: Main program - speakers, music and stalls at Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr



What is a Synod?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

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

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

A surprising story of God's mysterious designs. The king, the Lord's anointed one, had been chosen by God from among the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem. However, none of Jesse's seven sons is recognised as God's chosen one. But there is one left, the youngest, who is out looking after the sheep. This is David. He is anointed king. God's ways are not ours – God looks at the heart. The text is highly significant because Christ will be born in Bethlehem in the line of King David. It links with the gospel by asking how we 'see' with the heart.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

This is a beautiful and accessible text exploring light and darkness. Associated with this contrast are goodness/right living/truth on the one hand, and futility/ secret/shame on the other. Paul urges us to embrace the light which is Christ shining upon us. In fact, he begins by affirming that the darkness we once were is now dispelled by the light of the Lord. Christ defines our identity – be what you are, says Paul.

The reading is a good introduction to the gospel of the man born blind who comes to see, with its triumphant affirmation on Jesus' part: *I am the light of the world!* As in the first reading, we need to 'see' with the heart: *Try to discover what the Lord wants of you...*

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

International Womens' Day - Month? Year? Future?- and Signs of the Times

The great collective outcome so far from the 'Synod on Synodality', the prior 5th Australian Plenary Council, and Vatican II (1962-1965) is wonderfully reflected in our uplifting weekly Mass 'Prayer for a synodal Church', which links all three to ongoing church renewal for the times in which we live.

On 10 March The Vatican published the Final Report of Synod Study Group 5 established by Pope Francis on the role of women in the Church. It traces historical contributions of women to the church, testimonies from women in church leadership, theological debates about church authority, and the contributions Popes Francis and Leo XIV have made to promote the role of women in the Church. Among much else the report says that the church must move beyond a view of women limited to certain characteristics "such as motherhood, tenderness or care" that can "leave little room for other equally important feminine qualities such as leadership, counsel, the capacity for teaching, listening and discernment". The opportunity now exists for us to consider this in ongoing conversations. (includes edited extracts from NCR) - **John Costa SJA**



Fourth Sunday of Lent
14-15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



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.