



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

Telephone: 9850 5983

Email: templestowe@cam.org.au

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 of Lent

21st/22nd March, 2026

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words from the desk of our PP...

Penitential Service:

March 26th at 7:30 pm. At St Greg's.

Communal Prayer and Reflection, Examination of Conscience and Sorrow.

With individual absolution available at the end.

Please! Come along and spend a few moments with Jesus as Holy Week approaches. Take this moment to sit with Jesus; with an open heart, offering ourselves to share in his suffering.

Holy Week:

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – and begins our celebration of Holy Week. The calendar of services is up on the notice board and on our website and has been in our bulletin. Please ... clear your Thursday night; Friday afternoon; and Saturday evening or Sunday morning to be part of the full three-day span of our celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

St Charles Borromeo and related matters:

It is now a year since the sad moment of closure of St Charles Borromeo School, so it seems opportune to provide an update.

A process is currently nearing completion whereby the St Charles Borromeo School site will be handed back from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools management, into the control of St Kevin's Parish. Current estimates place the handover at around about Easter.

Alongside the handover process is preparation of a marketing campaign to identify the best possible use of the site for the future. That process will start in earnest after the handover happens. While we have had some enquiries about different uses for the property, there have been no decisions made about lease or sale or type of future use for the site.

I have been made aware of concerns that the closure of St Charles Borromeo School might raise concerns about other schools and even about the parishes of the area. The reality is that both the St Kevin's and St Greg's parishes and their associated schools are robust. There are no concerns about the viability of St Kevin's Templestowe Lower Parish or School, and there are no concerns about the viability of St Gregory the Great Doncaster Parish or school.

Bulleen:

You may have heard that last weekend Fr Mark Reynolds announced his retirement as Parish Priest from St Clement of Rome, Bulleen. He is in our prayers as he enters a new phase of his priestly life. There will now be a process undertaken by the archdiocese to seek a new parish priest.

Sanctuary:

Work will start this week (we hope) to add a single step to the front of the sanctuary to raise the altar and make it more central.

Work to modify the original altar will also start soon. There should be no major interruptions to our use of the Church, though our morning Masses may need to be celebrated in the chapel or off to one side of the Church space.

God Bless, Fr Charles

Feast Days and Days of Solemnity

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.



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
	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, Charles and Joan & Don Tynan.

Anniversaries:

Tanya Balnaves, Sandra Izard, Joseph Teo, Rebecca Milic (1st) and members of the Teo, Klaassen, De Silva, Westerhout, Reutens and Scully Families.

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For each of us who constitute the Parishes of St Greg's and St Kevin's: that we, together with our communities, will become ever more a people who invites others to come to know Jesus.



Feast Days this week:...

25th March

The Annunciation of the Lord

This feast originated in the East during the sixth century and gained universal observance in the West during the eighth century. It is a feast of the Lord, commemorating the announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Word made flesh, Mary's acceptance of God's will and the conception of Christ nine months before Christmas. Its occurrence close to Easter links the incarnation with the whole mystery of human redemption in Christ.

LITURGY ROSTER

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

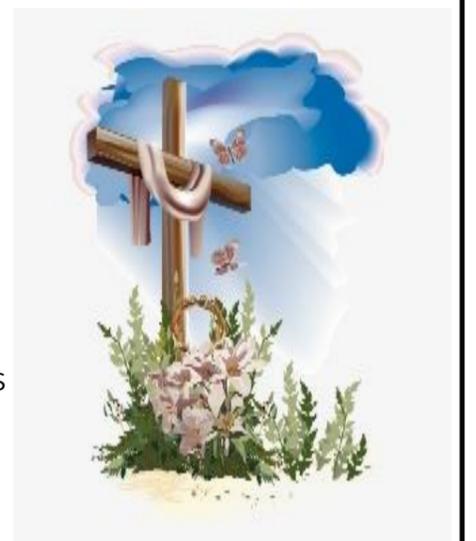
Palm Sunday – 28/29th March 2026

1st Read: Isaiah 50: 4-7 2nd Read: Philippians 2: 6-11 Gos: Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Tasha Vercauteren	Bredenia Raquel Anne Maguire
9.15am	Pauline Erickson	Tiziana D'Costa	Adrian Teo Penny Teo Liz Polidano

EASTER TIMETABLE 2026

26 th March:	Communal Penance Service at 7.30pm – St Gregory the Great, Doncaster	
28/29 th March:	Palm Sunday – Masses as per usual	
2 nd April:	Holy Thursday – Mass at 6.00pm	
3 rd April:	Good Friday – Stations of the Cross @ at 10.00am – St Gregory the Great – Passion of our Lord @ 3.00pm – St Gregory the Great and St Kevin's	
4 th April:	Easter Vigil	Masses @ 6.30pm – St Kevin's 8.30pm – St Gregory the Great
5 th April:	Easter Sunday Mass @ 9.15am	



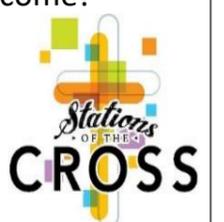
Come and Join Our Weekly Lenten Reflection Group

Do you want to be more intentional about your Lent journey this year?

Come along to our final Lent Discussion and Reflection Group where 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!

Our final Stations of the Cross will be conducted this Tuesday morning after the 9.15am Mass.





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!!!

Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Tuesday, 31st March @ 10.00am

As both Frs Charles and Anton will be attending this important Mass at the Cathedral, neither of them will be available to celebrate Mass at St Kevin's on this morning.

However, Ana will be offering a Service of the Word with Communion at 9.15am on this day. All welcome.



Attention All Mass Volunteers

The groundwork has started for the next 6 month Mass roster. We welcome anyone to join the team in any capacity, ie as lector, commentator or Eucharist minister. We are particularly in need of more Eucharist ministers for Saturdays at 5.30pm. Can you help or do you have a family member who would like to help? If it aids your circumstance, please nominate your exact dates of availability. Full training will be given for all of the ministries. Please call Pauline Erickson on 0407 824 638 or ring the Parish office or speak to a volunteer after Mass.

A Note From the Archbishop of Melbourne Regarding Restoration Works at the Cathedral – Rev Peter A Comensoli

“On the Feast of St Patrick, I shared this year’s Patrick Oration for the Archdiocese of Melbourne outlining an important new vision: **Light into the City**. It was delightful to meet those who were able to attend the Mass and Event at the Cathedral. Thank you!

The 5–10-year *Light into the City* initiative will renew St Patrick’s Cathedral and reimagine its precinct as the spiritual heart of Melbourne. For more than 125 years, the Cathedral has been a place of prayer, encounter, and belonging for generations of Catholics. It is also a treasured landmark for our wider community.

Light into the City will help ensure this sacred place continues to shine as a beacon of faith, hope and welcome for all who come to the heart of our city. I am grateful to those who have already offered their support, and I encourage you all to be part of this renewal whether as individuals, families – or as community and parish groups.

To find out more please visit: www.lightintothecity.org.au In the months ahead, we will share updates on the restoration works on the Cathedral and further plans for the precinct - along with ways you can stay involved.

I warmly invite you to be part of this shared investment in our faith, our heritage, and the future of Melbourne.

You can **read** the full Oration here: [Patrick Oration 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](#); **watch** the campaign launch video; <https://youtu.be/sW-1nPxcyL8>; and, **explore** stories that bring this vision to life: [‘Something luminous’: Archbishop launches vision... | Melbourne Catholic](#) “

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 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?

The word *Synod* comes from the Greek, *syn-hodos*, meaning “walking together on the road”. This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

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

With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, have mercy.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

This is the end of Ezekiel's famous vision of a valley of dry bones that grow with sinew, flesh and skin and come to life by the breath of God. It is a powerful oracle that promises new life and hope for a people in exile.

Truncated it may be, but this short reading gives us strong words for introducing the story of Lazarus. These words the climax: *I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live!*

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

This is not an easy reading and we have only one chance to hear it!

The first half seems to start in an abstract way with talk of 'unspiritual' and 'spiritual'. But Paul intends this in quite a specific way – he means recognising that the Holy Spirit lives in us.

The second half is one long, dense sentence. We are saved from our sinful mortal bodies by the Spirit living in us. This is none other than the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. It is the Holy Spirit who is the source of our life in Christ.

The message is positive. It celebrates the gift of the Spirit and the life the Spirit brings.

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

Personal Wealth & Power amidst Social inequality and disempowerment! Healthy World Trade, or growing Exclusion?

Increasingly visible amidst population growth, declining resources, inevitable but life-changing technologies, and increasing life expectancy, it's now much harder in the challenging, fast-changing, and more competitive world to balance conflicting needs, shared welfare, and essential world-trade. There's now disturbing distinction between 'doing deals' for personal satisfaction and enrichment, and sharing resources and minimising suffering, disadvantage and dislocation. Whilst the clock can't be turned back, nor should we expect that, attempting in even small ways to achieve greater equality for all regardless of culture, gender, religion, belief system or none, is actually possible, and part of our faith.

Apart from helpful localised Parish pastoral, social justice and spiritual activities, one of the things our parishioners do particularly well is directly contribute financially to those in immediate need. Consequently we continue to receive highly appreciative letters for 2nd Collection contributors, clearly outlining what donations are used for. Examples late last year include \$2, 539 for the Archbishop's Campaign, and over the December/January period \$450 for Opening The Doors Foundation (helping Koori kids pursue a Catholic education of their Choice), \$4,342.9 Loyo Elementary School in the Philippines, and Special Parish Needs \$889.40 - **John Costa SJA**



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fifth Sunday of Lent
21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



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.