



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

Palm Sunday

28/29th March, 2026

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from the desk of our PP...

Holy Week:

A busy week coming up – a glorious week – please join us for all of the services from the Last Supper / Washing of the Feet through to the Resurrection.

It has taken a lot of work for a lot of people to prepare – please, keep all the volunteers in our parish in your prayers.

Baptism/Confirmation – of 'The Elect':

With links to both parishes, we have James and Sok who will be received, baptised, confirmed during the Easter Vigil at St Greg's.

We also now have about six people who have expressed an interest for the next journey into faith leading to baptism at Easter in 2027.

Please – keep all these people in your prayers.

Joint Parishes Assembly:

At the instigation of both Parish Pastoral Councils, a small group of myself with John and Gerard and Peter and Sauro has now met four times to discuss how we might help bring 'The Synodal Way' into a clearer light. We are particularly thinking of a Parishes Assembly – both parishes meeting for a few hours to develop some meaningful ways forwards for our parishes and to do so using a 'synodal' way of discussing and praying.

We're not sure of the details yet but are progressing on the way – we don't want a 'talk fest' but a useful gathering that begins us on the first steps of understanding what it means to live and work in a synodal way.

Tentative date: The evening of May 21st with dinner included – at a nice venue.

Please put aside the date and time. We'll help with transport if needed.

Sanctuary:

You will see the new sanctuary ready for use and the changed altar. More opportunity to be around the table together and more able to participate fully, actively and consciously. I pray you find the change as beneficial as I hope and pray it will be – adding an additional depth of togetherness and capacity for participation for us.

The Holy Spirit is Moving:

It was obvious on Wednesday evening as the team leading Alpha discussed the end of the current experience and the plans for the next one (August to October) we think.

We had a dozen people we think would be interested in joining to help lead Alpha in future. Not sure yet. But if that pans out we begin to have extra people to help lead other things.

Along side Alpha I've had two suggestions of ways to engage further with our faith.

A Day with the Holy Spirit – tentatively set for 23rd May – a day to hear about the Holy Spirit, to pray with the Holy Spirit, to be filled with the Holy Spirit – open to everyone St Greg's and St Kevin's at least and probably more parishes.

And we've already had the 5 pm Mass at St Greg's once a month taken up by the youth and young adults from across both parishes providing all the music, singing, readers, and so forth for the Mass (with attendance up at over 200 each time so far). And new musicians at St Kevin's bringing an additional dimension to our liturgies with their voices, flute and guitar.

The Holy Spirit is busy! Jesus is alive! Be ready to be surprised.

God Bless, Fr Charles



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
Holy Thursday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Lenten Reflection in the Chapel
	6.00pm	Holy Thursday Mass
Good Friday	10.00am	Stations of the Cross at St Greg's
	3.00pm	Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday	6.30pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday	9.15am	Easter Morning 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, Joan & Don Tynan and Lorraine Gibson.

Anniversaries:

Diane Hubbard, Mary Collins, Greg Ireland, Denise Rogers, Tyson Maffei, Mary Borg, Ennio Andrea Raiola, Fr Ernie Smith, Tanya Balnaves and Jane Balnaves.

Recently Deceased:

Yvonne Gray and Belinda Maniscalco

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For those who have just completed the Alpha Experience: that their experience will fire them from within to grow more and more deeply in love with Jesus and willing to accept the Holy Spirit.



Feast Days this week:...

3rd April Good Friday

Today is the day of the Crucifixion. The Church is in mourning, for it is the anniversary of the death of Christ. But this is not a funeral service. The powerful note of hope sounds through it all – hope in the Resurrection and in eternal life won through the cross of Christ. He died that we might live.

4th April Easter Vigil

In accord with ancient tradition, this night is one of vigil for the Lord. It begins with a brief service of light and ends with the whole Church being called to the table which the Lord prepared for his people through his death and resurrection.

LITURGY ROSTER

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 Sunday Weekend – 4/5th April 2026

1st Read: Acts 10: 34, 37-43 2nd Read: Colossians 3: 1-4 Gos: John 20: 1-9

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
6.30pm	Tasha Vercauteren	Tony Byrne Margaret Turner Kathy Pearce	Bredenia Raquel Tony Robinson Lawrence Ceconello
9.15am	Frances Johnson	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Adrian Teo Penny Teo Raffaella Dinelli

EASTER TIMETABLE 2026

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 @ 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



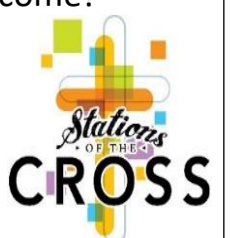
Come and Join Our Weekly Lenten Reflection Group

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.



An Easter Vigil celebration supper will take place on Saturday, 4th April directly after the Vigil Mass at 6.30pm.

All are invited and welcome to attend.

Please bring a plate to share.



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 9th April. All are welcome to come to the Church Gathering Space on this morning at 10.00am for a chat, browse through the book swap library and a delicious morning tea! Hope to see you there!!!



Our weekly Meditation Session is taking a break next week (Holy Week) and will resume in two weeks' time on Wednesday, 15th April @ 9.30am on Zoom.

All are welcome.


YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU

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.

Copies of **Melbourne Catholic Digest** are freely available for you to take home from the table in the Gathering Space. It is published by the Archdiocesan Communications Office and features a selection of stories from around the Archdiocese.



HOLY LAND COMMISSARIAT

HOLY LAND COLLECTION – GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3rd 2026

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 3rd. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres through the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the Covid pandemic, the war in Gaza and now the war with Iran, recent years have been and continue to be extremely difficult for the Church and people of the Holy Land with much reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and visitors. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.7 million through the Good Friday Collection, a wonderful effort that went a long way to assist the Church of the Holy Land. And so, we again urge Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.



A Prayer for Holy Week

Holy God,
lover of our souls,
we come before you as people created by and for love:
Gather us in this time to hear again your word of love,
to renew our trust in its breadth and depth.
In the sacrifice of your love for us,
may we find renewal and be your love in the world.
Amen.

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)

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



Synodality is not new

Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue and trust in the Holy Spirit.

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

My God, my God,
O why have you abandoned me?

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF PALM SUNDAY

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

Being a prophet is not easy. Often their challenging message led to rejection and persecution. Isaiah speaks of such a Suffering Servant who nevertheless remains steadfast in his God-given mission. This is part of Isaiah's third Servant Song. The fourth and most powerful of the Servant Songs will be read on Good Friday.

Messianic expectation awaited a leader who would come with power and glory, but Jesus came to see his messianic role through the lens of suffering. The gospels use Isaiah's Servant Songs to speak of Christ's work of reconciliation.

The Servant listens to God's word and thus knows what to say. This gives him the confidence to accept persecution and insult – he knows he has the help of the Lord.

Listeners will no doubt have Christ in mind as they hear this text.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

Let the same mind be in you as was also in Jesus Christ, writes Paul. Then, to illustrate what this means, he quotes this hymn. He is urging the Philippians to avoid rivalry and vanity, to consider others first, and to preserve unity in humility. We humble ourselves; God exalts us.

These dense poetic lines sum up the entire mystery of the Cross which we celebrate at Easter: the death which is also resurrection, the humility which is also glorification. Christ the universal king reigns from the throne of the cross.

Listeners should hear the contrast between the first half and the second. The first half is with quiet awe and respect; the second half with joyous and energetic acclamation.

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Social Justice Action St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

Palm Sunday, time for reflection on a disempowering world for the majority - and how to respond

Last Monday evening ABC TV sequentially screened two powerful but dramatically contrasting programs. They effectively highlighted opposite approaches to life, humanity, values and behaviour. Contrasting love with hate, hope with hopelessness, honesty with corruption, and exploitation of the majority through wealth and power of a few. They highlighted the social consequences of power imbalance, effectively hinting at ways this might be overcome. ABC TV Australian Story "What Doesn't Kill you" featured the triumph of human will, hope, faith, human values, through perseverance over unimaginable medical and psychological challenge. In contrast the following (excellent) Four Corners episode highlighted obsession, at whatever cost, with falsely presumed global power, inflated ego, greed, and total self-interest to achieve extreme wealth and power, at high social cost to all others.

The St Paul's 2026 'God's Word Daily Reflections' for Palm Sunday helpfully suggests "In reality, we often compound and multiply our sufferings by resistance to what is really beyond our control." However what we can all do, and are obliged to by our faith, and guidance from Catholic Social Justice values, is to be prepared to courageously and openly call out injustice, deception, exploitation and insensitivity to those in need. On this Sunday you are also invited to join SJA at the annual Palm Sunday Walk for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker's project, starting at 1:30pm on the park side of Princes Bridge just beyond Flinders St Station. - **John Costa SJA**

PROJECT COMPASSION LENTEN PRAYER



God of all love,
We remember that on the night before
he died
Your son, Jesus, prayed
that his friends 'may all be one.'
Yet we see so much division in the world.
War, conflict, violence and hatred
must all distress you.
Millions of people suffer
when they don't have peace and respect.
They lack the necessities of life: food, water,
health, education and security.
We pray that we may all
Unite Against Poverty this Lent.
May our support for **Project Compassion**
be a sign to ourselves and others,
of our hope for a better world.
This Lent, we pray that our dedication to
prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help
restore your vision of justice and peace.



Guided by the Holy Spirit,
we pray in Jesus' name,

Amen.