



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

Second Sunday of Easter

11/12th April, 2026

Divine Mercy Sunday

Baptism Presentation Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from the desk of our PP...

Holy Week – Easter – Resurrection – New Life: Hallelujah!!!:

Holy Week! Palm Sunday / Last Supper / Passion / Vigil / Resurrection

Went Amazingly well.

Excellent in all aspects.

Marvellous.

Wonderful.

Joyful.

Deep.

Mystical.

Crowded/Full.

Prayerful.

Spiritual.

Full of life / appropriately solemn.

Some of the words or phrases people have used to describe to me their experience of Holy Week. The celebration of our salvation in Jesus Christ the Nazarene never gets old. It is always fresh and there is always something new to be learned.

Numbers don't capture faith – but across our two parishes we had about 3800 people attend across the whole week's services, roughly the same as last year. A full church for the Solemn Celebration of the Passion and again for the Easter Vigil and main Easter Morning Mass.

When the time comes for us to turn up and witness to our faith in the Lord, we come – you come.

Thank you to those who helped with all the ministries across the week, and thank you who came and helped bring the various Masses / services to life with your presence, your voices, your prayer, your joy.

43 more days of the Easter Season till we get to Pentecost: another vital moment in our growth as the Church that Jesus Christ loves.

Sanctuary and Altar and Church Layout

The new arrangement of the sanctuary with the refurbished St Kevin's Altar was very well received, if the comments to me over the Easter Triduum services were anything to go by. There are a few things we need to do including replacing the carpet and tidying up some details. We will replace the carpet because while we thought we might be able to get by with using what we had, it is not staying down properly so may become a trip hazard.

God Bless, Fr Charles

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI REGARDING DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a time which emphasises the merciful love and forgiveness of God through the death, resurrection and ongoing presence of Christ in the Eucharist. I encourage you all to make good use of this grace-filled time.

I invite you to go to Confession within two weeks of Divine Mercy Sunday and to receive Holy Communion on the day itself. This offers a fitting opportunity to fulfil the Easter duty and to receive the plenary indulgence granted by the Church on that day, under the usual conditions.

Divine Mercy Sunday continues to be a powerful moment of renewal for many of our people. All are invited, particularly those who may have been away from the Sacrament of Penance for some time, and can deepen the devotion of those who are already faithful."

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism Presentation Mass
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	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
Friday	9.30am	Adoration at St Gregory the Great Church
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Mass



We pray for Better Health:

Vin Natoli, Bob Ulehla, Dot Sharkey, Shirley Loo, Lianny Susanto, Jewly Wylie, Julie-Anne Oldfield, Dylan, Shane, Lyn Murphy, Rose Marie Cameron, Peter Zeantti, Tony Whelan, Charles, Joan & Don Tynan, Lorraine Gibson, Ana Saro, Peter Ryan and Flavia Gazzi.

Anniversaries:

Kathleen Veronica McNamara, Mardi Doyle and Wei Qiao Wang.

Recently Deceased:

Fergus Ryan

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: We praise the Lord and give thanks for the great grace of Holy Week and the deep joy that our Celebration of the Resurrection has brought into our lives.



Feast Days this week:...

13th April St Martin I, Pope
Pope Martin I's legacy is marked by his unwavering defense of the truth about Christ's nature and wills. His papacy was at a time of great turmoil in the Church. Martin expressed bold actions, such as upholding the orthodox teaching of the Church. His courage and faith earned him the title of martyr, and he is remembered for his steadfastness in defending the Church's doctrine. Pope Martin I's legacy continues to inspire Catholics around the world, reminding them of the importance of fidelity to truth and the Church's role in preserving the deposit of faith.

LITURGY ROSTER

Second Sunday of Easter – 11/12th April 2026

1st Read: Acts 2: 42-47 2nd Read: 1 Peter 1: 3-9 Gos: John 20: 19-31

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Tasha Vercauteren	Lynne O'Brien Anne Maguire
9.15am	Julie O'Donnell	Liz O'Connell	Frances Bettiol Raffaella Dinelli Mary Waddick

Third Sunday of Easter – 18/19th April 2026

1st Read: Acts 2: 14, 22-23 2nd Read: 1 Peter 1: 17-21 Gos: Luke 23: 13-35

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Pauline Erickson	Margaret Turner	Lawrence Ceconello Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Paul Polidano	Anzac Veteran	Kaye Byrne Lyn Murphy Adrian Teo

'The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent,' Pope says in Easter peace message

Speaking from the loggia of St Peter's Basilica on Easter, Pope Leo XIV delivered a passionate appeal for peace, declaring that the power of the risen Christ is 'entirely nonviolent' and calling on world leaders to lay down their weapons and choose dialogue over domination. The address came moments after the Pope offered Easter Mass in St Peter's Square with more than 50,000 people present and preceded his solemn blessing, *urbi et orbi*, meaning 'to the city and to the world', in which the Pope offers an indulgence to Catholics around the world who receive the blessing with the proper dispositions.

'In the light of Easter, let us allow ourselves to be amazed by Christ! Let us allow our hearts to be transformed by his immense love for us! Let those who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!' Pope Leo said on 5 April.

The Pope repeated the word peace 13 times in his address, underlining that the peace the risen Christ offers 'is not merely the silence of weapons, but the peace that touches and transforms the heart of each one of us.

'Let us allow ourselves to be transformed by the peace of Christ!

Let us make heard the cry for peace that springs from our hearts!'

In a surprise announcement, Pope Leo revealed he will host a prayer vigil for peace in St Peter's Basilica on Saturday 11 April.

At the heart of his message was a meditation on the nature of Christ's power in the resurrection, which he contrasted with the violence that marks the modern world.

'The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent,' Pope Leo said.

That strength, the Pope added, 'is God himself, for he is Love who creates and generates, Love who is faithful to the end and Love who forgives and redeems.'

'On this day of celebration, let us abandon every desire for conflict, domination and power, and implore the Lord to grant his peace to a world ravaged by wars and marked by a hatred and indifference that make us feel powerless in the face of evil. To the Lord we entrust all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give,' he said.





BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 23rd 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!



Our weekly Meditation Session will resume on Wednesday, 15th April @ 9.30am on Zoom. All are welcome.

A huge THANK YOU

to our hard-working hospitality team who prepared a lovely Easter Supper celebration for us all to enjoy after the Easter Vigil Mass. It was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to celebrate together the true meaning of Easter.

Happy Easter!



ANZAC



**Catholic Church
Commemoration service**

**Sunday 19th April 2026 @ 9.15am
at St Kevin's Templestowe**

All welcome to this special Mass service.
Followed by morning tea. **Lest We Forget!**

Baptism Welcome

Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

This weekend we welcome:

Charles and Bibienne

who will be introducing

Cheryl Tran

to our Parish Community in preparation for her Baptism in a few weeks' time.



STOP FIXING, START LISTENING!

Grab a cuppa after Mass on **Sunday 26th April**, and meet us in the Chapel where we will be holding a **discussion group** for some tips on the art of **active listening without judgement**. It will be conducted by our **Mental Health First Aiders**—Ana and Charlotte.

All welcome.

No charge.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

An email has been sent to all Mass volunteers asking for dates of known unavailability from 1st May till 30th November 2026. If you haven't done so already, please reply to that email as soon as possible. Do you want a change of role? Could you also help at 5.30pm? Do you know anyone who would like to join our team? Any specific requests or details can be added to the reply email. Any questions...you can always ring Pauline Erickson on 0407

Little Kev's Playgroup



is currently on term break and will recommence on Monday, 20th April.

Little Kev's Playgroup operates every Monday morning in our Gathering Space.

Doors open from 8.30am.

For ages 0-5 years Registration required \$5.00 entry

Connect with other parents and bring your little one for nursery rhymes, sensory play, books and more!

Contact Ana in the parish office for more information



Why listening matters in the Church

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom.

For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School

Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

This is the first of three pen pictures of the early Church given in the Acts of the Apostles. The community is harmonious and happy, but the account is probably not quite historical. It presents a lyrical ideal to which they and we can all aspire.

'Brotherhood' is a translation of the Greek 'koinonia' which can also be read as 'fellowship' or 'communal life'. The Christians' common life was centred on preaching the word and the eucharistic breaking of bread. It is impressive to imagine how they shared their possessions and food according to need and, moreover, did so gladly and generously.

At this early stage, the community still saw themselves as a group within Judaism, going daily to the Temple. The Eucharist, however, was celebrated in their homes, in the context of a shared meal.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

This letter of Peter praises God for the great blessing of our baptismal rebirth through which we share the hope and promise of Christ's resurrection. Peter acknowledges that it may be difficult to live our baptismal faith in an unsympathetic environment; our faith is tested and purified like gold in a furnace. But it is our baptismal faith which enables us to look forward with hope of salvation.

There are some long and complex sentences. However, it is worth listening intently for the beautiful poetic description of faith which comes towards the end: *You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described because you believe!* The newly baptised will surely know this experience. *Taken from 'Break Open the Word'*



Craft Stall: Our friends, the nuns from St Elisabeth Convent, are once again holding a Craft Stall in our Gathering Space after Mass on Tuesday, 28th April.

Come along and see for yourself the beautiful and bespoke arts and crafts handmade by the locals in Belarus.

Be prepared to indulge yourself or friends/family with some unique gifts, and marvel at the skills and talents of people in different parts of our world.



Pope Leo XIV called on every parish and Church group or association to become part of a 'revolution' of care and gratitude by regularly visiting older people.

'Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are,' the Pope wrote in his message for World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, a Church celebration that will take place in July.

'In this case, it urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled,' he has written.

The Pope's message expanded on the theme chosen for last year's world day, which was taken from the Book of Sirach: 'Blessed are those who have not lost hope.'

The 2026 celebration marks the Sixth edition of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Pope Francis instituted the world day in 2021; it is observed each year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Ss Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

In his message, Pope Leo said it is a time of liberation from injustice and inequality, which is also an appropriate time for all the faithful to help older people 'experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment'.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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