



# 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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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



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Baptism Weekend

Anzac Day Weekend

Good Shepherd Sunday



25/26<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

**Our Presider today is:** Fr Charles Balnaves

## Words from the desk of our PP...

### Confirmation:

Please keep our children from our two schools and catechist groups in your prayers – along with Vicki and Lil and Ana and Margaret. Preparation for Confirmation has started in earnest: our children need our prayers to help them discern a Confirmation Name/Saint and choose a sponsor.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon, we will have Bishop Les Tomlinson join us for Mass (12:30pm St Kevin's; 3:00pm St Greg's) to provide the Sacrament of Confirmation for our children who are candidates this year.

When I studied Confirmation I wrote an essay that got very good marks – but not a high distinction. Why? I never mentioned the fact that the core of this sacrament is that we become filled with the Holy Spirit. I spoke about the seven gifts and the nine (or twelve) fruits and that it has an element of taking responsibility for one's own faith journey and that it has an element of growing up.

But ... not once ... did I mention the core of Pentecost (Acts 2:4) "They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves."

The Holy Spirit filling us is at the heart of Pentecost and is core to every day of our lives after we are Confirmed.

Please, keep our candidates in your prayers over the coming weeks leading to Pentecost and their Confirmation. Please keep everyone in our community in your prayers – asking that each of us will be, as the disciples were at Pentecost "filled with the Holy Spirit."

### Columbarium:

As we seek council planning permission for a columbarium in which to keep the cremated remains of parishioners, there is a suggestion that a different site might be a good idea (less visible from the road / by neighbours).

Three suggestions have been made as alternatives to using the wall opposite our memorial plaques. One is to make use of the old car port, up behind the Parish House. Another is to move inside and use one of the walls of the Chapel space. The third is to cut back into the rock face a little, next to the steps up to the parish house and build the columbarium there.

What thoughts do you have on the matter? Please let David or the Office know your thoughts.

**God Bless, Fr Charles**

## Permanent Diaconate Information Session 2 May 2026

The annual May information session has been scheduled. The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and the 50s, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service. The information session is open to **everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate**. If you have attended any previous sessions, you are also welcome to attend this session. It is an opportunity to further discern your vocation. Wives most welcome.

The session will be on Saturday morning, 2<sup>nd</sup> May and will be in person. If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison

[Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au](mailto:Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au) with full name and parish, but **if you forget, then just turn up** on Saturday morning. All are welcome.

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism Mass
Monday	8.30am	Little Kev's Playgroup
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	Anzac Day 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, Peter Ryan, Flavia Gazzi and Orlando Frigo.

## Anniversaries:

Domenico Iracono, Maria Iacono, Kevin Steven Cheng Su Kong, Maria Mandile, Roberto Milanese, Anthony Smyth, Gonzalo Seno, José Enrico Seno, Nady Botrous and Jim McGill.

## Recently Deceased:

Carlo Calzavara (in Italy).

**Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week:** For our parishes as we journey towards Pentecost: that our hearts will be open to the Fire of the Holy Spirit.



## Feast Days this week:...

**28<sup>th</sup> April** St Peter Chanel  
*Honoured as the first martyr of the Church in Oceania.*

**29<sup>th</sup> April** St Catherine of Siena  
*Remembered for her holiness and determination and though she never learned to write, for the quality of her teachings. Remembered as a mystic and a reformer of religious life.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> May** St Athanasius  
*Sent into exile a number of times. Venerated as the 'Father of Orthodoxy' for championing the true and equal divinity of the incarnate Son of God.*

## Fourth Sunday of Easter – 25/26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Acts 2: 14, 36-41 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: 1 Peter 1: 20-25 Gos: John 10: 1-10**

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Kathy Pearce	Lynne O'Brien Anne Maguire
9.15am	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Miriam Ayoub	Lyn Robinson Liz Polidano Carmel Purdey

## Fifth Sunday of Easter – 18/19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Acts 6: 1-7 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: 1 Peter 2: 4-9 Gos: Luke 14: 1-12**

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Fiona Watson	Bredenia Raquel	Lawrence Ceconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Tony Byrne	Marie Arbogast	Frances Bettiol Kaye Byrne Adrian Teo

## ANZAC Day 2026



This national day of remembrance marks the anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli, Turkey, on 25 April 1915.

Let us stop, reflect and remember those who have served and lost their lives in wars and conflicts around the world.

## Social Justice Action St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

**St Kevin's Social Justice Action Group in conjunction with CatholicCare Victoria will conduct a WINTER COAT DRIVE during the month of May.**

We are collecting warm, clean coats, jackets, beanies and wool blankets (not quilts) for refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable people.

There will be a collection basket in the Gathering Space during May. We thank you in anticipation of your support.

## BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. 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!



## 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.





The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May @ 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](mailto:templestowe@cam.org.au)

### Good Shepherd Sunday 2026



Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Leo tells us:

*Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25: 14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ.*

Let us pray for the young people in our community and in our families and circle of friends May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

#### A Vocation View

On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Pray!

#### A Prayer Request

You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday and place them on the altar at the offertory. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations.



### CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August).

CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action - empowering children and young people, strengthening families and individuals, providing safe housing and homelessness assistance, and supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au), call (03) 9967 2515 or scan the QR Code below.



All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

*"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)*



### Attention all Mass volunteers.

By now you should have received by email, your dates and other information for the new roster beginning the first weekend in May. Please diarise those dates so that you know well ahead of time in order to arrange a swap if needed. If you haven't received your email, please contact Pauline on 0407 824 638.



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

**Cheryl Tran**

Daughter of Charles and Bibienne

### We're counting on you:

#### National Count of Attendance turns 25



The Catholic Church in Australia is gearing up for a nationwide measure of Mass attendance as the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's National Centre for Pastoral Research prepares to conduct the sixth National Count of Attendance in May. This year's count marks 25 years of collecting valuable insights into long-term trends within the Catholic Church.

Centre director Dr Trudy Dantis urges all parishes and dioceses to take part in the count, to be conducted over the first four consecutive Sundays (and Saturday evenings) in May.

Mass attendance is perhaps the most basic measure of religious practice,' Dr Dantis says.

'Most dioceses conduct counts of attenders, but not every diocese does it with the same frequency, in the same way or at the same time.

'The National Count is conducted in the same year as the Australian Census (to be held on 11 August) so that the information collected can most effectively be used in association with results from the other project.'

As occurred at the previous count in 2021, parishes will be asked to provide estimates of the age and sex of attendees and to report the number of online 'views' for streamed Masses or other Sunday assemblies.

According to the 2021 National Count, about 8.2 per cent of Australia's Catholic population, or 417,300 people, attended Mass on a typical weekend in May.

Most of those attended Mass in a parish, but the figure also included people attending Mass in non-parish centres, such as migrant centres, hospitals, jails and boarding schools, and some who attended an assembly in the absence of a priest.

Counting over four Sundays ensures that fortnightly and monthly Masses are not overlooked.



### Synodality and Bishops

Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

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 EASTER

#### First Reading

##### Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

Last week we heard Peter's vigorous Pentecost sermon to the very people who had condemned Christ. This week we see what effect it had on them. They were deeply moved and ask what they should do.

Peter replies: turn back, receive baptism to join yourselves to Christ, and be open to the gift of the Spirit. He explains all this at some length, and they are convinced. They embrace Christ and become the nucleus of the earliest Christian community.

The listener should try to capture the energy of the first Pentecost day. The text offers many possibilities in its dialogue and strong phrases. This passage's task is to stir the hearts of the today's liturgical assembly and to open up for the listeners the promise of the Spirit.

#### Second Reading

##### 1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

It is surprising to have a reading in the Easter season that focusses so much on Jesus' suffering. In fact, most of the text is a paraphrase of Isaiah 53:5-12 which we read on Good Friday – it is the Song of the Suffering Servant. It is even more astonishing if we realise that Peter is talking about slaves who are unjustly punished by their masters. For us, the reading has a broader significance. At one time or another, life is unfair for us all. The innocent suffer; punishment is sometimes unjust. The key is to identify with Christ. In sharing his suffering, we will also share his glorification. So, by his wounds we are healed.

The reason for reading this passage today however is undoubtedly because of the final sentence. 'Gone astray like sheep' quotes Isaiah, but then Peter adds: 'the shepherd and guardian of your souls'. This is the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. *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, 28<sup>th</sup> 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.