



# 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](mailto:templestowe@cam.org.au)

Website: [stkevinsparish.org.au](http://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

Easter Sunday

4/5<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

**Our Presider today is:** Fr Charles Balnaves (Easter Vigil), Fr Anton Aseervathampillai (Easter Morning)

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

#### **Easter:**

"He is risen."



This year I have been more busy than even is normal for me at this time of year and I have a mild cold clogging my head as I approach Easter and the world is in terrible turmoil and warfare, and Easter is feeling small – understated – like those first three words above.

But looking again. Looking into myself and looking out at you and reflecting on this Lenten Season my heart, my soul, my spirit, *swells*.

I think of the Melbourne Octet who accompanied me and several young people in praying the Stations of the Cross with close to 300 people – on a Friday night of all silly times! And I think of the Penitential Service with roughly 80 people – the reverence of the gathering and the absolute depth of concern about substantial matters in their faith in those who came. And I think of the effort required to get ready for Holy Week and especially the Three Days, the Triduum. Collecting and placing palms; preparing music; practicing hymns; preparing bottles of water for blessing at Easter; working till mid-night or 2:30 am to get church modifications in place in time; hours and hours spent working through the details of the ceremonies and preparing the PPT's. I think of nine hundred people across our parishes who came to Palm Sunday of the Passion of Lord. And all the work that has gone to provide Alpha and the Playgroup and the Meditation Group and the Lunar New Year and the Volunteers events and various social events ... and ... there is more ...

What I know from these things is that it is easy to become blinkered by 'my' situation and lose sight of great truth that **HE IS RISEN!!!**

**HALLELUJAH!** God's great works ARE happening in our local churches and communities and families. All is not perfect, of course, but you are wonderful in your faith. Please keep it up. Keep seeking to become an even more intentional disciple, who helps the poor, worships with full, conscious and active participation, and seek to go out and invite people to come and see and perhaps become disciples. **Hallelujah Hallelujah – HE IS RISEN!**

Thank you ... for all the preparation in prayer and in helping things happen and in participating at all our Holy Week ceremonies.

#### **Baptism/Confirmation – of 'The Elect':**

Congratulations to James and Sok who became Catholic during the Easter Vigil. Praise the Lord that people are responding to His invitation to come and know God's love and mercy.

#### **Chrism Mass:**

Fr Anton and I attended the Chrism Mass last Tuesday Morning – this is the Mass at which most of the priests of the archdiocese (about 250 of us) gather with the archbishop and celebrate Mass together with about 1000 of the faithful and during Mass the oils for the various sacraments are readied for the coming year. Olive Oil is blessed for use for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and for the first anointing in baptism – the anointing of Catechumens. Then the Chrism is consecrated – this is olive oil with balsam and other oils added and additional prayers and stirring. Special care is taken with this oil as it is used as the pre-eminent sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit during Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders (when ordaining Deacons, Priests and Bishops). I brought back these new oils for our use in the coming year. Using these oils prepared by the Archbishop helps us have a reminder of the unity of the church in Melbourne in all of its rich and wonderful diversity.

#### **Sanctuary and Altar and Church Layout**

Almost finished! After the slight problem last weekend when a part of the new sanctuary broke under my step, the flooring was changed to full 19mm thick yellow-tongue floor wood. And the shape was finalised and the edging done and the carpet laid. Probably some minor works are still needed to finalise all details. And the church altar is back – a little less wide and a little less high and re-surfaced – but we are (finally) back to regularly using our parish altar. I am so very pleased. At the same time as commissioning the new sanctuary space and modified altar, we implemented revised seating arrangements. Please, let me know if you have suggestions on how the layout can be improved. My impression last weekend was that the flow of people for receiving Communion was easier with the additional aisles.

**God Bless, Fr Charles. Alleluia, Alleluia!!!**

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

Saturday	6.30pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Easter Morning Mass
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
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 and Peter Ryan,

### Anniversaries:

Esther Ronay, Paolo Mazzetti, Patricia Mary Tan, Pauline Maloney, Ennio Andrea Raiola, Franco Paolucci and John Driver.

### Recently Deceased:

Fr Grant O'Neill

### **Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week:**

For all our parishioners who help in the Mission that Jesus has given us to Go and Make Disciples: that they will grow closer to Christ through their joyful giving of their time and talent to help the ministries of the parish to flourish.



### **Feast Days this week:...**

#### **The Octave of Easter**

*Is an eight-day period that begins on **Easter Sunday** and concludes with the **Second Sunday of Easter**.*

*During this time, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*These days serve as a time to reflect on and experience the profound mysteries celebrated during Easter, such as the empty tomb and the victory over death.*

*Let us bask in the glow of the Resurrection, rejoicing in the new light that shines after the darkness of Christ's crucifixion.*

*Each day is a reminder of the hope and joy brought forth by His triumph over sin and death.*

## LITURGY ROSTER

### Easter Sunday Weekend – 4/5<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Acts 10: 34, 37-43 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Second Sunday of Easter – 11/12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Acts 2: 42-47 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **On First Palm Sunday, Pope Leo says Jesus cries out from the cross against war**

On his first Palm Sunday homily, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed that Jesus, the King of Peace, embraces all suffering in human history and cries out from the cross against war.

'Brothers and sisters, this is our God: Jesus, King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war,' the Pope said in St Peter's Square on 29 March.

'He does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war, but rejects them, saying: "Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood" (Isaiah 1:15).'

Pope Leo repeated the phrase 'King of Peace' seven times throughout his homily, weaving it through different moments of the Passion of Christ, pointing to Jesus as a victim of unjust violence who never took up arms in his own defence.

'Christ, King of Peace, cries out again from his cross: God is love! Have mercy! Lay down your weapons! Remember that you are brothers and sisters,' Pope Leo said.

He emphasised that Jesus, in allowing himself to be nailed to the cross, embraced 'every cross borne in every time and place throughout human history'.

'As we set our gaze upon him who was crucified for us, we can see a crucified humanity. In his wounds, we see the hurts of so many women and men today,' the Pope said.

'In his last cry to the Father, we hear the weeping of those who are crushed, who have no hope, who are sick and who are alone. Above all, we hear the painful groans of all those who are oppressed by violence and are victims of war.'

'At the beginning of Holy Week, our prayers are more than ever with the Christians of the Middle East, who are suffering the consequences of a brutal conflict and, in many cases, are unable to observe fully the liturgies of these holy days,' Pope Leo said at the Angelus.

'Just as the Church contemplates the mystery of the Lord's Passion, we cannot forget those who today are truly sharing in his suffering,' he said, adding 'their ordeal challenges all our consciences.'

Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Happy EASTER



Ana Saro, Frances Johnson, Nadia Bolzonello, David Hii, Fr Charles Balnaves and Fr Anton Aseervathampillai wish you peace, joy and good health. May Easter 2026 overflow with hope and wonder for each one of us.

### **An Easter Message From Archbishop Comensoli**

**is available to read from the noticeboard in the Gathering Space.**



### BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 is taking a break next week and will resume in on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April @ 9.30am on Zoom. All are welcome.**

# Easter Celebrations!

**(after the Vigil Mass at 6.30pm, 3rd April)**

All are invited to join with your fellow parishioners in the Gathering Space in a fitting celebration for Christ's Resurrection at Easter.

Supper is provided in the Gathering Space.

*Happy Easter!*



## MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP



ST KEVIN'S PARISH, TEMPLESTOWE

The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April @ 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 ring the parish office on 9850 5983, or email at [Templestowe@cam.org.au](mailto:Templestowe@cam.org.au)

### A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI REGARDING DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

As we celebrate Easter, I would like to remind you that next Sunday 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.

### Building the Synodal Way Together

As we enter the Easter season, we are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The *Synodal Way* calls each of us—clergy, religious, and lay—to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit.

In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to:

- **Listening with an open heart** to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others.
- **Engaging in meaningful conversation**, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer.
- **Strengthening our sense of communion**, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission.
- **Discerning pathways forward**, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time.

Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life?

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission will be held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod.

If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email: [Synod2026@cam.org.au](mailto:Synod2026@cam.org.au)



### A Synod is not a parliament

The Church is not a democracy where truth is decided by majority vote. A synod is not about winning arguments or pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual process of listening deeply – to God, to Scripture, to tradition and to one another – so that decisions are shaped by faith and mission, not ideology.

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

This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.

## Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF EASTER SUNDAY

#### First Reading

##### Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Throughout the Easter season, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles, not the Old Testament. It witnesses to the life of the early Church in which the Spirit-filled reality of the resurrection is unfolded, first through Peter and then through Paul.

Luke's gospel ends with a final instruction from the risen Lord: In the name of the risen Lord, repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this... (Lk 24:47-48). How this comes to pass is the subject matter of the Acts of the Apostles.

Here Peter gives a wonderful summary of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection. He is speaking to the household of Cornelius, a pagan Roman centurion, and announces himself an eye-witness to all that has taken place.

#### Second Reading

##### Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

The first alternative for today's second reading contrasts heaven and earth. The context is baptismal – plunged into the waters of the font we die with Christ and rise with him. Our baptismal union with Christ is a participation in the things of heaven, because there the risen Christ reigns in glory. *Taken from 'Break Open the Word'*



## Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

### "Stronger Together: The Palm Sunday Walk for Justice, Respect and Kindness"

Having attended many impressive past Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, this year's March last weekend from Princes Bridge and nearby gathering at Birrarung Marr, with gentle sunshine and comfortable seating, was even more encouraging. What stood out was an extraordinarily strong shared sense of 'walking together', not just physically, but connected through values, regardless of age and across a wide cultural spectrum. Organised by highly respected 92 yo advocate rich in energy, values, commitment & experience, Sr Brigid Arthur CSB perfectly complemented the values, energy and commitment and hope of very many actively participating young people, further matched by older people and groups such as "Grandmothers for Refugees", sharing values, energy and determination, and sense of hope in challenging times for refugees and asylum seekers in particular.

At this particular location a relatively young Wurundjeri Elder, Daniel Ross perfectly set the scene by positively connecting ancient peoples and new, and newer, arrivals, collectively linking all and their values and diverse talents in creating a world for all people and the times. The young Lord Mayor of Melbourne Nicholas Reece spoke with similar passion, and a mixed blend of highly talented young (and in some cases internationally recognised) and older speakers, Anglican Bishop Phillip Huggan, Maribyrning Nayie Mohamed Semra and others powerfully shared their values, energy and humanity. There were many from Catholic Parishes (beyond Templestowe/Doncaster), very many more from Catholic Schools, and Catholic Social Services Victoria, and others. - **John Costa SJA**



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

## Easter Sunday 4 – 5 April 2026

**Happy Easter from all of us here at  
Caritas Australia!**

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. There is still time to donate!



**UNITE  
AGAINST  
POVERTY**  
this Lent

**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](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

**Or by calling: 1800 024 413**

Thank you for standing with us, as we  
*Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*