



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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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

Ascension of the Lord

16/17th May, 2026

Baptism Presentation Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words from the desk of our PP...

Planning Partnering of Parishes

St Clement's, St Kevin's, St Gregory's: will have a joint meeting of parish pastoral councils and finance groups on Tuesday 19th May. We will discuss plans about how we can move forwards, together. Please pray for the group. We will keep you informed as we progress.

AI mistakes

A person came to me upset (fearful?) when having heard of three days of darkness, and that Pope Leo is speaking about that. There is no basis to this claim. It is true that there was a prediction of three days of darkness many years ago – a personal revelation – not Church teaching. It is true that Pope Leo has spoken about light and darkness: in the context of Easter and the light of Christ Jesus. There is no link between the two. Joining the two matters would appear to result from AI making a false association.

Remember: anything from God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit is always grounded in Jesus' self-giving love which he calls us to share. Please, be thoughtful as you use the internet / social media / AI / etc. They cannot think! You can!

Thank you

It is my great honour that you grace Fr Anton and I with your Easter Offerings – in addition to all the anonymous offerings there was Joan, Anna, Sebin, Anna, Molly, K & M, Boris, Rocco, Sheela, Henrieta, Celia, Carmel, Montillees, Jersy, Anthony, Pina, Abhi, Mariam, Chanih, Connie, Angelo, Angeline, J, Freddie, Agnes, Nielia, Dai, Joseph, Amy, Christopher, Alice, M, A, E, Adams', Agnes, Charles, James, Pauline, Joe, D, L, Frank, Maria, Mary, Max, Carmen, Cecilia, Shirley, Nahia. I am sure there were many more – I list all the names I received but I thank everyone. I probably am unaware of a lot of names from St Clement's and maybe St Kevin's: you are not forgotten.

Alpha – Pentecost Retreat – sign-up sheets in the Church Gathering Space

It's not too late to invite someone to come and/or come yourself to the Alpha's Come and See Night – find out a little more; scratch the itch of the Holy Spirit guiding you. Come along.

And you can still book in for the Pentecost Retreat – we've got 80 participants so far which is wonderful but still space left. Come and find how the Holy Spirit enlivens you.

God bless, Fr Charles



The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2026 theme, All In, is a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day.

National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June every year – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to recommit ourselves to reconciliation and the fight for First Nations justice in Australia. This theme calls on all Australians to step forward together.

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism Presentation 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	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism 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, Orlando Frigo, Novella Pereira, Pam Cohen and Georgette Taouk.

Anniversaries:

Kevin Cheng Shou Kong, John Dickenson, Monique Daisy Chong, Fortunata Butta, Jan Dalton, Carmel Artomonow, Lisetta Beltramello, Giuseppe & John Sciarrone and Karolina Amon (1st).

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week:

For the success of our discernment for partnering of our three parishes.



ASCENSION



LITURGY ROSTER

The Ascension of the Lord – 16/17th May 2026

1st Read: Acts 1: 1-11 2nd Read: Ephesians 1: 17-23 Gos: Matthew 28: 16-20

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Tasha Vercauteran	Lawrence Ceconello Anne Magire
9.15am	Paul Polidano	Frances Johnson	Liz Polidano Raffaella Dinelli Mary Waddick

Pentecost Sunday – 23rd/24th May 2026

1st Read: Acts 2: 1-11 2nd Read: Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13 Gos: John 20: 19-23

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Fiona Watson	Fiona Watson	Lynne O'Brien Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Miriam Ayoub	Phil Brooks	Carmel Shiel Pat Rowland Frances Bettiol

ALPHA CELEBRATION DINNER COME & SEE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY
6.30-8.30PM
AT ST KEVIN'S CHURCH, TEMPLESTOWE
IN THE GATHERING SPACE
DINNER PROVIDED

Join us for a celebration of Alpha with fun, food and conversation.

Open to all our Alpha participants and to anyone interested in Alpha

RSVP: 13th May

templestowe@cam.org.au; 03 9850 5983

doncaster@cam.org.au; 03 9412 8425



Alpha is a series of group
conversations that freely explore
the basics of the Christian faith in
an open, friendly environment.

Find out more at

alpha.org.au

THERE'S A
SEAT FOR
EVERYONE



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 is a collection basket in the Gathering Space during May.

Any queries to Carmel Purdey: carmelpurdey@gmail.com

We thank you in anticipation of your support.



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 28th 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!

We're counting on you:

As we enter the month of May it is time for our Annual Mass Count.

Please consider assisting with counting the number of Mass attendees.

Counters are requested to count the number of folk who are at Mass. Counting sheets are provided on the bench in the sacristy near the money bags.



National Volunteer Week
18-24 MAY 2026
YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER

Next week is **National Volunteer Week**. The Parish of St Kevin's would not have its amazing character, energy and joy if it was not for our Volunteers. You will have noticed that the Gathering Space is wallpapered with Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation. Please take the time to enjoy the volume of people who work so hard to make St Kevin's the wonderful community that it is.

And please feel welcome to take home your Certificate and place it in a position of pride 😊

Day of Solemnity

On **Monday, 25th May**, we celebrate the **Feast Day of Our Lady, Help of Christians Patron of Australia**

Special Masses will be celebrated on this day at St Gregory the Great Church at 9.00am and 6.30pm.
All welcome.

Save the Dates

June Parish Seminars 2026

Celebration of the Mass is our central action of worship wherein we seek a close communion with God and our community. The previously planned and eagerly anticipated seminars on the Mass were postponed and have now been rescheduled.
All are welcome to attend!

Fr. Frank O'Loughlin, retired priest, author and theologian, will lead us in better understanding the structure and purpose of the Mass as the central act of faith in our Catholic tradition.

Session 1:

Exploring the fundamental shape of the Mass.

Saturday June 6, 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Session 2:

Gaining a richer understanding of the Mass.

Thursday June 18, 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Both sessions will be held in St Gregory the Great Church gathering space to ensure we have a relaxed space that is large enough for all.

Father Frank will provide a rich encounter with the Mass and put into context your important role within it. He is an engaging presenter, willing to discuss any questions you may have. His presentations and his answers arise from his experience as a priest, a renowned theologian, and an adult educator. He has researched and taught in the areas of fundamental theology, sacramental theology and liturgy in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the last 50 years. In recent years he has published several books.

Help Please with Church Flowers!

The ladies arranging the church flowers would greatly appreciate some assistance please.

The commitment would only be for 2 weeks every 2nd month.

The cost of the flowers can be reimbursed. Please contact the parish office or speak to Carmel Shiel at church.



Baptism Welcome

Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

This weekend we welcome:

Dean and Vanessa

who will be introducing

Leo James Connell

to our Parish Community in preparation for his Baptism next weekend.



Synodality is About Mission

The purpose of synodality is not internal reform for its own sake. Its goal is evangelisation – helping the Church become more faithful, more welcoming and more effective in proclaiming the Gospel in today's world.

For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School

Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, graciously hear us.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

On the first Easter morning, when Mary Magdalene and her friends come to the tomb and find it empty, they encounter a man dressed in white (an angel) who tells them that Christ is risen. In fact, in Luke's gospel there are two of them. These two reappear here as the risen Christ is taken from the apostles' sight. They witness to the new reality that the risen Lord is beyond earthly time and space.

Embedded in this event of the Ascension is the Holy Spirit – the apostles will be baptised with the Spirit and will receive the power to witness to Christ through the Holy Spirit. Today's feast looks back to Easter and forward to Pentecost.

The variety of material – reporting, instruction, dialogue and action – make this an interesting text for us to receive. But all should be aware of the strangeness of the content – the forthcoming sending of the Spirit and the still unknown challenge of the apostles' mission, the 'hiding' or withdrawal of the risen Christ and the appearance of the angels in white.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

This beautiful prayer of blessing from Paul elaborates the phrase from the first reading that Jesus has been taken up into heaven. We have the image of the risen Lord reigning in glory, seated at the right hand of God the Father. Here, he is not remote or distant; rather he is the ruler of everything and his presence fills the whole creation.

This reality is only seen with 'the eyes of the mind', with a spirit of wisdom, a discernment of the heart. This is how we understand the revelation of Christ's glory, and the promise of hope it holds out for us believers.

The reading evokes a sense of majesty.

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Social Justice Action St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

Social Justice - for whom: People in our Parishes? Country? All in need or suffering injustice anywhere?

It's easy in our parishes to mostly think and act *parishes* rather than the *wider world*. However through 2nd Collections our parishioners generously contribute money more broadly, recently to the Lasallian *Bethlehem University* in Palestine to which we donated \$707. The University was established in 1973 as a result of the desire of Pope Paul VI to help the Palestinian people following his historic 1964 pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our donation was warmly appreciated in a recent direct letter to us from Br Adrian Watson, CEO Lasallian Foundation saying ".....the university is reliant on donors for much of its budget, and this is even more so at this difficult time in the Holy Land. The parish's solidarity with the poor and marginalised is greatly appreciated".

Social Justice, however, is clearly more than just money. It's also *recognising*, and where possible *speaking out* or *acting on* suffering and injustice wherever it exists, beyond, Parish, Church, Individual, Social Group, or Country, as Pope Francis has and Pope Leo conspicuously continues, and as Christ specifically calls each one of us personally to do likewise - **John Costa SJA**.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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