



# ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE

ABN: 48 230 838 560

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## ST Kevin's PPC Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Minutes

The meeting opened at 2.30pm

Present: Fr Charles, Fr Anton, David Hii, John Costa, Peter Sheehan, Claudia Raiola, Ana Saro, Adrian Teo, Margaret Turner, Gabee Leone, Pauline Erickson.

Apologies: Carmel Shiel

Opening Prayer: Gabee Leone

### Parish Updates

#### Fr Anton

Fr Anton continues his parish work in visitation and his work with the Tamil community.

#### David Hii Business Manager

David reported on the progress of the Columbarium and some issues raised by Council planning department regarding a screening solution. Some ideas have been put forward but further discussion is required.

The modifications to the Sanctuary are almost completed.

The final inspection of St Charles Borromeo site was carried out on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Some paperwork needs to be completed before the site can be formally and legally handed back to the parish. This subject and the general financial position of St Kevin's was expanded upon in Fr Charles' report.

#### Gabee Leone School Principal

Gabee reported on recent school activities including the Easter reenactment, Anzac Day service, review work and VRQE, "learning walks" as part of the Maths Acceleration Program, external cameras in the school grounds, drone safety instruction sessions, recent staff change and prep enrolment for 2027.

### John Costa Social Justice Group

John reported on the recently implemented Catholic Care Victoria's winter coat drive throughout May, interest from a recent Alpha participant re the various ministries active at St Kevin's, second collection update and other related SJA connections.

### Ana Saro Pastoral Worker

Ana reported on her recent involvement in our Easter ceremonies, particularly the Good Friday ceremony and the presentation of her reflection. She felt very connected to our community and proud to be part of the process.

Ana reported on her ongoing work within the sacramental program, safeguarding, nursing home visits, Mental Health Conversation on 26<sup>th</sup> May and other outreaching activities, youth group, bookish morning tea, playgroup and St Vincent de Paul activities.

### Fr Charles

Fr Charles reported on his recent appointment as Parish Priest of St Clement of Rome, Bulleen.

He has had positive meetings with small groups from all three parishes together with representatives from the Archdiocese. There will be a combined meeting of parish councils on 19<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm at St Clements, discussing our need to work together to be partners in parish and finding a solution in bringing manageability to three parishes and three schools. The immediate challenge is Mass times with just two priests available.

The Sanctuary modifications are almost complete.

St Charles Borromeo site will be handed back very soon. There is need for discussion with PPC to develop a parish masterplan including all aspects of the future of the site. There is need for expediency in wise decision making as the cost of holding the property is expensive. Fr Charles is favouring an educational facility but all proposals will be thoroughly examined and assessed.

Holy Week. Amazing.

Alpha. Going from strength to strength.

Stations of the Cross with the Melbourne Octet. Excellent

RCIA. Fr Charles would like to see some candidates from St Kevin's.

Parish Assembly originally planned for 21<sup>st</sup> May has been postponed until October.

Next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm

Meeting closed at 4.30pm.



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## St Kevin's PPC Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Agenda

- 1) Opening prayer: Gabee Leone.
- 2) Apologies: Carmel Shiel
- 3) Matters arising from March 2026 minutes
- 4) Parish updates
  - A) Fr Charles
  - B) Fr Anton
  - C) David Hii
  - D) Ana Saro
  - E) Gabee Leone
  - F) John Costa
- 5) Other matters for discussion
  - a) The Church/Parish Assembly.
  - b) The addition of St Clement's to our grouping of parishes.
  - c) Any other matters.
- 6) Date of next PPC

My report:

1. I am now, as of 24/4/26 parish priest for St Clement of Rome – Bulleen. A Spirit led change. I have had one meeting with a small group from all three parishes and from the Archdiocese – a very positive meeting. We have a little while to plan how to bring manageability to three parishes; three schools; two priests and one has the Tamil community to care for.
2. Sanctuary – largely done – replacing carpet and adjusting step and putting in a hand rail need doing. Seems well received
3. St Charles Borromeo – will be handed back soon - we urgently need a PPC discussion to develop a parish master plan / imagining that can accompany our future ideas for the site. Cost of holding is approaching \$10k/mth – this is unsustainable for long so we need rapid action to get the property on the market and its next use settled. I am biased still towards an education purpose. Sale seems maybe to bring great \$\$\$ but what would we do with them? We will need a roster of people committed to visiting the site regularly to ensure it remains reasonably well attended to.
4. Holy Week: amazing; excellent in all aspects; marvellous; wonderful; joyful; deep. We had very good attendance. Across St K and St G we had nearly 4000 people (allowing some people came to more than one service) attend. Amazing.
5. Alpha: going from strength to strength. Another one starting in August – with two groups – young and not-so-young.
6. Stations of the Cross with Melbourne Octet (only seven there on the night) – excellent – ca. 300 people – great sense of deep movement of love of Christ.
7. RCIA: two became Catholic this past Easter (at St Greg's) – I have six so far considering the next RCIA – where are the candidates from St Kevin's?
8. And the dozen dozen things else that come along.

God bless,  
Charles

Fr Charles Balnaves  
Parish Priest St Gregory the Great Doncaster  
And St Kevin's Templestowe  
And St Clement of Rome Bulleen  
Acknowledging the Wurundjeri People  
Traditional custodians of this land with which I live.

## **Pastoral Worker PPC Report April 2026.**

### **Easter**

I was lucky enough to be asked to give the Reflection at the Good Friday Service. When asked I immediately wrote a talk that spoke from my heart. I was concerned that it was not Scholarly enough and I rewrote the talk. After many attempts I realised that Jesus was calling me – to continue in my path – to write from my heart. I hope everyone enjoyed the talk. The Holy Week services were an amazing reflection of the dedication and hard work of countless volunteers – it made me feel very connected to my community and proud to be part of the process – even if it was only organising the easter eggs for mass!!

### **Sacramental Program.**

Reconciliation went well.

We have now commenced preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are 7 catechists enrolled in my class and 5 students from the school.

### **·Baptisms.**

We remain busy with Baptisms. We have 3 booked in for May/June.

### **Safeguarding.**

- WWCC and COC continue to be updated on PACEM.
- Safeguarding meetings continue monthly.
- A new series of dates for Safeguarding Essentials training- look to have in June. Will liaise with David.

Will attend the Safeguarding Regional Network meeting on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at St John's Mitcham.

### **Outreach and Nursing Home Visits.**

Continue to visit 3 nursing homes a week. In talks to facilitate Ashby nursing home and Mercy nursing home to attend 0915 mass and morning tea. Working with the Lifestyle teams.

I now have 5 families that I do home visits to say prayers and share communion.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May I ran a Mental Health Conversation in the Chapel.

Approximately 25 people attended and we had a very lively conversation. It was great to see so many people getting involved.

Mothers Day is coming – on the 10<sup>th</sup> May – I have organised a religious keyring for all the mums in attendance. The school Mothers Day parish breakfast will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May from 0700. I will be serving cereal, toast and muffins with a choice of juice, tea and coffee.

In June I hope to have a Market after Mass on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Market after Mass is where everyone donates 1-2 items that they are happy to be sold after mass. For example I will be donating a lovely candle that I was gifted All

money raised will go the Community Cupboard – as we continue to support local families in need.

**·Bookish Morning tea –**

Will now be held in the foyer after 0915 mass every second Thursday – to assist attendance of a parishioner with mobility issues.

**Youth Group.**

Average 15 teenagers.

**Playgroup.**

We currently have 14 families enrolled in play group. Very noisy but joyous fun!

**St Vincent De Paul**

·We have a dedicated team of 5 – Marie Holt, Jenny Coates, Lolita Booth, Adrian and myself. We are averaging 12-15 visits a month.



## Easter Reenactment

Last Tuesday, our Year 1 and 2 students presented the “*Alleluia*” part of the Easter story. Their respectful roleplay demonstrated a deep sense of reverence, and it was wonderful to see our junior students working collaboratively while showcasing their creativity and artistic talents.

At the end of Term 1, all year levels came together to share in the Easter Reenactment. Lil, our Religious Education Leader, coordinated this meaningful event, guiding students through a reflective procession of the days leading to the Resurrection. Our teachers did an outstanding job supporting the students, and it was heartening to see many families and parishioners in attendance, strengthening the connection between our school and parish community.

## ANZAC DAY 2026

On Friday 24th of April, the school held a commemorative service for ANZAC Day. The service took place around our flagpoles, led by Mrs Cesarin alongside the teaching staff and FIRE Carrier Leaders (students). We extend our thanks to all staff members who contributed to the smooth running of this important occasion.

## ANZAC DAY SCHOOL SERVICE TUESDAY APRIL 29TH at TEMPLESTOWE War Memorial

The Manningham RSL held the annual Manningham ANZAC School Service at Templestowe Memorial Park, a tradition that takes place every year.

We were honoured to be invited to attend this special occasion, with our Year 6 students representing our school during the service.

During the ceremony, the students had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of St Kevin's School.

## Review Work and VRQA

The 2026 School Review is well underway, with staff and the School Advisory Council reviewing all five spheres and collecting evidence. Documentation will be submitted to the reviewer, who will visit the school to meet with community members.

We have also been notified that a VRQA Compliance Audit will take place in September. We will continue to strengthen our practices with the support of Martin Tennant (Smart Safe).

## Learning Walks

This year St Kevin's has been selected to participate in the 'Maths Acceleration Program' (MAP) which is being implemented in Years 2 and 4, with a focus on learning walks centred on *Daily Review*. This involves revisiting key learning from the previous three weeks to strengthen retention and understanding. The program is predominantly focused on Mathematics, with a strong emphasis on developing students' understanding of place value as a foundation for number sense and problem solving. Teachers have received feedback, and this cycle includes all classes within these year levels. The process will inform ongoing coaching and peer appraisal.

The rest of the school is also involved in the learning walks and will be visited on a cyclic roster, ensuring consistency and shared practice across all year levels.

These learning walks are being conducted with the support of MACS staff, Brian Grace and Kyla Grant, alongside Con Tomazos, Eva Tomazos, and myself. As a result, students are developing greater confidence, accuracy, and fluency particularly in their understanding of place value concepts.

## Cameras in the school

Over the holidays, two external cameras were installed on the school grounds, one near the office and the other on the external area of the deck. This was in response to recent incidents of vandalism. These measures have been implemented to support the safety and security in our school community.

## **Drone safety**

There has been some interest in drone flying from our students. During breaks, JR and I will be running safety instruction sessions to ensure all students understand how to use drones safely and responsibly, with a strong focus on the safety of everyone in the area.

## **Staff Change**

We welcomed Estephania Rodrigues to St Kevin's. She is joining the junior team. She is an experienced teacher who is just about to complete her Master of Education. Estephania comes to us from Holy Trinity in Wantirna.

## **Preps 2027**

I have been busy visiting Kindergartens and doing tours of the school. We have 17 Preps for 2027.



**Social Justice Action**  
**St Kevin's Parish Templestowe**

**Report to Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, 7 May 2026**

**1. Responding ahead to forthcoming winter's anticipated Very Cold Temperatures**

Having last month promoted a Winter Coat Drive to support Catholic Care Victoria's 2026 Winter Coat Drive following our successful joint 2025 campaign, also anticipating winter arrival of some refugees from intensely hot countries during our winter ahead, SJA via Carmel Purdey has already experienced the excellent first response from last weekend's Masses at St Kevin's, St Greg's, and separately collected by St Kevin's Pastoral Worker Ana Saro. Coats will continue to be collected throughout May, and already promise to match the exceptional result from last Year's SJA Winter Coat Collection. Coats are being / can be left throughout the month in special baskets at each of our joint Parish Churches.

**2. Responding to new Parish volunteer request for information on Parish Ministries**

Following an Alpha session over a month ago a participant requested the opportunity to speak with the various Parish Ministry leaders about our respective work, and associated opportunity to potentially volunteer. As I've just returned from a month's leave I responded last weekend to the person in relation to SJA, but she had just departed on leave and will get back following her return.

**3. Second Collections - in advance and retrospect**

As the Parishes Second Collection schedule has been planned for the year ahead with the PPC having recently endorsed the (marginally) revised schedule I was able to take leave having provided in advance a month's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection graphics and associated Reader Notes for weekly Masses over that period. Amongst others it was particularly gratifying during that period to receive a profound letter of thanks to the Parish from **Bethlehem University** for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection donation (\$706.60), particularly during the extremely challenging period being experienced by this multifaith Catholic University and its highly challenged staff and students amidst devastating Gaza-Israel warfare.

**4. Invitation to share details of St Kevin's Parish Social Justice Activities**

I have been invited and have accepted an invitation to speak with the Parish Pastoral Council of Mary Mother of the Church Parish in Ivanhoe as they look to establish / re-vamp their Social Justice activities ahead.

**5. Palm Sunday Walk for Justice, Respect and Kindness**

I was highly impressed by supportive passion from the large and diverse mix of People, Ages, Parishes Schools and other organisations, lead/blended by 92yo Sr. Brigid Arthur.

**6. West Heidelberg Exodus Community**

Continuing to maintain contact with a view to further supporting the remarkable and very effective West Heidelberg Exodus Community.

John Costa, SJA Chairperson, 7 April 2026



## **BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT – MAY, 2026**

### **Columbarium (Wall Niche)**

The Planning Permit has been submitted to the Council, and they have raised two key concerns:

1. Potted rose planting is not considered an adequate screening solution. The Council has requested dense shrub planting to provide effective screening at the entrance to the proposed columbarium, with a minimum height of 3 metres.
2. They have also suggested a fixed barrier or retaining wall along the full length of the existing retaining wall (behind our signboard), also to a height of 3 metres, to provide permanent screening along the western boundary of the church.

Following further discussion with the planning officer, the Council may be open to the proposal of a permanent screening wall combined with dense landscaping at the entrance to the proposed columbarium.

Alternative locations for the columbarium:

1. The old carport next to the Parish House.
2. Along one of the walls of the chapel.
3. Cut back into the rock face, next to the steps leading up to the Parish House.

### **Modifications to the Sanctuary**

The sanctuary modifications have been completed using spare carpet from the shed and reusing of the existing carpet. The contractor is currently in the process of finding a matching carpet, or one as close as possible to the existing carpet. Once found, the contractor will return to install the carpet and carry out any required rectification works.

### **St Charles Borromeo**

The final inspection was carried out on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2026. Some paperwork still needs to be completed before the site can be formally and legally handed back to the Parish.