



St Kevin's Catholic Parish

26-44 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower

Weekend Mass times: 5.30pm Saturdays, 9.15am Sundays



Other Weekend Mass Times

St Clement of Rome: 5.00pm Saturdays

9.00am and 11.00am(-in Italian) Sundays

Reconciliation Saturday evenings 4.30-4.50pm

St Gregory the Great: 6.30pm Saturdays

10.30am and 5.00pm Sundays

Reconciliation Saturday mornings 9.30-11.30am

Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves

Assistant Priest: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Business Manager: Mr David Hii

Pastoral Worker: Mrs Ana Saro

Postal Address:

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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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18/19th July, 2026

Celebrating Seafarers Sunday

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words from the desk of our PP...

Please Welcome New People: Say hello 😊

See new people around? Say hello.

Three weekends but only two weeks into our new Mass Schedule. Please look around – people from St Clement's / St Greg's / St Kevin's may be sitting next to you and settling in to new times and new locations: look around – see the new faces, welcome them into the community. OH! And thank you to those who continue to give their Thanksgiving envelopes in a new location: the money does get to its intended destination. It is a grace to me to see your continued support for our Jesus Christ and his mission.

If you are new to Bulleen, Doncaster, Templestowe or Templestowe Lower, or have just started coming to Mass in one of our communities: Please look for a sign up / census form and register yourself and give us your details so we can include you in parish news and provide the bulletin and invite you to activities. And along the way please, take a risk, and say hello to the people around you in Mass.

Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod 2026

You will remember, I hope, that there is a Melbourne Archdiocese Synod underway with the main sessions to be held in November/December.

The Synod theme papers have just been released (you can find them at Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic.) These papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection. Responses to these prompt questions can be provided via the QR code which is at the end of each paper.

I am hopeful that we can arrange a gathering of our three partnered parishes during the first half of August but finding a date is a challenge: I am thinking a Saturday or Sunday afternoon might work. We will discuss timing etc in our joint Parish Pastoral Council meeting on 29th July.

So far I have only managed to make time to glance at the three theme papers that ask us to discern around Youth Discipleship, Formation and Participation, and Missionary Leadership.

Please follow the link above – start to have a think and pray. Allow space for the Holy Spirit to enter your thoughts. Please provide feedback via the QR codes in the papers and then come along to the joint parishes gathering as well (when we have it arranged).

God bless, Fr Charles

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for July 2026 The intention is to pray for the respect for human life, recognising it as a gift from God. The Pope calls on Catholics to pray for the protection of human life and to learn to accept life unconditionally, tenderly care for fragility, and courageously defend those who have no voice. The intention also emphasises the importance of a new heart ready to choose life and generous hands that protect it through concrete actions. The Pope hopes that the Lord will help his Church become a living witness to the Gospel of life, an open home where every life is celebrated, and where dignity is always respected.

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Mass
Monday	9.00am	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 Presentation Mass



We pray for Better Health:

Vin Natoli, Bob Ulehla, Dot Sharkey, Shirley Loo, Lianny Susanto, Julie-Anne Oldfield, Dylan, Shane, Lyn Murphy, Rose Marie Cameron, Peter Zeantti, Tony Whelan, Charles, Joan & Don Tynan, Lorraine Gibson, Flavia Gazzi, Orlando Frigo, Novella Pereira, Georgette Taouk, Fay Byrne, Faye Harvey and Mike Yambao.

Anniversaries:

Peter McNamara, Carlo & Len Bettiol, Pietro Di Rosa, Victor Nicoli, Louise Margaret Fanning, Maeve Reardon, Antonio Strangis (2), Fr Des Panton and Roger Pantano (1).

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles’ Prayer Intention for this Week: We pray for the Melbourne Synod:

that our preparations will be marked by wisdom in decision-making, courage in leadership and humility in listening to one another. May the Spirit guide our every conversation and action. Amen.



Feast Days this week:...

22nd July St Mary Magdalene
Witnessed Christ’s crucifixion, was present at his burial, and was the first to see the risen Lord.
Commissioned by Christ to proclaim the good news of his resurrection to the apostles. Remembered in the East as the ‘Apostle to the Apostles’.

25th July St James
A fisherman, summoned by Jesus together with his brother St John. Remembered as a favoured apostle: with St Peter and St John he was present at the transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in the garden.

LITURGY ROSTER

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 18/19th July 2026

1st Read: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19 2nd Read: Romans 8: 26-27 Gos: Matthew 13: 24-43

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Fiona Watson	Tasha Vercauteran	Lynne O’Brien Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Frances Johnson	Maree McTaggart	Lyn Murphy Lyn Robinson Tony Robinson

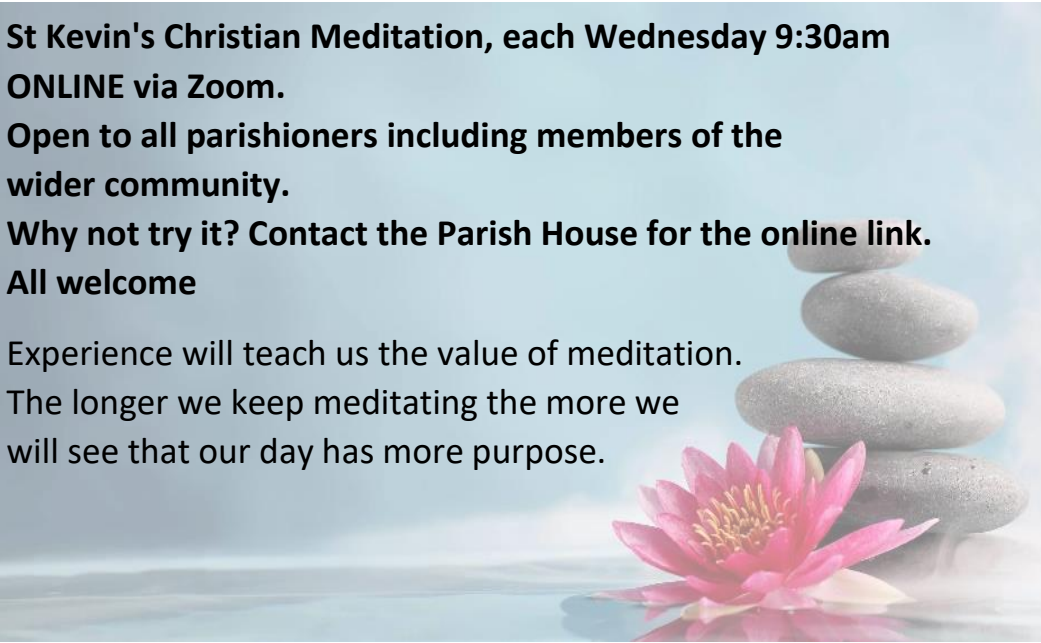
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 25/26th July 2026

1st Read: 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12 2nd Read: Romans 8: 28-30 Gos: Matthew: 13: 44-52

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Bredenia Raquel	Lawrence Cecconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Tony Byrne	Marie Arbogast	Kaye Byrne Adrian Teo Frances Bettiol

St Kevin's Christian Meditation, each Wednesday 9:30am
ONLINE via Zoom.
Open to all parishioners including members of the wider community.
Why not try it? Contact the Parish House for the online link.
All welcome

Experience will teach us the value of meditation.
The longer we keep meditating the more we will see that our day has more purpose.



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

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



Catholics encouraged to identify themselves in the Census

Australia’s next national Census will be held on 11 August 2026, with Catholics encouraged to identify their religious affiliation to ensure accurate representation. The Australian Catholic Bishops Council says Census data informs government and Church planning, helping parishes, schools and Catholic services understand community needs and allocate resources effectively.

‘The Census marks an important occasion in our national life and ensures we can effectively respond to the needs of our growing population in all its diversity,’ Archbishop of Melbourne Peter A Comensoli said. ‘In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is important for the Catholic community to stand up and be counted.

‘I encourage all Catholics to mark the “Catholic” box and ensure that the needs of our community can continue to be met and supported.’



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2026

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was instituted by Pope Francis in 2021. It is celebrated close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for our grandparents and all the Elderly that we come across.

The celebration of this day provides an opportunity for the Church, at all levels, to draw close to the Elderly; to celebrate their unique communities; and to reach out to those who may feel lonely or forgotten. The theme that Pope Leo has chosen for the 2026 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is:

"I will never forget you."

A Mass will be celebrated here at St Kevin's on Friday, 24th July at 12.00pm together with the schoolchildren. All are welcome.



Feeling Cold? Winter frost getting you down?

St Kevin's Parish is having a winters warmers brunch to help warm you up! Come for a bowl of hot soup, crusty bread and great conversation.

When: Sunday 16th August 12-2pm.

Where: The gathering space.

There will be coffee and cake for dessert (of course!)

Please RSVP to the Parish Office or Ana- for Catering purposes!



Melbourne Synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination – trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection. Responses to these prompt questions can be provided via the QR code which is at the end of each paper.



Synodality and the Margins

When people are invited to participate meaningfully, joy increases. A synodal Church is not weighed down by bureaucracy but energised by shared mission.

SEAFARERS SUNDAY



Seafarers Sunday is an important opportunity to remember and pray for the seafarers whose tireless work in very challenging conditions benefits us all.

On the weekend of 18/19th July we shall celebrate Sea Sunday, when we pray for all those who live and work at sea.

There will be an Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church.

Funds collected will be used to provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously.

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



Francesca Rosa Napoli

Daughter of
Joshua and Cassandra

**PRAISE
&
WORSHIP
Night**

FRIDAY

**24
07
26**

7-9 PM



**WITH
ECHARISTIC
ADORATIONS
TESTIMONIES**

**GROUP
DISCUSSIONS**

ST GREGORY'S

71 Williamsons Rd
Doncaster



For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
First Reading	Second Reading
<u>Wisdom 12:13.16-19</u> A reading from the book of Wisdom <i>In the place of sin, you give repentance.</i> God's justice is tempered by mercy, God's power by mild judgement. Twice the word 'lenient' is applied to God, even in the midst of repeated affirmations of sovereignty, strength and power. The reading takes this as a lesson, setting an example for us to be kind to one another. Overall, this message is clear, although some of its expression in these lines is not. The context does not help either – chapter 12 is about the Israelite conquest of Canaan, supposedly suggesting that God is patient and tolerant, which is the link the text tries to make with the parable of the weeds and the wheat.	<u>Romans 8:26-27</u> A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.</i> We continue today the encouraging words of Paul as he speaks of our life in the Spirit. The Spirit dwelling within us helps us. In particular, when we do not know how to express ourselves before God in prayer, the Spirit pleads on our behalf in a way that is beyond words. When we pray, we need not be anxious; we can 'let go and let God'. <i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i>

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

With those words, 20th century American writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin effectively summarises last Tuesday evening's sequence of powerful/poignant ABC TV programs. Did you happen to see them? They closely relate to our Christ-given call to be 'missionary' towards others, *whoever* they or we are, and *whenever*. It's too easy in busy/challenging times being personally distracted from unresolved past issues.

Firstly on TV ("When the River Rose", Lismore floods 2022, 31,000 people displaced, business and properties damaged/destroyed, and 18,000 jobs disrupted). A powerful update. It's too easy to forget consequences of significant past events, especially personal and community suffering, losses and *ongoing trauma* from this flood disaster. Insurance payments and government support could never match the level of physical and continuing emotional and personal loss, suffering, and identity-destruction. Observing such poignant content with the passage of time was far from passive, an important reminder that ongoing life-matters following trauma are often worse than initial experience, and that ongoing community awareness, care, and support are called for.

Next on TV ("I was actually there" - 20 years after the Beaconsfield Mine disaster in Tasmania, April 2006). Viewers were privileged to experience in far greater personal detail these extremely dramatic past events, even more so recognising the traumatic life-changing consequences of 14 days of painful expectation of most horrible deaths, miraculously thwarted by human perseverance, concerted effort, and extreme support from those risking their lives to save others, then forever after, the life-long consequences for families, and local community. Merely watching on TV was far from passive, indeed a potent and significant prompt for ongoing self reflection on 'facing change'.

Thirdly on TV (Compass - "Reviving the Mullet Run"), successful revival of NSW Aboriginal traditional practice following a 40 year ban. So there's hope, though not without care and deliberate personal engagement - **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.