



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:

PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106

Telephone: 9850 5983

Email: templestowe@cam.org.au

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st/2nd August, 2026

Beginning of National Vocations Awareness Week

Our Presider today is: Fr Anton Aseervathampillai

Words from the desk of our PP...

Gathering of three Parish Pastoral Councils

Your Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs) met last Wednesday evening to discuss ways forwards for the parishes as partnered parishes.

The first significant outcome is ... we got to know each other and hear a bit about each other's parishes and parish cultures. You might think "so what"? But actually getting to know each other is crucial in building trust and learning to communicate effectively.

The second significant outcome is ... there are a lot of areas where we can work together and we want to discern how to ensure that the possibilities for working together come to fruition.

As a public thank you, I say "Thank you!!!" to all the parish council members and others who came along: it is important work and you have taken a risk to be part of discerning our ways forward. Please say a prayer for all your parish council members.

Archdiocesan Synod

I included some notes a couple of weeks ago. In the time available, is impractical to organise a parish wide or three parishes wide gathering to discuss the three themes set for the Archdiocesan Synod. You can look at the themes by going to Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic

In lieu of a formal gathering of the parishes there are two ways you could give input.

1. There is a regional gathering to discuss the three theme areas: it is on 8th August (Saturday). We can send two people along: would you like to go? Please let me know: Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au: - that meeting is just a week away so please act quickly.
2. You can go to the online site Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic and read material there and make your own individual or family or small group comments.

This Archdiocesan Synod is important so I encourage participation: please make an effort to look at the themes and make some comment.

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults

I have half a dozen people interested in joining the Catholic Faith. I will start a program in late September with this group – leading to Baptism and Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil 2027. Currently I am planning this to happen on Saturday afternoons on a weekly basis (excluding school holidays).

Do you know anyone who might like to join this journey or to find out what it means to be Catholic and join the community?

Please: be willing to invite people to join.

Clergy Conference August 10th to 14th and after

Fr Anton and I will be away for the week of 10th to 14th August (though I will return early on the 14th) so there will be no weekday Masses that week. That doesn't change weekend Masses at all.

Then Fr Anton goes on holiday for a month – so you'll be having some different faces in the priests celebrating the Masses from mid-August to mid-September.

Regular Mass Wednesday 6:30 pm

We are getting reasonable attendance by wonderful people for the newly initiated Wednesday evening Mass at 6:30 pm at St Gregory the Great Church Doncaster.

Please – tell people about it – invite people to come – I can speak about it and no one hears but if you invite people specifically then maybe soon the Mass will have a much larger base.

God bless, Fr Charles

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Mass
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
Wednesday	9.30am	Meditation – via zoom only
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	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:

Patricia Lo Giudice, Jim Baruta, Elaine Viney, Ron Herbert, Peter McNamara, Nasci Caldiera, Patricia Raiola and Anna Magnanini.

Recently Deceased:

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week:

For the parents and children and staff and principal and Parish Priest at schools of Ss Peter and Paul East Doncaster and St Pius X West Heidelberg: that the Holy Spirit will guide you as your schools journey towards closure at the end of 2026.



Feast Days this week:...

3rd August St Dominic
Remembered as a preacher, organiser and patron of learning.
4th August St John Vianney
Remembered for his preaching and confessional counsel and is honoured as a model for parish clergy.

6th August
The Transfiguration of the Lord
The feast celebrates the divine radiance shining in Christ's human flesh and God's glory shining forth in the lives of Christians.
8th August St Mary of the Cross
Remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny and for her abiding trust in God's providence.

LITURGY ROSTER			
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1 st /2 nd August 2026			
1 st Read: Isaiah 55: 1-3 2 nd Read: Romans 8: 35, 37-39 Gos: Matthew 14: 13-21			
Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Kathy Pearce	Lynne O'Brien Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Carmel Purdey	Bernard Butler	Pat Rowland Lyn Robinson Penny Teo
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 8/9 th August 2026			
1 st Read: 1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13 2 nd Read: Romans 9: 1-5 Gos: Matthew: 14: 22-33			
Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Fiona Watson	Margaret Turner	Lawrence Cecconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Julie O'Donnell	Carmel Shiel	Adrian Teo Carmel Purdey 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

To learn to meditate is to understand how simple it is. But you do need to be patient and faithful. It is surprising that such a simple teaching on prayer can work.

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

Chloe Lauren Bolzonello
Daughter of Nicholas and Rachel
Little sister of Charlotte

BOOKISH MORNING TEA
Our next Bookish Morning Tea is scheduled for Thursday 13th August. 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!

ST GREGORY'S & ST KEVIN'S

Multicultural DAY

SUNDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2026
FOLLOWING THE 10.30AM MASS

ST GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH HALL
71 WILLIAMSONS ROAD
DONCASTER

Come in your cultural costumes or colours
Celebrate the vibrant diversity of our community
Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food & fun!

Event Highlights

ENJOY MULTICULTURAL FOOD AND BEVERAGES
BID ON EXCITING ITEMS IN OUR SILENT AUCTION
PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

RSVP: USE SIGN UP SHEETS AT CHURCH, SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO [HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DNFAI](https://www.trybooking.com/DNFAI)



DAYS OF SOLEMNITY - We have two very important Feast Days approaching over the coming weeks:

St Mary MacKillop

On Saturday, 8th August, we celebrate the feast Day of St Mary MacKillop. A Mass will be celebrated here at St Kevin's together with the schoolchildren on Friday, 7th August at 2.30pm. It will also be celebrated at St Gregory the Great at 9.00am on Saturday morning, 8th August.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Saturday, 15th August, we celebrate the feast of the Assumption. A Mass will be celebrated here at St Kevin's on this day at 9.00am. A Mass will also be celebrated on Wednesday 19th August together with the schoolchildren at 12.30pm.

All are welcome to attend to celebrate these very faithful, courageous and inspirational women.



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!



Are you ready to be entertained?

The Parish of St Kevin's is looking for volunteers to come and be part of the joy of Youth Group and/or Playgroup. Lead by experienced leaders, volunteers are required to have a good sense of fun and the ability to chat with youngsters and adults alike.

Applicants must be over the age of 18.

Please contact Ana in the Parish Office.

ALPHA

18YO AND ABOVE

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 26TH AUGUST TO 4TH NOVEMBER
AT ST KEVIN'S CHURCH
30 HERLIHYS ROAD LOWER TEMPLESTOWE

Registration is
now open!



Alpha

ALPHA YOUTH

13- 17 YEARS OF AGE

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 28TH AUGUST TO 16TH OCTOBER
AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT
71 WILLIAMSON'S RD, DONCASTER

REGISTER VIA
QR CODE:



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

**Free- Meals included
Donation welcome**

Enquiries:

**templestowe@cam.org.au, doncaster@cam.org.au, bulleen@cam.org.au
phone 03 9850 5983, 03 9412 8425, 03 9850 3262**



The next **St Kevin's Men's Social Group** takes place on **Friday, 14th August @ 7.30pm** in the **Church Gathering Apace**.

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. \$10 donation suggested to cover costs. For catering purposes, please indicate your intention to attend by contacting the parish office on 9850 5983 or via email templestowe@cam.org.au

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK



Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

Little Kev's Playgroup



Ana is taking a well-deserved break next week and therefore there will not be a playgroup session this Monday, 3rd August. Sessions will recommence on Monday, 10th August. See you all then!

Music

Welcome back Roger and Anne – we've been looking forward to your return and it was very much appreciated last weekend.

And thank you to the singers who sing each week – you bring great life to our Masses: thank you.

Fr Charles



For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

You open your hand to feed us, Lord,
and satisfy our needs.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

[Isaiah 55:1-3](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Just three weeks ago, we read from Isaiah 55 and perhaps we sang Frank Anderson's refrain, Come, listen, live! Those words come from today's excerpt. This reading introduces the abundance of God's heavenly banquet – good things to eat, rich food to enjoy. It doesn't cost anything. It is sheer gift. All we need to do is to listen, respond to the invitation and receive the blessing.

The invitation is insistent. Listeners should pay attention to persuade the hearers to respond and to accept the covenant God is offering. It is an offer too good to refuse.

Second Reading

[Romans 8:35. 37-39](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

There is a strong rhetorical force present in the passionate lists given both of these short paragraphs. They bring a cumulative power to the message of Christ's overflowing love.

The last sentence especially should rise to a crescendo, landing firmly on 'nothing... nothing...' and then come to a sudden stop for a significant pause after 'can ever...'; the reading then concludes the proclamation with expansive warmth.

Right from the first word, this reading is intense and emphatic. It cannot be lacklustre or pedestrian

Taken from 'Break Open the Word'

Social Justice Action
St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

"Catholic Church removes 'just' from the theory of war"

(Edited extracts from Antonio Spadaro, Pearls & Irritations, 26 July 2026, republished from UCAnews)

The Catholic Church has not abandoned the right to self-defence, but it has increasingly rejected the idea that modern war can be morally justified. The category of the "just war" – born with Augustine, systematised by Aquinas – was, for centuries, the Christian conscience's attempt to subject violence to moral criteria. The magisterium of the recent popes has progressively eroded its ground, down to Leo XIV's explicit move beyond it.

The turn begins in the atomic era. Pius XII restricted the licit recourse to arms to defence alone. As early as 1944.....John XXIII, in *Pacem in Terris* (1963), declared it *alienum a ratione* – foreign to reason – to imagine that, in the nuclear age, war could serve as an instrument of justice.....The Council, in *Gaudium et Spes*, called for war to be evaluated "with an entirely new attitude" and condemned total war as a crime against God and against man himself.....John Paul II carried this line down into history: his "never again war" rang out against the Gulf War and, later, against the intervention in Iraq.....With Francis, the doubt becomes a verdict. In *Fratelli Tutti* (No. 258) he writes that it is "very difficult" to invoke rational criteria elaborated in other centuries to speak of a possible "just war" and he closes with an imperative: "Never again war!".....And to Patriarch Kirill, in March of 2022, with Ukraine under invasion, he said that one can no longer speak, as was once done, of "holy war" or "just war".....Leo XIV takes a further step. In the encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, he denounces a "paradigm shift": the rehabilitation of war as an ordinary instrument of international politics, even as the ethical principles that once limited its use erode.....In this context, he writes, "without prejudice to the right to legitimate defence in the strictest sense" the theory of the just war, "too often used to justify any kind of war", is "now outdated". "Humanity has more effective instruments at its disposal: dialogue, diplomacy, forgiveness." *So the Church, of course, can and does evolve with the times and new understandings, even if slowly - John Costa (SJA)*



Why the Church is Embracing Synodality Now

The call to synodality is a response to the signs of the times. In a fragmented world, God calls the Church to witness communion, dialogue and hope.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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

