



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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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

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19/20th September, 2026

Social Services Sunday

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves

Words from the desk of our PP...

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Go gently but don't hesitate to invite someone to become a Catholic. Let me know via email charles.balnaves@cam.org.au or give me a contact number.

Parish Groups / Ministries

What are your gifts? How can you bring them to bear? Call me: 0417 319 556, email me: charles.balnaves@cam.org.au

Last weekend I called for new members for our various ministries. They were all important! But ... the list was not exhaustive. You might have a different calling: Social Justice for instance. Or Money counting. Or flowers or cleaning the church or morning tea or pastoral home visits with Holy Communion, or our St Vincent de Paul chapter, or ...

You have a calling! YOU are called and gifted.

We all receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation – St Paul tells us that each of us is graced with specific gifts of the Spirit which enable us to be truly a full part of the body of Christ: if we use those gifts actively.

Please step forwards and chat about what YOU might be able to bring. Thank you to those who have stepped forward. Thank you to everyone for being here in our gathering. And thank you in advance for you who are going to respond to the call.

Greg Sheridan: God is Good for YOU!

Greg has a lot to say about how God leads and guides us and how we can use the lessons of the early church to help us speak into an increasingly challenging world today.

I know Greg – he has challenged me to look at faith differently in the world today (same faith – a slightly shifted lens).

Sign up!! Please register and book in and come along on October 2nd at 6:30 pm.

Formation sessions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

If you've signed up for being a person who assists with distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, please make yourself available for one of the following two dates:

- October 1st 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- October 3rd 9 am to 10:30 am

This is for all ministers at St Kevin's, St Clement's, St Gregory's: English or Italian Masses.

These sessions will be a refresher for those who have been ministering already – and a beginning for those who are just signing up.

We will talk about the reasons why this is a ministry and not a job. And we will step through the practicalities. For convenience for me, these sessions will be held at St Gregory the Great in the church. The process is essentially the same at all three parishes at all Masses so ...

Please come along – no need to sign up – just turn up with a willing love of Christ and desire to learn.

God bless, Fr Charles



Don't forget to collect your next batch of parish Thanksgiving Envelopes from the table in the Gathering Space before leaving the Church today.

We shall commence using them from the first weekend of October. Thank you all.

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	
	6.30pm	Mass at St Gregory the Great Church
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, Michael Angelo Yambao, Elysia Pozzebon and Maureen Quinliven.

Anniversaries:

John Shine, Ken Liu, Ercole Monaco, Michelle Reardon, Carmel Philips, Lorna James, Denis Houlihan and Michael Nunn.

Recently Deceased:

Victor Noel Thurgood



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week:

I see the Holy Spirit is moving in our parishes in many ways: I pray that we can all open our hearts and be led into Christ's future for us.

Feast Days this week:...

21st September St Matthew
Jesus met Matthew in Galilee and called him to be an apostle. Venerated as the author of the gospel which highlights Jesus' role as Messiah and underlines the presence of the kingdom of God in the Church.

23rd September
St Pius of Pietrelcina
A mystic who received the marks of the stigmata in 1918, a renowned holy man, and a charity worker who founded a hospital. His ascetic life of pain led to special compassion for the suffering. Remembered as an extraordinary confessor and spiritual director

LITURGY ROSTER

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19/20th September 2026
1st Read: Isaiah 55: 6-9 2nd Read: Philippians 1: 20-24, 27 Gos: Matthew: 20: 1-16

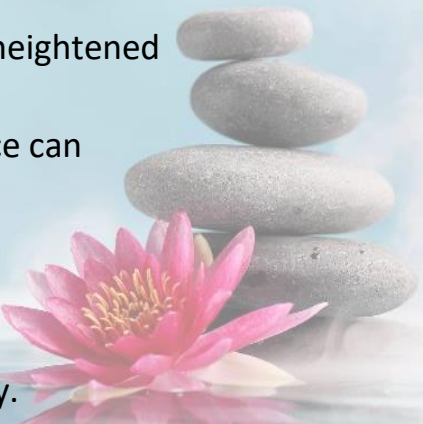
Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Vianney Shiel	Maree McTaggart	Lawrence Cecconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Pauline Erickson	Bernard Butler	Liz Polidano Raffaella Dinelli Paul Polidano

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26/27th September 2026
1st Read: Ezekiel 18: 25-28 2nd Read: Philippians 2: 1-11 Gos: Matthew 21: 28-32

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Pauline Erickson		Lynne O'Brien Anne Maguire
9.15am	Julie O'Donnell	Carmel Shiel	Lyn Murphy Lyn Robinson Tony Robinson

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

Meditation is credited with including a heightened state of awareness.
Various studies demonstrate the practice can help relieve stress, manage anxiety, reduce inflammation, improve memory and attention, bringing into balance the mind and body.



BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Is taking a hiatus for the month of September and will recommence on **Thursday 8th October**.
However, this does not mean you are not able to stay for a cuppa and catch-up with any of our Mass-goers after any weekend or weekday Mass. All are welcome.



Synodality and Scripture

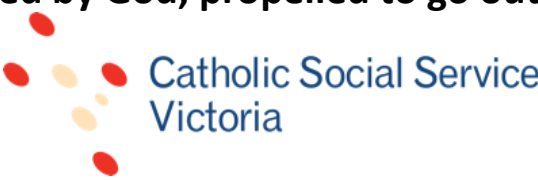
Participation helps people move from being passive recipients to active disciples. This deepens faith and strengthens mission.



Sessions have now ceased for the school holidays.
Our first session for the new term will be on Monday, 5th October in our Church Gathering Space.
Doors open at 8.30am. All children between the ages of 0-5 years and their parents/guardians are welcome.

Social Services Sunday: Nourished by God; propelled to go out

What is Social Services Sunday?



Social Services Sunday is observed in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne on the third Sunday of September. It is an opportunity to give thanks, pray for and stand with the thousands of dedicated staff and volunteers who serve those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in our communities. It also provides us with the opportunity to reflect on what **our role** might be in this work of service and justice.

Speakers Evening

Be inspired by

Greg Sheridan AO

“God is Good for You”

A journalist proclaims Christ to a secular world

Greg is the foreign editor of The Australian newspaper, a well-known author and is a parishioner of St Gregory's Parish

Greg's three books on religion and Christianity have been best sellers.

Friday 2nd October The Clifton Centre
(adjacent to St Clement of Rome's Church)

Pizza Dinner 6.30pm, followed by the presentation and discussion.

Sign-up sheets are available on the table in the Gathering Space.

Accommodation Needed...

We are seeking either short-term boarding for a young female student who requires a nurturing place to stay in Melbourne for a few months during her university exams, or longer-term accommodation for a mature woman who is navigating a transitional season in her life and would benefit from companionship, pastoral care and a stable environment for one to two years — or perhaps longer, if appropriate. Payment could certainly be offered in both scenarios.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to assist or perhaps point us in the right direction that would suit both/either of the two women above. Thank you.



MARCH FOR THE BABIES

Come and show your support and march for the babies at 1.00pm Saturday, 10th October - Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring St and Wellington Pde, Melbourne

Wear pink and blue for the Babies! www.marchforthebabies.com

This is the 17th annual March for the Babies, and every year since 2009, thousands of Victorians have gathered peacefully with grief and hope to remember the ever-increasing number of babies killed by abortion in this state since the Government legalised abortion-till-birth on October 10, 2008.



Please join the march in their 17 year anniversary.

Attendance is completely free, all you have to do is book your tickets in advance for yourself, your family or group using this QR code:

**BOOK
YOUR
FREE
TICKETS**



A free bus is being offered for our parish – if we can recruit 58 people, a number required by those who are financing this offer. Departure from our church or similar location and return after the event. Details to follow soon.

ONLINE INFORMATION – THE PERMANENT DIACONATE 22 SEPTEMBER 2026

Earlier this year there was an Information session on the Permanent Diaconate. It was a successful gathering, with a pleasing number of men requesting follow-up meetings. There is the awareness that many men interested in the diaconate are most likely to be working full time, perhaps raising a family, and therefore limited in available time. Therefore, another session will be on a weekday evening via ZOOM.

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate, including the spouses of any inquirers. If you attended any previous session, you are also welcome to join the September gathering.

Online Diaconate Information Meeting:

Tuesday, 22 September 2026, 19:00 – 20:00 i.e. 7.00 - 8.00pm

Location: via ZOOM

Even if you can only attend for part of the session, please 'ZOOM' in whenever you can.

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison

Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au in the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.



“For the care of water’: Pope’s prayer intention for September.

‘We are called to allow our hearts to be renewed, so that we might seek peace and care for creation. Scripture tells us to guard our hearts, for everything we do flows from them (cf. Prov 4:23). If we take up this task with humility and faith, we will become collaborators in God’s work of renewal. We will move, slowly but surely, from desert to garden, from division to communion, and from violence to peace.’ – Pope Leo XIV, for the 11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2026

For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is near to all who call on him.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
First Reading	Second Reading
Isaiah 55:6-9 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>My thoughts are not your thoughts.</i> Almost 75 years ago, JB Phillips published a little book entitled 'Your God is Too Small'. He suggests that sometimes our models for understanding God's actions are based on limited human stereotypes. Today Isaiah points out that God is transcendent, utterly beyond our understanding. <i>My thoughts are not your thoughts; my ways are not your ways!</i> These few lines are meant to stir up in us a sense of awe and wonder. Yet, as we seek the Lord, we do not have to go far. God is great but not remote. <i>Call to the Lord while he is still near.</i> God is also immanent, close to us, taking pity on us and forgiving us. This reading has the special opportunity of opening up the mystery of God's generous love for the people.	Philippians 1:20-24. 27 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians <i>For me to live is Christ.</i> For four weeks, we now read from Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi. Paul writes from prison perhaps two decades after Jesus' death to encourage them to be united and to stay strong. Paul offers his experience as a lesson. By his baptism, he is united to the risen Christ: <i>Life to me is Christ</i>, he says. He then outlines his dilemma. If he dies, he would be with Christ in glory; if he lives, he is able to continue his apostolic mission. He opts for the second as a more urgent need. Paul thinks his way through these questions with the Philippians. It is a quiet and reflective reading. <i>Taken from 'Break Open the Word'</i>

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

Lament and repentance for profound Pain, Wounds and Experience of Abuse Survivors

In humbling, repentant and poignant spirit around 100 people gathered in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral last Tuesday afternoon, sharing a simple though powerful lament, presided by Archbishop Peter Comensoli. By extraordinary coincidence at the very start, a momentary brisk wind caused the pages of an elevated Bible to blow its pages backwards, one by one, as if a reminder that reading scripture carefully shows how we should have behaved, but must now behave.

The printed Prayer Service included extracts of a letter from Pope Francis to the People of God (20 August 2018) which in part said "*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it*" (1 Cor 12:26), and "*The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of miners and of vulnerable adults*"

The Printed Service also included an August 2018 letter to the People of God by Archbishop Peter, which in part and more broadly said "*No words of apology - while always needed - will ever be enough to right the evil done to those who have been abused, and those who were not listened to and believed*".

No words here can adequately reflect the strong positive spirit so visibly experienced during the lament, particularly at its conclusion when participants individually tied memorial ribbons to the branches of a tree, and took a ribbon home. I've brought the latter back to share in our Church. 100 people isn't many, and the spirit of this Lament needs to be shared. It should also keep us aware, despite reparation efforts, of the understandable harm done to our Institutional Church, causing rejection by those as yet unaware or no longer trusting of changes at this stage - **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.