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

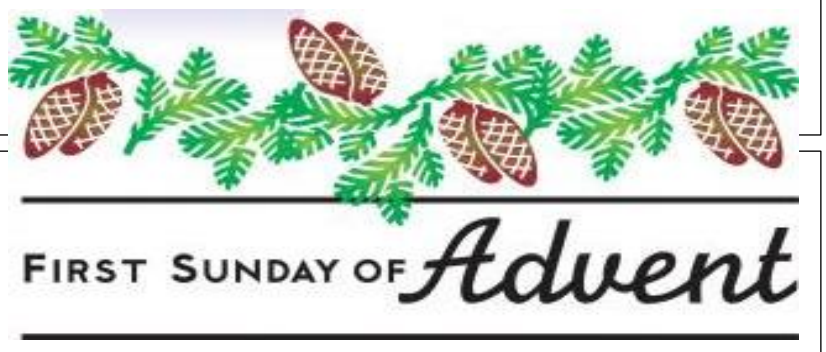
VISION STATEMENT

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 — First Sunday of Advent — 28/29th November, 2026

Baptism Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Charles Balnaves



Words from the desk of our PP…

WYD: News! About 25 people going from our parishes (and rising)
Sign up – please!

World Youth Day can and does change people's lives – they can come alive in the Holy Spirit – the fire of God's love fills them. Everyone enjoys the spectacle and seeing the Pope and … all the things of WYD. For some it transforms during the events. For some that comes later. For some … they learn but other events transform their faith. Whoever you are, young especially: If you feel a call then make the commitment! 2027 August 3-8 Seoul Korea: E-mail vera.arief@cam.org.au.

Advent and Advent Penitential Service!!!
Dec. 3rd at 7:30 pm, St Clement of Rome, 9 Egan Drive, Bulleen

Advent! Christ is near! We wait! We will journey through the coming year with the Gospel of Mark. It is the shortest, the earliest and the most urgent of the four Gospels and it opens by saying "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

Pay deep attention to this opening because Mark is telling us that his Gospel is the start and someone must carry it forwards. At the end of his Gospel (there were some words added later) Mark leaves us to take up the challenge of spreading the Good News – the women ran away in fear so who will take up the task … will you and will I?

We know it didn't end there, of course, but from the very beginning Mark is getting us ready to take up the reins. With Advent, we respond, by preparing, by learning to be awake, by knowing the Hope of Jesus Christ, by experiencing the Joy of his presence, by finding his Peace in our hearts, and by learning to love as he loves.

This year we are **starting** Advent with a moment for reflection.

Our Joint Penitential Service will be at St Clement of Rome – and at the end of the service there is the opportunity to receive Sacramental Absolution from Fr Vito, Mgr Franco, Fr Anton or myself.

Please come and join me for a moment of sitting with Jesus, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. A moment to enter into Advent and to put Christmas in perspective.

There is plenty of space at St Clement's so no need to book – just come. And – maybe … meet new people.

2027 Events

What things would you like to be provided by our parishes during 2027? Things to grow our faith and faith communities. Especially things that we can truly do together across St Clement's / St Gregory's / St Kevin's. Please, let me know: Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au.

Advent Wreath & Christmas Tree

The wreath is a delight, isn't it: a fresh approach to decorating it – thank you to those who created it. And thank you to Michael for the massive job of replacing the winch that makes our Advent Wreath such a stunning part of our liturgical lives.

And a new Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space: another fresh perspective. Thank you to those who found and purchased and erected and decorated this symbol of new life.

God bless, Fr Charles

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Baptism 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
	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, 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, Maureen Quinliven, Raffaela Dinelli, Solomon S Cua, Dana and Wilma McPherson and Tayla Conte.

Anniversaries:

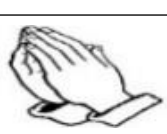
Stephen Byrne, Joe Chadwick, Claire Ryan, Margaret Anderson, Ugo Di Corrado, Walter Hohenberger, Kim West, Louis Amalfi, Immaculata Raiola and Noeline Holman.

Recently Deceased:

Raymond Cervelli



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this Week: For the growing new ministries across our parishes including Alpha, RCIA, Youth Ministries, Bible Studies, Small Groups: we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inflame all who are involved.



Feast Days this week:...

3rd December St Andrew

Mentioned a number of times in the Gospels.

Widely venerated since ancient times and remembered as one of the twelve who bore witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

3rd December St Francis Xavier

Travelled extensively through southeast Asia to Japan, winning many converts and leaving behind organised Christian communities.

Remembered for the witness of his poverty and for his tireless efforts as a missionary.

LITURGY ROSTER

First Sunday of Advent – 28/29th November 2026

1st Read: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8 2nd Read: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Gos: Mark: 13: 33-37

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Tasha Vercauteren		Lawrence Cecconello Anne Maguire
9.15am	Tony Byrne	Paul Polidano	Kaye Byrne Pat Rowland Liz Polidano

Second Sunday of Advent – 5/6th December 2026

1st Read: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2nd Read: 2 Peter 3: 8-14 Gos: Mark 1: 1-8

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Vianney Shiel	Frank Ozzimo	Lynne O'Brien Maryanne McNamara
9.15am	Carmel Purdey	Phil Brooks	Penny Teo Lyn Robinson Frances Bettiol



Our last **Parish Bookish Morning Tea** for 2026 will be held on **Thursday, 3rd December** at 10.00am.



All are welcome to join in the fun!
Looking forward to seeing you all then!!

A huge ***thank you*** to all of you who have supported this group over the year and a special ***thank you*** to our fabulous Ana who operated this successful group into our parish. Well done Ana! Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your support throughout 2026.



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



Azalea Barbieri

Daughter of Gianfranco and Cinzia

Little sister of Idalia

November is traditionally the month when we remember our deceased loved ones. If you would like Father to include them in our prayers, please complete the appropriate envelopes which are on the table in the Gathering Space and hand them directly to him.



Advent
Reconciliation

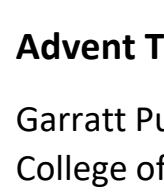
An Advent Reconciliation Service

will be held at St Clement of Rome Church, Egan Drive, Bulleen on Thursday Evening, 3rd December at 7.30pm.

Reconciliation will be offered in general absolution and we will have extra priests available for the second rite of individual absolution if you prefer.

Please note: this will be the only Reconciliation Service held during Advent.

Fr Charles



2027 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

The new Columban Calendars for 2027 are available from the table in the Gathering Space. $10 each.

Pope Leo XIV's official prayer intention for November 2026 is *"For the proper use of wealth,"* asking that wealth be used for the common good and solidarity with those who have less.

"Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less."

Our Three Partnered Parishes Are Hosting a…

CHRISTMAS PARTY!



When: Sunday, 6th December
Time: 5.45pm (after the 5pm Mass)
Where: St Gregory's School Hall

Programs for the night include Christmas Raffles, Children Performances, Sing Along Carols and Fun Activities.

For catering purposes, please add your names to the sign-up sheets provided on the table in the Gathering Space or use the QR Code on the flyer on the noticeboard.

Advent Series Until 15 December 2026

Advent 2026

Advent Talks - Zoom every Tuesday 7:00 pm until 15 December 8:00 pm.

Garratt Publishing is delighted to present a series of virtual Advent talks by Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity. Each week, this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week. Speaking to us from their own area of expertise will be:

- Prof Mary Coloe PBVM
- Dr Mary Reaburn NDS
- Dr Chris Monaghan CP

This is the perfect opportunity to deepen your faith and share your Advent journey. It is FREE of charge.

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN: Tuesdays – 1, 8, 15 December 2026 **TIME:** 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm (AEDT) **WHERE**: Via Zoom

REGISTRATION: - https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/ Or just search garrattpublishing - Go to Events

Online registration is essential. Zoom meeting details will be forwarded upon registration.



Christmas Carols

Come and join our St Kevin's Primary School community as we sing Christmas Carols and review our year. Monday, 7th December at 6.30pm in the Church. All welcome.



Please note: Christmas Day is a Friday this year. The Liturgy Committee is putting a lot of work into helping us prepare.
They have made the 4 weekends of Advent into a unique package and urge each one of us to fully participate.

The Joy of Christmas
Celebrate the Season



International Morning Tea
THANK YOU!

A huge ***Thank You*** to Ana and to everyone who came and brought traditional food to share to celebrate our vibrant parish last Sunday. There was a large variety of foods to taste and enjoy. Thank you also to all who assisted with setting up and clearing up afterwards.
We truly are a blessed parish.





Christmas/New Year Mass Times 2026

3rd December	- Reconciliation Service	7.30pm
24th December	- Christmas Eve	5.45pm Carols
		6.00pm Mass
25th December	- Christmas Day	9.00am Carols
		9.15am Mass
31st December	- New Year's Eve	6.00pm Mass
	(at St Gregory the Great)	

For information on our Parish School please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School
Phone: 9273 9999

Responsorial Psalm

Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
that we may be saved.

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading	***Second Reading***
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 A reading from the prophet Isaiah *Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.* At the dawn of a new liturgical year, we hear the anguished cry of God's people who feel abandoned and long for the divine presence. They call God 'Father' and 'Redeemer', titles that express both intimacy and trust, even as they question why God seems so distant. Their exile has left the people discouraged and conscious of their sin; yet from this place of loss comes a heartfelt prayer for renewal. The prophet gives voice to their longing in the dramatic cry: *'Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!'* It is the language of people yearning for God to act again in their midst, to reshape their hearts and restore hope to their broken community. The vivid images will help the listener to understand this message: filthy clothes, withered leaves and especially the potter and the clay. God is the patient craftsman who can renew us.	1 Corinthians 1:3-9 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians *The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.* Paul's assurance that 'God is faithful' is the heart of our Advent hope. Christian waiting is neither anxious or passive but is confident and active. Paul assures the Corinthians that they have the support of the gifts of the Spirit and that they are joined to the risen Christ. This is why they can be steady and filled with hope as they await the revelation of Christ's glory. This is also why Paul can begin with words of thanksgiving for the graces they have received, most notably, for the witness to Christ that has come from their teachers and preachers. *Taken from 'Break Open the Word'*



Joy of the Christmas season for many - but not all

Last weekend's powerful Gospel readings provide ironic local perspective on a recent distressing situation concerning someone in dire need. A small Bayside Anglican Church community which continues providing us with sewing material for Catholic Care's support of refugees sewing clothes they can't afford to purchase, recently urgently approached us indirectly, and several other groups, for potential assistance/ideas. Police had initially sought their advice/support for a young refugee woman found in profound mental distress, with her two month old baby, living by the sea in a sole residence, her small car. Both were urgently admitted to hospital for immediate temporary physical and mental support. The Parish had offered immediate temporary accommodation, but then what? Not an easy issue to deal with, especially in a small parish, though renowned for its kindness. In our Parish a quick enquiry prompted an interesting initial response "Isn't there some Government service that can help?". Another respondent kindly offered financial assistance.

Our offered suggestion pointed to Mackillop Family Services. The refugee mother and baby are imminently to be temporarily housed safely elsewhere. This is sadly a far from rare challenge. Though we can't fix everything, we can at least think about and connect our faith values with underlying social challenges.

Last Tuesday was 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women'. New UN data reports "about 47,000 women and girls were killed intentionally by an intimate partner or family member last year, and 5 women killed every hour globally by partner, relative".

Christmas for some, who are lonely and/or have lost those they love, is often far from joyful. Our Parishioners are well appreciated for thoughtfulness towards those in need. This is our final SJA Newsletter item this year. Next year we'll begin by sharing highly appreciative letters following recent Parish 2nd Collections. Christmas Peace ***- John Costa (SJA)***

Celebrating 40th anniversary of St Pope John Paul II's Alice Springs landmark address

A 6 Minute ACBC/NATSICC Video celebrating this landmark address 40 years ago this November to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG7tWN6Jf48

It includes two small segments (Sr Joan Hamilton RSJ & Sherry Balcombe) recorded by our Parish at short notice at the recently re-activated Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Northcote. Other more detailed associated resources are available from: https://www.natsicc.org.au