



# St Kevin's Catholic Parish



Parish Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9am to 4pm  
26 Herlihys Road, Lower Templestowe 3107  
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Telephone: 9850 5983 Fax: 9850 1545

**Pastoral Worker:** Mrs Ana Saro  
**Lay Ecclesial Leader:** Mrs Tiziana D'Costa  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Charles Balnaves

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Website: [stkevinsparish.org.au](http://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 B

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

**Our Presider today is:** Fr Gerard McKernan

### ***From the desk of our Lay Ecclesial Leader...***

I hope you are enjoying a good start to the new year. I am back from leave refreshed and recharged for what is going to be a busy 2024. Last year, we planned. This year, we will act in line with our vision to connect with the wider world and to be hospitable and generous so that all may live life to the full. This fits in well with the overall vision we share with St Gregory's to be a vibrant and vital community that intentionally reaches out to bring people to Jesus Christ.

In February and March, we are running the Alpha pilot, beginning on Saturday 3 February, and the Landings program, beginning on 21 February. Put simply, with these programs we are reaching out to our parish and the broader community and giving people an opportunity to come closer to God and/or to re-engage with their faith through well tested interactive programs that facilitate conversation, reflection and fellowship.

#### *What is Alpha?*

**Alpha** is an opportunity for people to share a meal, ask questions about important matters of life, faith and meaning and, in the search for the answer, come to know Jesus and grow closer to God.

There are 21 participants across the two parishes in our Alpha pilot expertly supported by Mary Ryan from the Archdiocese Proclaim team. I'm delighted we received such a positive response and enthusiasm for this program. If you want to learn more about Alpha, please contact me or Fr Charles.

#### *What is Landings?*

**Landings** offers a safe space for those who have disconnected from their faith to share their experiences. The informal meetings over a coffee and cake are all about compassionate listening: to welcome and encourage people to re-engage with their faith. The meetings are run by lay people.

The program begins on 21 February: there are 8 weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8.30 pm. If you know of any inactive Catholics who may be interested in discussing their faith and/or are considering returning to the faith, please put them in touch with me or Ana Saro for more information.

Finally, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Fr Isaac Zaki who joins our parish and St Gregory's parish as assistant priest to Fr Charles. Fr Isaac is new to Australia; he is learning about life in Melbourne and in our parish with enthusiasm. He is settling in well. I know you will make him feel welcome. A warm welcome and hospitality are what our parish does best!

***Blessings, Tiziana***

### **Synod on a Synodal Church**

In a press release on 1st February the Bishops of Australia call for parishes to give some input about how we are living the idea and the reality of being 'synodal' of 'walking together' of shared leadership (co-responsibility).

The request is for each parish to share stories of their experience (two pages maximum) so that these stories can be brought together from around Australia and ultimately around the world.

If you would like to be a part of framing these two pages then please let me know or let the parish office know.

This is quite a rapid process with a deadline for submissions in early May.

**Fr Charles**



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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	
Tuesday	8.30am	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	
	10.15am	Adoration
Thursday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	



### We pray for Better Health:

Fr Brendan Dillon, Bastine D'Cruz, Mary Calleja, Batoul Barak, Louise Dipetro, Mary Hodgekinson, Lianney Susanto, Kevin Parker, Melissa Wirata, Jane O'Brien, Dorothea (Dot) Sharkey, Trish Wilson, Danielle Hardy, Maeve & John Reardon, Eugenia Pozzebon, Margaret Turner, Graham & Jason Gooden, Lynda O'Meara, Milda Sarzetakas, Andrew Amalfi, Ana Saro and Tracey Tucker.

Anniversaries: Frances Patricia Alexander, Lewis Calleja, Domenico & Maria Salvo, Mary Colnon, Nellie Doolan, Tim Mullin, Estefan Rosales, Chris Mullens, Patricia Dyson, Brenda Mary Hatten and Margaret Bath.

Recently Deceased: Fr Kevin Bates

### Feast Days this week:...

**5<sup>th</sup> February** St Agatha

*Remembered in legend for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.*

**6<sup>th</sup> February**

St Paul Miki and Companions

*Remembered as a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution and isolation.*

**10<sup>th</sup> February** St Scholastica

*She dedicated herself to God through the monastic life. Remembered for her part in establishing Benedictine monasticism.*

## LITURGY ROSTER

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23 Gos: Mark 1: 29-39**

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Margaret Turner	Margaret McNamara
8.30am	Paul Polidano		Adrian Teo
10.00am	Tony Byrne	Frances Johnson	Kaye Byrne

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 10/11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**1<sup>st</sup> Read: Leviticus 13: 1-2 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: 1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1 Gos: Mark 1: 40-45**

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Christine Marini	Bredenia Raquel
8.30am	Julie O'Donnell	Pauline Erickson	Pat Rowland
10.00am	Jessica Bartholomeusz	Miriam Ayoub	Tony Whelan

## Congratulations / Thank you

I speak a lot about the plans I've been helping develop to seek to grow to be more a people who seek to bring people to Jesus.

I don't speak as often about the wide range of ministries you are a part of that already present the face of Jesus to the world.

The schools (principals, staff, children, families), parish pastoral council, the parish finance group, Vinnies, altar servers, lectors, communion ministers (at Mass and to the home and to the aged care homes), hospitality through special functions and after Mass and through welcoming at the front door as people arrive, sacristans, linen cleaning, vestment repairs, altar cloth making, church cleaning, flowers, meditation, adoration, the choir, the A/V presenters, the holy water managers, the collectors, the counters, accountants, maintenance/upgrades, garden maintenance, working bee participants ... there are more I am sure.

Each of these groups brings a face of Jesus to the world. You are absolutely vital and the smile and hello that come from the depths of the heart reflect the great heart of Jesus that exists in the communities which I am charged to shepherd.

And I don't shepherd alone: I now have specific help in leadership from both Fr Isaac and Tiziana D'Costa and I hope to add to this group of leaders as the months go on.

The rest of the staff also participate in leadership (our secretaries and bookkeepers and pastoral worker but are maybe easy to forget to name them because they are so quietly effective. And by the way, every single one of our staff is active in broader parish life as well as through their 'work' (some are active at the parishes where they live of course).

As we move ahead with doing the Census, with running the Alpha and Landings Programs, with seeking to meet Jesus again and again and get to know him more and more personally: thank you—I am aware every day of the present moment of our faith and how awesomely beautiful our communities are as a presence of Christ Jesus for the world.

We can lose energy and focus—certainly. We make mistakes—certainly.

We seek to grow and develop and enrich our faith: always!!

**God bless, Fr Charles**



### BOOKISH MORNING TEA

Recommences on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February!

Please feel welcome to come to the Parish House on Wednesday morning at 10.30am for a chat, browse through the book swap library and a delicious morning tea!

Hope to see you there!!!



## Living in Harmony



Chittister • Creevey • Hamilton  
Moore • Rowse • Snoddy

# Ash Wednesday this year is Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February

Masses will be held at St Kevin's Parish Church on that day as follows:

11.45am (please note change of time) and 7.30pm in St Kevin's Church  
2.20pm at St Charles Borromeo School

Stations of the Cross will be conducted at 9.45am every Tuesday morning during Lent after the 9.15am Mass and 7.00pm every Friday at St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster.

We will be conducting a weekly Lenten Program in St Kevin's Chapel commencing on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, directly after the 9.15am morning Mass, and will continue every week during Lent. This program will be guided by our Lay Ecclesial Leader, Tiziana D'Costa, who will be using the Lenten Program booklet written by a variety of theologians. The booklet will be provided for you all to use during the Lenten Program or for you to study at home if you are not able to attend every session.

All are invited and very welcome to attend any/all of the above.

St Kevin's Christian Meditation,  
each Wednesday 9:30am ONLINE via Zoom.

Why not try it?

Contact the Parish House for the online link.

All welcome.

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

Meditation is not the time to worry about what is happening.

It is a time of self-forgetfulness while focussing on the sacred word: the mantra MARANATHA, "Come Lord" in Aramaic, language spoken by Jesus.

As you begin, trust that it will work for you.

### 2024 - Gloom or Hope?

Fresh from Christmas, the start of a New Year, and Chinese New Year shortly, it's natural now to feel somewhat joyful and optimistic. But at the same time the painful reality of a troubled world and society, and those with significant special needs, remain to haunt us. In the First Gospel Reading this weekend prophet Job does an excellent job expressing gloom. However balance also calls for context, time, hope and action. We can however start with recent appreciation expressed by St Kevin's 2nd collection beneficiaries. Extracts from (Catholic) Bethlehem University in the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territories, uniquely attended by both Palestinian and Israeli students, say *"On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Bethlehem University, I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude the most generous gift of AUD 243.20 received from Templestowe Parish through Catholic Mission Australia.....During this heartbreaking and difficult time here at Bethlehem University, we continue to foster peace and stay focused on our educational mission. We believe that the city of Bethlehem will always remain a source of hope."*

**Other** recent acknowledgments have come from Melbourne Overseas Mission (\$406), Nungalingya College (\$547 with St Greg's), and MacKillop Family Services (\$775.50). This weekend we support St Vincent de Paul flood appeal.

**Watch** out for 2024 SJA events soon. Better still, Join Us! - *John Costa SJA*



### Thank You to our Volunteers Morning Tea

It has come to the attention of the Parish that some of you have been volunteering in your own special way for more than 50 years. What an achievement! Most of us don't have that sort of history, but many both past and present have selflessly given their time to ensure the smooth running of the parish.

Over the weekend of 10/11<sup>th</sup> February, Fr Charles would like to recognise all our volunteers, both past and present, at each of the Masses on that weekend.

If you have volunteered in any way, please come along and you are warmly invited to stay for a "cuppa" and cake after the 8.30am and 10.00am Masses. If you know of other folk who have volunteered in the past, please invite them to join us at one of our Masses.

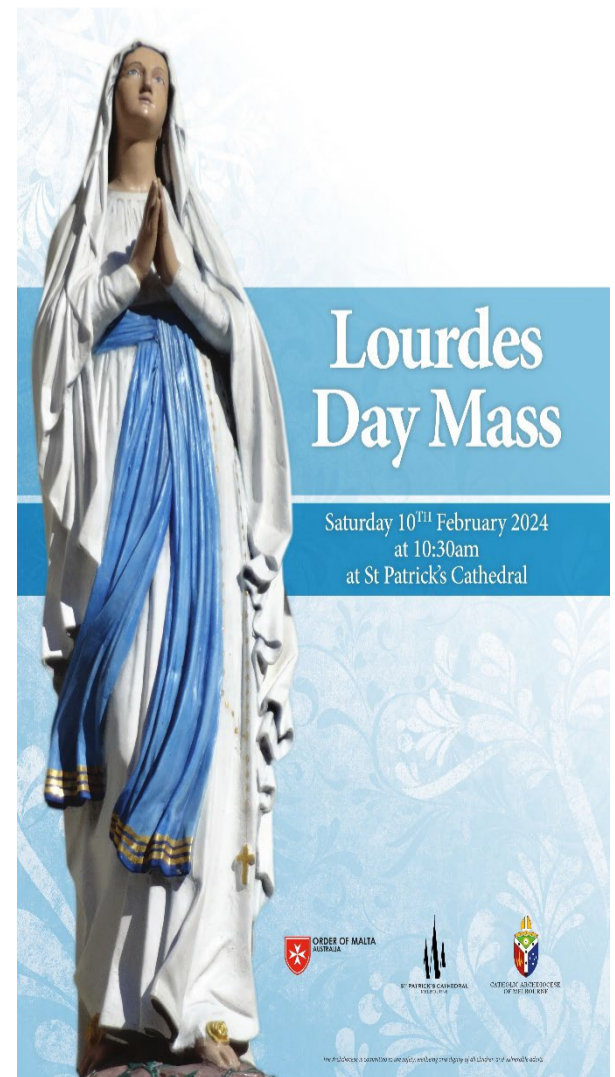
### ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS

**SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2024**

For some years now, the Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes.

The Mass will take place again on **Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral**, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant.

For further information, please contact:  
Sauro Antonelli AM on  
0411 250 288.



For information on our Parish Schools please contact:

**St Kevin's Primary School**  
Phone: 9273 9999

**St Charles Borromeo Primary School**  
Phone: 9842 7634

## Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

## Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### First Reading

[Job 7: 1-4. 6-7](#)

A reading from the book of Job

*I am filled with sorrow all day long.*

The very size of the book (42 chapters), let alone the fundamental question with which it wrestles, would have given the book of Job claim for significant representation in the lectionary. Alas, that is not the case at all. In three years there are just two short extracts, one for today and another for the Twelfth Sunday this year. The latter is rarely heard because the vagaries of the Lent and Easter seasons severely limit the observance of Sundays 7-12.

More's the pity, then, that today's text is an unrelieved lament at the joylessness of human life. Job bewails the utter drudgery of existence. It is nothing more than a hopeless repetition of days and nights that offer no relief from toil and grief. These are sentiments found also in the book of Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth), but there they are offset by sunny breaks.

Even the connection with the gospel is tenuous. Today's reading from Mark does acknowledge sickness and demonic possession, but in the context of Jesus' power to heal. It bears good news, not bad. The upshot is that we get no glimpse of the poetry, power and beauty of the book of Job. Even though it doesn't resolve the problem of suffering, it does take us to heights as well as depths along the way.

#### Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 9: 16-19. 22-23](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.*

From consideration of marriage, virginity and sexuality in chapter 7, Paul turns to the controversial issue of food offered to idols. The Corinthians have sought his advice as to whether it was permissible for them to eat it or not. The lectionary omits all of the short chapter 8 that introduces the problem, and also much of chapter 9 in which Paul asserts his apostolic authority. Today's reading picks up the concluding stage of his argument where he plays with the notion of freedom.

As we discover from his letters, Paul is not averse to boasting. Here his claim is that he proclaims the gospel for free. Ironically, he first declares that he himself is not free. He has no choice but to preach – it is his sacred duty. But by not charging for this service, unlike other preachers and teachers of his time, he is free of the obligations that fees might entail.

This in turn allows him to choose to be unfree, that is, to be "the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could." This is not a strategy of ingratiating himself with different classes of people for the sake of social acceptance. It's a missionary tactic "to save some at any cost."

Paul is in argumentative mode here, justifying his methods. He wants to get the Corinthians to understand the freedom he enjoys and how he chooses to exercise it. He will go on to apply this to the question they have posed. Careful examination of how Paul develops his case will pay dividends for readers and the assembly alike.

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 is Chinese New Year!**

**Gong xi fa cai**

May the Year of the Dragon 2024 bring us and our loved ones good health, happiness, and success.

Wishing us all wealth and prosperity in this lucky year.

May this year be filled with joy and peace for all of us.



# Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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

