



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



Parish Office Hours: Mon to Fri: 9am to 4pm
26 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower 3107
PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106
Telephone: 9850 5983 Fax: 9850 1545

Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves
Lay Ecclesial Leader: Mrs Tiziana D'Costa
Business Manager: Mr David Hii
Pastoral Worker: Mrs Ana Saro

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 C

Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st/22nd December, 2024

Our Presider today is: Fr Barry Caldwell



From the Desk of our PP...

School Leadership:

We learned of two significant changes in the leadership of schools in St Greg's and St Kevin's Parishes. At the end of Term 1 2025, Ms Michelle Verna will leave her position as Principal of St Gregory the Great Primary School to take up the role of Principal at St Josephs, Springvale. This will be a wonderful expansion of opportunity for Michelle as she flourishes as a school principal. Ms Miranda Zuzic will not return from leave to be Principal at St Charles Borromeo Primary School and Ms Verna will continue, until she leaves for St Josephs, as Lead Principal for St Charles Borromeo (as she has been for Term 4 this year).

Both Michelle and Miranda go with our blessings and prayers for a long, rich and fulfilling future.

PS: Amidst the change caused by these two events, please be assured Ms Gabee Leone is remaining on as Principal at St Kevin's School.

Christmas Gifts:

Some time ago I was watching a TV show and the 'hero' was caught flat footed without a suitable generous gift to give so he gave the gift of his breath. It was a trivial moment in an amusing show but the choice is actually deeply meaningful. To give of one's breath is to give of the very essence of life, to give of the Spirit which enlivens us.

This year, I have been busy far beyond my expectations. Consequently, I have done only three things personally towards Christmas: I have put up my Christmas Trees (I have two) and with that have helped my granddaughter put up her first ever tree; I have bought a whole bunch of stamps for sending out Christmas cards (so far unused); and I have put aside time for preparing for the Christmas Masses (not enough yet but I have done so).

That means that none of you will receive physical gifts from me, or Christmas cards.

But ...

I have been giving you the gift of my breath to help enlighten your way towards Christmas, of my heart to help shepherd you towards and into the love of Jesus Christ, of my energy to help cover all the things that are needed for parish life, of my life in order that you may find or follow each day the Way to which the Christmas Star can lead us.

I am sure I shall say more for the Christmas newsletter – but since so many people go away for Christmas I am getting in now: Have a most joyful and wonder filled Christmas –amidst difficulty and sorrow or amidst joy and happiness: Jesus Christ is always there, with us, beside us, in us.

January:

The office will be open most of the time for January. I may take a few days off during the first full week of the month. Hopefully a quiet month.

God bless, Fr Charles

Christmas Mass Times 2024



24th December - Christmas Eve 5.45pm Carols

6.00pm Mass

9.00pm Mass

25th December - Christmas Day 9.00am Mass

Please note: this is the only Mass on Christmas Day


Joy
Love
Peace
Believe
Christmas

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	Masses
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
	5.45pm	Christmas Carols
	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass
	9.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Wednesday	9.00am	Christmas Morning Mass
Thursday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
Saturday	5.30pm	Feast of the Holy Family Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	Feast of the Holy Family Masses



We pray for Better Health:

Alexandra Franke, Aisha Yahiat, Jane O'Brien, Bernard Mohar, Angelina Amalfi, Alexander, Felipe, Anne, Izabella Fantin, Lucy Bisetto, Guadalupe Cameron, Elysia Pozzebon, Shiela O'Donoghue, Wang Wei Qiao, Nady Botrous, Michelle, Tony Costa, Melissa Wirata, Michael Angelo Yambao, Rosanna Campagna, Gabriella Cunico, Alexandra Bateman, Alan Benn and Federico Aspromonte.

Anniversaries:

John Rowland (2nd), Nina Luca, Dorothy Childers and Albert Oates

Recently Deceased:

Rev Len Thomas PE

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week: For the renewal of missionary zeal and openness to the call of the Holy Spirit in our hearts this Christmas.



Feast Days this week:...

25th December Christmas Day!

26th December St Stephen
Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit, as one 'full of grace and power' who did great wonders and signs among the people.

27th December St John
Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis in Christian love.

28th December The Holy Innocents
In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence.

LITURGY ROSTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 21st/22nd December 2024

1st Read: Micah 5: 1-4 2nd Read: Hebrews 10: 5-10 Gos: Luke 1: 39-44

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Daniel Marini	Tasha Vercauteren	Anne Maguire Lawrence Ceconello
8.30am	Erika Castro	Pamela Rivera	Mary Waddick Adrian Teo
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Liz O'Connell	Tony Robinson Lyn Robinson

Christmas Eve/Day - 24/25th December 2024

1st Read: Isaiah 52: 7-10 2nd Read: Hebrews 1: 1-6 Gos: John 1: 1-18

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
6.00pm	Tiziana D'Costa	Fiona Watson	Lyn Murphy Lynne O'Brien Anne Maguire
9.00pm	Tasha Vercauteren	Margaret Turner	Bredenia Raquel Carmel Shiel
9.00am	Pauline Erickson	Carmel Shiel	TBA

Christmas Party

Are you planning on coming to Christmas Eve Mass at 9.00pm?

Why not stay for a while afterwards and celebrate together with our parish community. Please bring your own drinks and a plate to share (Fr Charles loves Christmas Cake). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and catch-up with old ones.

Days of Solemnity... (important Feast Days)

Wednesday, 1st January (New Year's Day)– Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mass will be celebrated @ 9.00am at St Gregory the Great Church

Weekend of 4/5th January – The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses will be celebrated @ 5.30pm on Saturday and 8.30am and 10.00am on Sunday morning.

January: The parish offices (at both St Greg's and St Kevin's) will be largely closed over the Christmas/New Year period – nearly everyone is on holiday (surprise 😊). Fr Charles? He will be around – catching up on things, thinking, and taking things a little easier but still available. So if there is something you are thinking about doing over this time – you need to let us know so we can plan it – and I know what is happening.

Fr Charles

Free to a Good Home!

The next edition of "The Swag" magazine is available from the table in the Gathering Space.



Archbishop welcomes new Victorian measures to tackle antisemitism, promote social cohesion

The Victorian Government has announced a range of new measures aimed at confronting antisemitism, addressing dangerous demonstrations and strengthening social cohesion across the state. Welcoming the measures, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli said, 'All Victorians should feel safe to attend places of worship, whatever their religion', and looked forward 'to working constructively with the Government on implementation' of the measures.



How's that Christmas shopping coming along? Still finding it difficult to find that something special for that someone who's always hard to buy for? Then come along to our Bethlehem Co-Op Market who will be conducting an arts and crafts market stall here this Sunday, 22nd December after the 8.30am and 10.00am Masses.

Items include beautifully hand-made goods from many different indigenous communities, including Australian Aboriginals.

Come along and find that special something for someone or keep it for yourself!



2025 – A Year of Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope

A Year of Jubilee is a time of extraordinary grace, a chance to reorient and renew our relationship with the Lord and our neighbours. The theme of Jubilee 2025 is 'pilgrims of hope'. In choosing this theme, Pope Francis invites us to rediscover our calling to be tangible signs of hope in the world. He reminds us that the journey to eternity is a pilgrimage made together, always clinging with childlike trust to the Lord's endless love and mercy.

The Year of Jubilee 2025 begins on Christmas Eve, when Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica. In our Archdiocese, we anticipate the beginning of the Jubilee before a formal inauguration on Sunday 29 December.

We will provide opportunities for people to encounter the love of God and to allow their lives to be touched by hope. Jubilee years usually only come once every 25 years—we need to make the most of it!



We are pleased to share the success of the inaugural Archbishop's Campaign and sincerely thank you for your generosity and support.

Together, parishes across the Archdiocese raised **\$811,178** including **\$2,539** contributed by St Kevin's Templestowe Parish.

These funds will support vital mission areas such as the Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College and the Archbishop's Evangelisation Initiatives.

Thank you for being part of this important campaign and for living out your faith with action.



Our Alpha program is returning in February next year.

Are you or anyone you know searching for life's big questions? Do you wonder: is there more to life than this? Why am I here? Who is Jesus? If you have questions about life, faith and meaning, join our Alpha program in February. There's a seat for you at the table. Alpha is friendly, fun and relaxed. We ran the program this year. It was great, so we are running again next year. If you would like to find out more, please grab one of the leaflets with the details near the entrance or contact the parish office.



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

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

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Merciful Lord hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

Micah 5: 1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Sadly, this is the only time that we hear words from the prophet Micah on a Sunday. One might know his famous words: *to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God* (6:8), but they are only heard on a weekday.

The opening words of today's reading might also sound familiar because they are quoted by Matthew when Herod asks the wise men from the East where the Christ was to be born. We will hear this text on the feast of the Epiphany.

Micah speaks out against corruption and injustice, but here he offers words of hope. A leader will be born whose mission will be to gather the people in peace. He will symbolise God's power and all will be secure under God's care.

The climax of the reading occurs towards the end with the references to power and majesty.



Second Reading

Hebrews 10: 5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is a difficult text, both for the reader to proclaim and for the assembly to hear and understand. Thus it presents a challenge.

The author of Hebrews imagines Jesus quoting Psalm 39/40. The ideas here are quite familiar from the writings of the prophets: what God wants is not ritual and sacrifices, but rather a contrite heart, a life well-lived. *God, here I am; I come to do your will.*

This points to the meaning of the incarnation and of the sending of Christ into the world. The child born for us will be our saviour by the ultimate offering he will make on the cross.

The psalm falls into two parts: the first about 'no sacrifice' and the second about doing God's will. There is an exact parallel in the second section of the reading. First, the setting-aside of sacrifice, and then, quoting the psalm, an affirmation of Christ's holy offering of himself. As the writer explains: Christ abolishes the first to replace it with the second.

Taken from "Break Open the Word"



The Hon Kevin James Andrews (1955–2024)

In a statement responding to the recent death of the Hon Kevin James Andrews (1955–2024), Archbishop Peter A Comensoli paid tribute to of a man 'of deep and remarkable faith' who was 'committed wholeheartedly to marriage and family' and dedicated to public service.

Honouring Neale Fraser: a legacy of excellence and leadership

The life and legacy of Australian tennis legend Neale Fraser AO MBE, a man who exemplified excellence both on and off the court, will be celebrated with a state funeral at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne on Wednesday 18 December. Fraser, who passed away at the age of 91, will be remembered by tennis enthusiasts and by the Australian community not only for his remarkable sporting achievements but for his reputation as an inspiring and generous leader.



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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