



St Kevin's Catholic Parish

26-44 Herlihys Road, Templestowe Lower



Mass Times

St Kevin's: 5.30pm Saturdays

8.30am and 10.00am Sundays

St Gregory the Great: 6.00pm Saturdays

9.00am, 10.30am and 5.00pm Sundays

Reconciliation at St Gregory the Great every

Saturday morning at 9.30am

Parish Priest:

Fr Charles Balnaves

Lay Ecclesial Leader: Mrs Tiziana D'Costa

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 C

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

11/12th January, 2025

Baptisms Weekend

Our Presider today is: Fr Gerry McKernan

From the Desk of our PP...

Alpha:

We've had signs up and notices about the next Alpha experience. It will start on 19th February.

Participants in 2024 all gained some benefit from the experience – for some it made a significant impact on them. Some learnt a bit more about Jesus. Some learned to recognise and experience the Holy Spirit in their lives. All grew in faith in some way small or large.

Please invite people you know to come along: obligation free, meals free, good conversations. A gentle invitation you issue when someone ponders and wonders about life, about meaning, about ... faith. Invite a friend, invite a neighbour, invite a colleague: not forcing but recognising the need you see in them that the Holy Spirit guides you to recognise.

Questions for you:

I would be interested to know what barriers there are to you on two fronts: one barriers to growing your faith; the other barriers to being involved, or involved more in our parish life.

We put invitations in the bulletin inviting participation in one or more of the many ministries that the parish has. We get very little response.

Yes, there are a lot of people helping with parish life. And I thank you, greatly. I cherish your help. Indeed, as I reflect writing these words I realise that some of you have been giving your time almost since the parish started and that is just awe inspiring.

But then there will be something like a working bee and ... one person turns up in the morning and one couple says they can make it in the afternoon. Or helping with flowers. Or helping care for the church. Or helping with being a lector / reader, or communion minister, or multi-media assistant.

I am interested in what stops you joining in or joining in more. Perhaps we can change to remove the barriers.

Perhaps you are giving your time for Christ in other places than your parish. That can be a good reason and I'd love to know about the things you are involved in.

Please email me via Doncaster@cam.org.au or Templestowe@cam.org.au and let me know:

- What barriers are there for you?
- What would you like to do if barriers could be removed?
- What do you do that we don't see – things outside the usual parish life?

Please – let me know.

January:

The parish office is now open for 2025.

God bless, Fr Charles

Happy
New Year
2025

Happy New Year Everyone and welcome back to our first parish newsletter for the year.

We wish you all a year filled good health, prosperity, peace, joy, love and happy days.

Your Parish Team

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

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	Masses (Baptisms @ 10.00am)
Tuesday	8.15am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group
Wednesday	10.15am	Adoration
Thursday	8.30am	Adoration
	9.15am	Mass
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am	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, Melissa Wirata, Michael Angelo Yambao, Rosanna Campagna, Gabriella Cunico, Alexandra Bateman, Alan Benn and Federico Aspromonte.

Anniversaries: Fr Charlie McCann, Graeme Burgess, Cecilia Hennessy, Peter McCluskey, Loretta Kervin and Peter Cleal

Recently Deceased: Marilyn Finnigan

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for the Baptism of the Lord: That all who are "baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" will live their baptismal promises ever more fully in 2025.



Feast Days this week:...

17th January St Anthony

Born in 251 in upper Egypt.
Died in 356.

At an early age he gave away his possessions and sought the austere life and solitude in the desert.

Yet he remained involved in the theological controversies of his day, defending the divinity of Christ.

He attracted disciples who formed communities of hermits.

The account of his life by St Athanasius was extremely influential in the development and spread of monasticism.

Remembered as the father of monasticism.

LITURGY ROSTER

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – 11/12th January 2025

1st Read: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 2nd Read: Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7 Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Daniel Marini	Anne Maguire Lawrence Ceconello
8.30am	Pauline Erickson	Paul Polidano	Penny Teo Pat Rowland
10.00am	Miriam Ayoub	Bernard Butler	Carmel Shiel Carmel Purdey

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 18/19th January 2025

1st Read: Isaiah 62: 1-5 2nd Read: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 Gos: John 2: 1-11

Time	Commentator	Lector	Special Ministers
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Kathy Pearce	Fiona Watson Lynne O'Brien
8.30am	Jessica Bartholomeusz		Mary Waddick Paul Polidano
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Bernard Butler	Lyn Murphy Tony Whelan

Meditation Sessions will recommence for 2025 online via zoom on Wednesday 5th February @ 9.30am. Why not try it?

Contact the Parish House for the online link.

This invitation is also extended to all members of the wider parish community. All are welcome.

Thank you all for joining each week throughout last year.

We look forward to seeing you all again in a few weeks' time.



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

Sienna and Xavier

Pagotto

Children of Damian and Cristiana



A special thank you from our CEO

Dear Father and parish team,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your parish community at St Kevin's Templestowe Parish.

Your support and dedication have been instrumental in allowing CatholicCare Victoria to reach out and make a positive impact in the lives of so many individuals and families this year.

Through your commitment, we've been able to provide vital support services to over 32,000 people in our communities, empowering them to reach their full potential and live 'life to the full'.

Your contributions have created inclusive and compassionate spaces where everyone belongs. Your unwavering support has impacted the lives of families, youth, and individuals facing challenging circumstances. Your generosity and compassion have made a real and lasting difference.

Thank you for your ongoing support in creating thriving, inclusive communities. Your partnership is invaluable, and I am deeply grateful that we can continue to work together to bring positive change and hope to those who need it most.

I wish you and your loved ones hope, joy and love this Christmas. Thank you. Peace and blessings, Agnes Sheehan Chief Executive Officer



January 6th 2025

St. Kevin's Parish
PO Box 985
Templestowe Vic. 3106

Well done to our St Kevin's Parish Craft Group!

(If you are interested in joining in, they meet every Tuesday afternoon at 1.00pm in the Gathering Space.)

Re: Fellow carers and knitters

Here at Exodus Community we are both resting a bit after the busy Christmas time and conducting school holiday activities to help meaningfully occupy some of our local young people.

We hope you are all well and have had opportunity to spend time with loved ones during this recent time.

We are keen to let you know how we have distributed the most recent lot of knitted items you sent us. And we want to acknowledge the amazing patience, care and skill that is evident in the final products! These knitted items are beautiful! A treasure for those lucky enough to receive them.

Liz, our Program Coordinator and I checked that all our contacts of older folk and shut ins had received a blanket. We then took some to our nearby Aged Care facility where some of our previous residents and friends now live. We offered blankets to them and, even though summer, they were most appreciative. The newness, colour, design and obvious care that had gone into the creation of the blankets was not lost them! All asked that we pass on their thanks.

We still had some blankets and beanies from another source left. Rather than keep them and wait for winter we offered them the Julia Wake, sister of Liz, our Program Coordinator to take back with her to Alice Springs where she is Principal of the Catholic High School there. Through her contacts with local people living in Camps on the outskirts of Alice Springs, Julia will offer blankets and beanies to people there. Your love and care - and blessings via the attached cards - reaches many!

We hope you approve of this distribution. Julia will let us know the outcome of this offer and we will forward responses to you.

Thank you for your ongoing care and thoughtfulness. Knit on!!

Blessings.



Br. Harry Prout
on behalf of Exodus Community
Heidelberg West



SPES NON CONFUNDIT. "Hope does not disappoint." With these words, the solemn invitation to the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 begins. Our Holy Father Pope Francis formally invites all Catholics, to celebrate the Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025. The last Ordinary Jubilee was observed with much fervour in the year 2000. This took place during the latter years of the illustrious pontificate of Saint John Paul the Second. According to the current liturgical and spiritual practice of the Roman Catholic Church, Ordinary Holy or "Jubilee" Years are called and celebrated every quarter century.

Pope Francis has solemnly opened the Holy Year by opening the special Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Peter in Vatican City. He accomplished this simple yet significant rite on Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2024. This ritual act will set in motion the whole series of Jubilee events for this year until the Jubilee Year is solemnly brought to a close on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord on January 6th, 2026.

Questions to Ponder:

- Each year we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, an important moment in Jesus' life and a transition to his public ministry. How do you celebrate the anniversary of your own baptism?
- The first reading from the prophet Isaiah seems to contain an oxymoron – the Lord's chosen one will "bring forth justice to nations" while "not crying out, not shouting, / not making his voice heard in the street". Who models this quiet, nonviolent justice for you?
- In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter ends his summary of Jesus' ministry by stating, "He went about doing good / and healing all those oppressed by the devil, / for God was with him." How does your family and parish community continue to carry out the ministry of Jesus?
- After Jesus is baptised, a voice from the heavens proclaims, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." From this place of "belovedness" Jesus begins his public ministry. How would it change your ministry if you were to hear the voice of God proclaim to you each day, "You are my beloved in whom I am well pleased"?

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

O bless the Lord,
my soul!

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE FEAST THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading

[Isaiah 42: 1-4. 6-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Each of the four gospels first introduce John the Baptist using some of the words from Isaiah 40. We heard them earlier in Advent when John came on the scene, but they do not occur here in the stories of the Baptism of the Lord.

Nevertheless, they serve as an appropriate announcement of the ministry of Jesus which is about to begin. By his words and deeds, he will manifest the power of God and bring consolation. He will be the Good Shepherd who seeks out the lost sheep. The joyful messenger who shouts, 'Here is your God!' echoes the voice from heaven which says, 'you are my Son'.

Second Reading

[Titus 2: 11-14; 3. 4-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

We have heard these two paragraphs before – quite recently! They were read separately at the Christmas Masses for night and dawn. So, the Christmas season ends as it began.

In fact, the whole of the Christmas season turns on the theme of revelation. Who is this baby born? Who is the child found by the wise men? Who is the boy with surprising questions in the Temple? Who is this man revealed today as God's son when he was baptised in the Jordan River? Note the opening phrase of today's reading: *God's grace has been revealed.*

Paul unpacks this revelation for Titus – Christ reconciles the whole human race to God, setting them free and purifying them to do good. We are invited to accept God's grace offered to us in the cleansing waters of our baptismal rebirth and by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit over us.

It is in these last lines that we are connected to the baptism of the Lord. The water of rebirth and the anointing with the Holy Spirit led Jesus to engage with his vocation and mission. By our baptism, we join in Jesus' mission to further the Kingdom of God.

Taken from "Break Open the Word"

Catholic Parrots

A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, "Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, but they only know how to say one thing".

"What do they say, my child?" the priest inquired.

They say, "Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"

"That's obscene!" the priest exclaimed, then he thought for a moment. "You know," he said, "I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible. Bring your two parrots over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Frank and Jacob. My parrots can teach your parrots to pray and worship, and your parrots are sure to stop saying that phrase in no time."

"Thank you," the woman responded, "this may very well be the solution."

The next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest's house.

As he ushered her in, she saw that his two male parrots were inside their cage, holding rosary beads and praying.

Impressed, she walked over and placed her parrots in with them.

After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison:

"Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"

There was a stunned silence.

Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot and exclaimed:

"Put the beads away, Frank. Our prayers have been answered!"



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

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