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Website: cam.org.au/templestowe

Facebook: St Kevin's Parish

Parish Office Hours: Tue to Thu: 9am to 4pm

Parish Priest: Fr Gerry McKernan

Pastoral Worker: Mrs Rebecca Sandwell



ST KEVIN'S PARISH

Mgr Greg Bennet said:

"You have renewed the church building, now is the time to renew yourselves and your faith."

Third Sunday of Advent

16/17th December, 2017

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to
the poor.

Alleluia!

Response to Prayers of the Faithful

Come and remain with us,
Lord Jesus.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart:
Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us.

Advent Thoughts

May this season of hope open our hearts to the wonder of the world and enable us to discover anew the many blessings of our lives.

THE TIME OF
Blessing

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah (back to Isaiah 61): the promise fulfilled (read within context of Christian liturgy, this is the now). Thessalonians: All about living the in-between times; holding on to good, be ready for the coming of the Lord. John: Introduces one who bears witness to the light.

Advent Wreath and Small Crib on Youtube

If you would like to show your children, other family or visitors our Advent Wreath operating and the small crib telling the Christmas story then go to Youtube and type in *St Kevin's Advent Wreath* or *St Kevin's Templestowe Nativity Scene* (unfortunately these were filmed before the renovations).

Christmas Services at St Kevin's

Special "Christmas Cards" with all services information have been prepared.
Don't forget to collect yours as you leave today.

Visit our **Advent Fair Trade Stall**

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER @ 8.30 & 10am.

Come along and choose some great Christmas and Kris Kringle gift ideas. These gifts have been crafted with care and you know you are paying a fair price.

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

Adoration –

Each weekday before Mass @ 8.30am and
7.15-8.15pm on Wednesday evenings

Masses this week -

Saturday: 5.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8.30am & 10.00am

9.00am at Holy Cross Monastery

Tuesday: 11.00am Mass at Pioneer Village

Thursday: 9.15am Mass in the Chapel

Friday: 9.15am Mass in the Chapel

Meditation Mindfulness –

Wednesdays @ 9.30am in the Parish Chapel

Reconciliation – First Saturday of the
month @ 10.00am (or by appointment)

Visitation - For communion at home,
visiting, transportation or meals, please
contact the parish house on 9850 5983.

Rejoicing weekend, but are you free to do so?

Liturgy doesn't lie: In today's gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the light "so that all might believe through him". In other words, he was to tell the truth about the light. Today's liturgical texts overflow with joy. "Rejoice" appears in the first and second readings and the responsorial psalm, and the gospel acclamation speaks of "glad tidings". This Sunday is obviously meant to communicate the joy of our faith in Christ the Light. Now take a look around you at Mass at the faces of those present, especially of the liturgical ministers and other parish leaders. Do their faces "testify" to the light, to that joy? Or do they look like the Christians Pope Francis described as those who "have expressions like they're going to a funeral procession rather than going to praise God" (homily in Casa Santa Marta, May 31, 2013)?

LAST WEEK'S GIVING

Envelopes	\$ 1,675.50
Direct Debit/Credit Card	\$ <u>780.00</u>
Total	\$ <u>2,455.50 (1)</u>
Priests' Living Costs	\$ 1,040.00
Number of Envelopes	55
(1) Weekly Pledged amount	\$3,020.65

SUPPORTING MINISTRIES

Baptisms:

Last weekend of the month -
Presentations and Welcome.
Baptism Meeting on the third
Wednesday of every month.
First Sundays of the month -
Sacrament of Baptism

Weddings:

By appointment only

Funerals:

For bereavement support, please
contact the Parish House on
9850 5983

Parish Tennis Club:

Social and Competition.

Please ring Paul 9846 2083

www.stkevinstemplestowe.org.au/

Parish Social Justice:

As a Parish we speak out and act for
justice. Contact Paola c/o 9850 5983.

Reconciliation - 1st Rite (one to one in the Reconciliation Room) 10am
Saturday 16th December or as usual by
appointment (9850 5983).

Questions to help us reflect.....

- What signs can you point to of the Word of God's compassion in the midst of your parish/community?
- Who have been the "prophets" you have known in your life who "proclaimed" to you the reality of God's love and mercy?
- What images of light and darkness speak to you this Advent?
- As you read the opening verses of Isaiah 61, what do you sense the Spirit of God is "sending" you to do?

Advent Thoughts

Christmas is a tonic for our souls. It moves us to think of others rather than of ourselves. It directs our thoughts to giving. (B C Forbes)

Columban Calendars are available from the table in the Gathering Space. \$9 each.
Grab yours today!

LITURGY ROSTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 23rd/24th December 2017

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

2nd Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

and Christmas Eve – 24th December 2017

1st Reading: Isaiah 9: 1-7

2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30 pm 23 rd Dec	Peter Howes	Margaret Turner	Maryann McNamara Bredenia Raquel Fiona Watson
9.00 am 24 th Dec at St Kevin's	Mike Westbrook	Kirsten Collins	Betty Natoli Frank Ozzimo Paul Polidano
6.00 pm 24 th Dec Christmas Vigil	Frances Johnson	Margaret Mangan	Lyn Robinson Tony Robinson Tony Whelan Betty Natoli
9.00 pm 24 th Dec Christmas Vigil	Joanne Le Gall	Jean-Luc Le Gall	Lyn Murphy Bredenia Raquel Margaret Turner

Advent Thoughts

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting – a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing.

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Year 6 graduations

were celebrated last Tuesday and Thursday. A new beginning beckons these young people next year.

Well done one and all.

We pray for Better Health: Michele (Michael) De Luca, Marianne Condon, Brian O'Connell, Matt Seymour, Ken McKenzie, Peter McCluskey, Rosemary Kiecke, John & Maeve Reardon and Paul Polidano.

Anniversaries:

Recently Deceased: Norman Ronald (Ron) Chambers whose Funeral will be on Thursday @ 11.30am @ Ss Peter & Pauls's

Our Parish Advisory Board (PAB) is looking for 2 new members. The PAB meet the first Tuesday evening each month from 7.30pm. If you'd like to be apart of our wonderful Parish from behind the scenes, please let Fr Gerry or the office know 9850 5983.

WE WANT YOU!



Happy Birthday

To Fr Gerry who turns 72 on Tuesday, 19th December.

Thank you Fr Gerry for all that you do for us and for our parish.

- What is the origin of "Silent Night"?
- In the shadow of the Christmas Tree
- Rediscovering boredom in the age of the Smartphone.

These and other interesting articles – available today in "Melbourne Catholic" - \$2.

Do you like the stick trees on our sanctuary?

Thanks Pat Rowland and parish school children. Have you had a chance yet to read the messages? O and do show your children/grandchildren the inter active crib, near the picture of the world.

Advent Thoughts

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.

Pope Francis

For information on our Parish Schools
please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School

26-44 Herlihy's Road, Lower Templestowe

Phone: 9850 4609 Fax: 9852 0384

E-mail:

principal@sktemplestowelr.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.sktemplestowelr.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Ms Frances Matisi

St Charles Borromeo Primary School,

222 Serpells Road, Templestowe

Phone: 9842 7634 Fax : 03 9841 5427

E-mail:

principal@scbtemplestowe.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.scbtemplestowe.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Greg Thomas

The following is an excerpt from Fr Gerry's diary on his visit to Patupat School last year....

"The school has a couple of condemned classrooms and lots of broken concrete steps which would cause great OH&S drama in Australia, but we didn't see any falls or bandages/scratches on the kids. So there is much to be done. They sit 2 or 3 to a desk and don't mind climbing over desks to gather up the front of the classroom – this latter stunned our teachers! They often have 1 exercise book to 2 students – one writes on left side of page, the other on right side. This is supposed to last the whole year, when they run out, they use scrap paper or the teacher buys them paper. They write with pencils or crayons – but it is all pretty primitive. Everywhere we went, we saw signs of gratitude for what St Kevin's has done – water tank, equipment and especially classrooms. These have been built in recent years by Jason, some Aussie tradies and Filipinos."

Free Bale of Straw There is a bale of straw in the alcove at the bottom of the stairs of the church exit that goes directly down to the carpark. If you would like it for your pets, garden, etc then it is yours. **It needs to go** so please take it!!

The 2nd Collection for December is divided into 2:

- 1) Our sister community at Patupat
- 2) The extraordinary orphanage work and more carried out by Charity Graf and her team at "Gentle Hands".

WHY SUPPORT GENTLE HANDS

Gentle Hands is a child and youth welfare agency meant to be on the front lines of rescue (in coordination with Local Government Units) and rehabilitation of the medical, social, psychological, and educational needs of at-risk children and youth, advocating for the rights of children and working towards improving human community life through the love of Jesus and family centered care.

UNICEF estimates there are 1.8 million abandoned and neglected children in the Philippines. These children are left to the streets and dark places and, without help, face a life of poverty, hunger, sickness, abuse, beatings and assaults with little chance of escape. For many their lives are all too short.

But you can help change a life. We take in so many children that come with sad and horrific stories of neglect, abuse and abandonment. You can help rescue a child.

And with your help we begin to change lives.

Your donation. Your support. Your kindness makes a difference. Your donation, whatever the amount, helps us maintain a safe haven for these children. We provide medical support and life changing treatments and surgeries. We ensure babies and children can grow in a safe and supportive environment knowing they can have a healthy meal, education and, most of all, a chance.

It may seem overwhelming but your donation, no matter the amount, adds up. It's your donation along with many other donations that create a future for these children. A small act can make a big difference.

Advent Thoughts

During Advent, Pope Francis concluded, "We are called to enlarge the horizons of our hearts, to be surprised by the life that is presented each day with its newness. In order to do this we need to learn to not depend on our own securities, our own established plans, because the Lord comes in the hour which we don't imagine."

November 2016