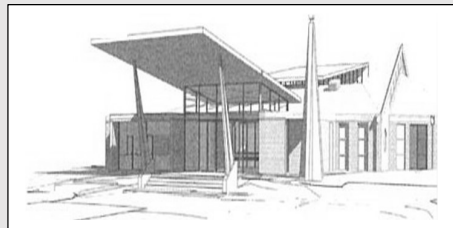


St Kevin's Parish

Hampton Park

First Sunday of Advent – Year B

3rd December 2023



PARISH CENTRE

120 Hallam Road,
Hampton Park, Vic. 3976
Tel: 9799 2108
Email: HamptonPark@cam.org.au

Office Hours:

Tue to Fri 9.15am – 1:15pm

Parish Website

<https://stkevins.org.au/> Support us' page

St Kevin's Parish is committed to the care, safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable people. **Safeguarding email:** safeguarding.hamptonpark@cam.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Fabian Smith

Deacon: Rev. Dr Graeme Pender

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Macrina Martin

School Principals

St. Kevin of Glendalough:

Jason Micallef – 9709 8600

St. Francis De Sales:

Christine White – 8773 6700

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday
Saturday – 9:15am

Every Wednesday – 7:00pm Mass
followed by Novena to Our Lady of
Perpetual Help

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Vigil Masses:

Saturday: 05:00pm & 07:00pm

Sunday: 09:00am, 11:00am & 06:00pm

Priest Available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 minutes** before all **Masses** and on **Saturday** mornings after Mass till 10:30am

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month. Prior to the Baptism, parents are asked to attend a meeting which is held every first **Thursday of the month at 7:15pm** in the Church and must bring a **copy of their own baptism certificate and the child's birth certificate for our records, as we cannot accept originals.**

Mass Intentions:

Please note the **cut-off** day and time for handing in names for **Mass Intentions** is **Thursday 01:00 pm.**
Please call **03 97992108**

News from Fr Fabian

- *In the dioceses of Australia, standing is the most common posture to receive Holy Communion, though individual members of the faithful may choose to receive Communion while kneeling* (GIRM 160). Many of our parishioners have requested for kneelers for the reception of Holy Communion. The Parish Priest of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Fr Michael Kalka, has kindly given us three kneelers. We thank Aidan De La Motte for refurbishing them. The kneelers will be permanently placed in front of the altar for those who wish to kneel while receiving Holy Communion.
- Applications have closed for the Administration Assistant position. We are currently shortlisting applicants and interviews will be held shortly.
- A training session was held last Saturday for new readers and extraordinary ministers. Thank you to all who attended for your willingness to serve.

Altar Servers- Important Update

Parents of Altar Servers, please complete the new enrolment forms and return them to the office by **Friday 8th December 2023**. Please email the office HamptonPark@cam.org.au with your preferred Christmas mass time- 1st and 2nd preference, so that the team can organise the Christmas mass schedule. **Due to the Catholic Archdiocese Safeguarding requirements, only altar servers who have enrolled will be permitted to serve.** For Christmas masses, there will be a total of fourteen altar servers at each mass. Please note that there will be a training session held before Christmas, the date and time will be announced next weekend.

St. Kevin's Christmas Schedule

The Advent Program and Christmas schedule has been placed in the Church foyer. Please take a copy home.

Children's Christmas play - Family Mass 7 pm Christmas Eve

The St Kevin's youth will be organising the Children's nativity play for the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Practices will be held in the church foyer on Saturday 16th December from 4-4:45 pm and 23rd December from 3-4 pm in the church foyer. For further information please contact Kharece (0431 707 221) or Sheldon (0430 051 919).

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR- CHRISTMAS 2023

CAN WE SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR CHURCH AND ENRICHMENT OF OUR LIVES?

St. Kevin's Parish is looking for volunteers to assist in the interior and exterior cleaning of our beautiful church on Saturday 9th December from 10am onwards, in readiness for the Christmas feast celebrations in our Parish.

Please contact/txt: Brian on 0414363725; St. Kevins Parish Office—9799 2108 and leave a message. Thank you in anticipation!

SKY thanksgiving event

First and foremost, we would like to give thanks to God who made our pilgrimage possible. He made a way for all 32 of us to have a blessed experience. We would also like to thank our priests, Fr Anil, Fr Des, and Fr Fabian for their support on our journey. A special thank you to Fr Casimir for celebrating the Thanksgiving Mass and to Deacon Graeme for conducting the Adoration. A huge thank you to our wonderful parish community, family and friends for the constant support and encouragement. We are blessed to have such a strong sense of community. Thank you to RnB Events and Valerie D'Costa, for their support not only with our Thanksgiving event, but all our events, even prior to starting our fundraising. Thank you to all those who gave their time, resources, and donations over the course of our fundraising. May God continue to bless our community.

ROSTERS for 2nd and 3rd Dec. 2023

Readers & Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion please see the Notice Board or Parish Website for Rosters.

CHURCH CLEANERS

Team 1: Russel, Antonio, Eileen and Prasad

COUNTERS

Team 2: Roland, Rosalia, Gordon, Savio, John, Jackie

Last Weekend's Collection

Envelopes: \$4935.85

Unpledged: \$2210.05

Presbytery: \$2051.50

Thank you!

THIS SUNDAY WE PRAY

In Thanksgiving:

Bernadette
Natalie Large
Canute Duarte
D'Netto Family
Francis and Cutinha Family
Michael and Camlin Thompson
Sean Scharenguivel
Jerome and Nikita Pereira

For those who are sick:

Baptist Abeydeera
Odessa Ward
Yves Lebrasse

For those who have died recently:

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Gladwin D'Silva
Herman D'Souza
Sylvia D'Souza
Richard D'souza
Crisigono
Madel
Roslyn
Herbert
Milagros
Oswald Francis
Charles and Iris Dennis

Privacy legislation requires the written permission of an authorised person before any name can be printed. Any list of the sick in the parish bulletin will undergo renewal according to a four-week cycle. After four weeks a person's name on the sick list will be removed. However, once again based on written permission of an authorized person the name can be re-added to the list.

Feast Days for the Week:

Monday 4th December: St John Damascene

Wednesday 6th December: St Nicholas

Thursday 7th December: St Ambrose

Friday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 9th December: St Juan Diego

Food Donations for Carols by Candlelight:

The Social Group is looking for donations of Chicken Biryani. If you can help with this or would like to make a cash contribution, please contact one of the following members or put your name and contact information on the sheets in the foyer and we will contact you.
Linda - 046 932 0445 Anita - 040 250 5676

St Kevin's Senior Youth

The last senior youth group meeting (18+) for the year will be held on Friday 8th December at 7:30 pm in the school hall.

St Vincent De Paul Society Christmas Appeal

The members of the St Vincent De Paul society have been remarkably busy during the current year. With the increase in the cost of living we have a significant increase in requests for help. The help provided is close to \$52,000 this year up to end of October. This includes food vouchers, rent assistance, and help with utility bills and other assistance.

In the year 2022, for Christmas assistance we helped approximately 150 families with toys and food hampers. We were able to carry out this with the generous help of the St Kevin's Parish community and the two primary schools - St Kevin's and St Francis De Sales.

This year we have a considerable number of families that require help during Christmas. Therefore, once again we request your generous support by taking a tag from the Christmas tree in the foyer of the church and donate a toy for a needy child.

We plan to make packages and deliver by 18 December 2023. Therefore, we will appreciate it if the toys are received by Sunday 10 December 2023.

Thank You,

St Vincent De Paul Society – Hampton Park

Children's Christmas Party - 3pm - 5pm on 10th December @ St. Kevin's Hall

Let's make this Christmas season one to remember for our little ones (Babies – Year 12). Parents/carers must accompany their children. We can't wait to share the magic of the season with your family. For further information, please contact Florence D'Costa on 0433851662.

Carols by Candlelight- Request for help

In preparation for our parish Carols on Sunday 17th December, we require some help to set up and pack up. If you'd like to assist on either 16th or 17th December, please fill out your details on the forms provided in the foyer.

First Aid – Request for volunteers

The Parish requires the assistance of trained medical professionals to assist with administering first aid, if required, at the Parish Christmas events. Please contact the Parish Office by Friday 8th December if you would like to help.

Carols by Candlelight – Sponsorship Opportunity

We are excited to announce a wonderful advertising opportunity for local businesses to showcase their products & services at our popular annual Carols by Candlelight event this year! Click here for more information...

<https://stkevins.org.au/business-advertising-sponsorship-opportunity-at-carols-by-candlelight-2023/>

Advent, the Mass and the Liturgical Year

With the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the Church's year, we shall also begin a series of catechesis on the Mass, its order, and its parts; again, from beginning, to end, from Entrance Procession to Recessional.

But, before we plunge into the richness of the Mass in all its elements, it will be useful to make some comments on the Church's calendar, because an understanding of why the Church has an interest in the passing of time and seasons, what the Church calls the Liturgical Year, will help us to understand why the Mass is ever the same and yet changes in parts to mark the passing of time. For the Mass is the still centre, the ever-now of eternity which we are all invited to approach from our time-bound fleeting instances of the present moment. The parts of the Mass that change with the feasts and seasons reflect our condition of living from moment to moment in time and that each moment in time has its appropriate action and form. The parts that do not change, particularly the words of Consecration, reflect, apart from their absolute necessity to effect the Sacrament, that the Godhead is unchanging: that Christ is always the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Moreover, the liturgy that we celebrate is the same one that the angels and saints even now celebrate in the very presence of God. What we celebrate each Sunday here in this life when we attend Mass is indeed the very same eternal liturgy. The celebration of the Word and of the Sacrifice of the Altar is more than an anticipation of the heavenly worship, it is an actual participation in it. The Mass, being a foretaste of heaven, cannot but be by that very account heaven itself inserted into time.

The Church's Calendar

God created the world, and he made it good (Genesis 1:31). In making material things, God made time as well, for time measures the changes in material things. From the beginning, time followed a holy rhythm. God made the seventh day to be holy, a day set apart, a day of rest and worship. Throughout the Old Testament, we find God's chosen people celebrating feasts of the Lord (see, for example, Leviticus 32:41), preeminently Passover. The Church was born on one of those great feasts of the Jewish calendar, the feast of Pentecost (see Acts 2). Jesus accomplished our salvation during Passover and the mystery of salvation has ever since borne the name of that holiday: the Paschal Mystery.

The first Christians rearranged all the passage of time around that reality. As Jews, they had faithfully observed the Sabbath on the seventh day of every week; but now, as Christians, they kept "the first day of the week" (Acts 20:7) as "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10). It was the first day, but they also called it the "eighth day". It was both the beginning of their week and its end and fulfillment, just as Jesus is both the beginning and fulfillment of all history (see Revelation 1:8 and 17; 2:8; 21:6).

The Christians marked their holy day on the day Jesus rose from the dead. As St Justin Martyr noted for his Roman audience, it was the "day of the sun"—Sunday. That was the day Christians gathered to celebrate the Paschal Mystery and carry out the remembrance, as Jesus had instructed them.

The Christians' year, too, assumed that Paschal shape. The first feast universally celebrated was Easter, which most Christians called *Pascha*, or Passover. The Church added other feasts gradually until the year, by means of the days and seasons, told the story of the life of Christ. The festivals of the year mark the milestones of Jesus' life, from his conception to his birth, from his circumcision to his baptism, from his public life to his Passion, death, and Resurrection, from his Ascension to his sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

These cycles of holy days are like the great curriculum of the Christian faith. It is through the feasts that believers begin to learn the dogmas. Christmas, with its carols and nativity, teaches the dogma of the Incarnation as powerfully as any theological treatise. The Easter liturgy, full of fire and water, shows us the new order of creation established by the risen Lord. Trinity Sunday gives us a day to sing with gusto about the most profound and mind-boggling doctrines.

The feasts of the saints teach us, too. They show us God's new creation in its glory: men and women fully alive in Christ. They show us the Christian vocation in all its variety as well, as we venerate the heroes of the faith from every land, every race, and every age. In a special way we observe feasts in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary because God called her to be his mother and she remained faithful to her calling, occupying a unique place in salvation history and a lasting place in our hearts.

Just as the leaves change on the trees to mark time, so the Mass changes—subtly—throughout the year to reflect the different times and seasons.

The Scripture readings in the Lectionary are keyed to the festivals and seasons. They reflect the events we celebrate. Some of the prayers change in a similar way. There are special versions to match the changing times and changing themes. Some of the Eucharistic Prayers allow for different insertions during the holy seasons. During the seasons of Advent and Lent—which are seasons of penance and preparation—we suppress the jubilation of the Gloria; and during Lent we suppress the Alleluia as well.

The central events of our salvation take place in history as specific times and in particular places. So we Christians have developed a highly refined way of marking the passage of time, keeping the life of Jesus Christ always before us. As we bring these mysteries to mind, we remember the marvels the Lord has done, but we "do this" in a way we learned from Jesus—a way that makes those marvels present for all time, so that the faithful can lay hold of them and be filled with saving grace.

First Sunday of Advent – Year B

1st Reading – Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!

– at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel – Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.