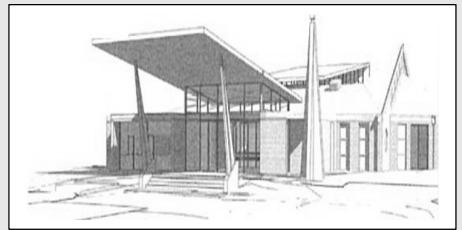


St Kevin's Parish

Hampton Park

Second Sunday of Advent – Year B
10th 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

- Our Parish Advent Program has commenced, and our next session will be held on Monday 11th December at 7pm in the church.
- The work on our church roof has started, external work is progressing. The internal painting work will be done when possible.
- Interviews for the Administration Assistant position will be held this week.
- During the season of giving, let us remember those in our community who need our support and assistance. The Parish has received numerous requests for financial support from parishioners who need urgent assistance to meet the costs of education and living expenses. The Parish has set up a dedicated bank account into which contributions can be made towards those in need. The bank account details will be included in next week's newsletter.

Parishioners who are in need, please see Fr Fabian for assistance.

Altar Servers- Important Update

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. For Christmas masses, there will be a total of fourteen altar servers at each mass.

Due to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding requirements, only altar servers who have enrolled with the new enrolment forms will be permitted to serve at all masses.

Altar Server Training- 17th December -1pm to 3pm

The next training session for Altar Servers- current and new, will be held on Sunday 17th December from 1pm to 3pm in the Church. Parents will need to sign their children in and out for the training session. The Altar Server Committee welcomes all children who have received their First Holy Communion and are willing and ready to serve. Parents of new Altar Servers will need to fill in enrolment forms before the training.

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).

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will close for Christmas from Friday 22nd December 2023 to Monday 7th January 2024, inclusive of both dates. If you would like to offer weekend masses for the closure period, please contact the Parish Office by 10am on Thursday 21st December 2023.

ROSTERS for 9th & 10th Dec. 2023

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

CHURCH CLEANERS

Team 2: Vasanthi, Joelle, Jerome and Samangi

COUNTERS

Team 3: Sumith, Samantha, Ransiri, Michael, Gilbert, Sharon

Last Weekend's Collection

Envelopes: \$5154.55

Unpledged: \$2237.25

Presbytery: \$2125.80

Thank you!

THIS SUNDAY WE PRAY**In Thanksgiving:**

Mignoune Yates
Amara Scharenguivel
Huddy Schoorman
Dominic Crasto
Elwin D'Moss and family
Christopher Janes and family
Pearl Holmes
Micaela Immaculate Moore
Eric, Michelle and Elaina Moore
Sven Vaz

Theo Mendes

Alana Peters

For those who are sick:

Lorena Colcott
Odessa Ward
Yves Lebrasse
For those who have died recently:
Dalton Williams
Joan Oorloff
Nikita Araujo Boavida
Linda D'Roza

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Donald Michael
Sylvia Peters
Frank Yates
Veronica Hanekom
Evelyn and Sebastian Valdero
Marcus and Stella Pereira
John and Gladys Rodricks
Althroy Anderson
Philomena Michael
Norma Michael
Corrina and Glynn Lyonette
Natividad Sonza
Joseph Crasto
Philomena, Kenneth, Everard Paris
Austin Peters
Edwin D'Moss
Francisco Bernardes
Maria Gloria Pastorpili
Ceferino Rico
Pamela Green

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 11th December: St Damasus I

Tuesday 12th December: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday 13th December: St Lucy

Thursday 14th December: St John of the Cross

Catholic Deaf Collection -Thank you

Thank you for your contribution of \$1396.65 towards the Catholic Deaf collection in aid of the John Pierce Centre.

Religious Education

Parents are advised that enrolment for R.E. classes and sacraments for 2024 is opened from now to January 15th, 2024. Forms are available at the Parish office. A copy of the child's baptism certificate is required. The children returning for the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation are also required to re-enrol at the parish house. The fee for all classes is \$50 to be paid at enrolment or re-enrolment.

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 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

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.

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/>

Piety Stall

2024 Columban calendars are being sold in the piety stall. The calendars are \$10 each with part of the money raised sent to support the Columban missions. Nativity sets of various sizes are also available.

The Mass—The priest's vestments

We parishioners tend to think that Mass starts when Father Fabian arrives at the altar and begins the prayers, or perhaps a little before, with the Entrance Procession and Hymn. However, in fact, the Mass has begun in our preparations for it, such as our hour fast before we take Communion, if we intend to do so, or at least when we kneel for a few moments after we arrive, to compose our thoughts and bring to mind any particular intentions we may have for the day's Mass.

Yet, the beginning of the pilgrimage that is the Mass has also taken place in the sacristy (which is also sometimes called the vestry), where Father Fabian has 'vested', which means putting on the garments in which he will celebrate Mass.

The 'vestments', which are quite unlike ordinary garments, remind us of the clothes from ancient times, and they signify the priest's role in the Church. He is not there to act in his own name or speak for himself. He is there to stand in the place of Christ. He 'puts on Christ' (see Galatians 3:17) like a garment. The vestments for Mass are 'sacramentals', as are the vessels (the chalice, the ciborium), holy oils and holy water used in the church. That means that they have been blessed and are reserved for their purposes. The word 'sacramental' has the same origin as the word 'sacred', which comes from the Latin verb *sancire*, which means 'to fence off, circumscribe', with the extended meaning 'to keep for a particular function'. It is with this in mind that as a priest puts on his vestments, he says certain prayers.

So, it is timely to look at each of these vestments. The earliest Christian historians record that the Apostles adopted the vestments of the priests of the Temple at Jerusalem. Third-century historian Eusebius tells us that St John wore the high priest's insignia on his forehead. St Jerome notes that the Apostle St James always wore the linen vestments reserved for Temple service. The colour of the priest's vestments varies according to the feasts and the time of year, the seasons. Violet or purple is used during Advent and Lent, to symbolise penance, sacrifice, and preparation. At the midpoint of both seasons—Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday of Advent) and Laetare Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent)—rose vestments are traditionally worn as a sign of joy: we rejoice at the midpoint because we are half-way through the preparation and anticipate the coming joy of Christmas or Easter. Purple vestments may also be used for Masses of Christian Burial or Masses for the Dead.

Red has a dual imagery. First, red symbolises the shedding of blood and is therefore used on Palm Sunday (when Christ entered Jerusalem to prepare for his death), Good Friday, any other commemoration of the Lord's Passion, the days marking the martyrdom of the apostles (except St John, who, of course, was not martyred), and the feasts of other martyrs who offered their lives for the faith. Second, red also signifies the burning fire of God's love. For this reason, red vestments are worn on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and tongues of fire rested on their heads, and for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Green is used during the liturgical season called Ordinary Time, that is, most Sundays of the year, to symbolise life and hope. This season focuses on the three-year period of our Lord's public ministry, and the Gospel passages, particularly on Sundays, recount his teachings, miracles, exorcisms, and other deeds during this time.

All these teachings and events engender great hope in the mystery of salvation. We focus on the life he shared with mankind during his time on this earth, the life we share now with him in the community of the Church and through his sacraments, and we look forward to sharing everlasting life with him perfectly in Heaven. Green symbolises this life and hope, just as the hint of green on trees in early spring arouses the hope of new life.

White or gold, a colour symbolising rejoicing and purity of soul, is worn at Christmas and Easter. White vestments are also used for feasts of our Lord (except those pertaining to his passion), the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the saints who were not martyrs.

White vestments are also worn on the Solemnity of St Joseph, and the feasts of All Saints, St John the Baptist, St John the Evangelist, the Chair of St Peter, and the Conversion of St Paul. White may also be used for Masses of Christian Burial and Masses for the Dead to signify the Resurrection of our Lord, when he triumphed over sin and death, sorrow and darkness.

The basic vestments, however, remain the same. They are worn in layers.

The *alb* is the foundation, the vestment the priest puts on over his street clothes. It is a long white garment that reaches to the feet. In the Bible, a white garment is a symbol of purity. Think of the 'bright, clean linen garment' that in the Book of Revelation (19:8) 'represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones'. Think of Jesus' promise that his faithful ones 'will walk with me dressed in white, because they are worthy. The victor will thus be dressed in white' (Revelation 3:4-5). The word *alb* comes from the Latin word for white, *alba*.

The *cincture* is a braided cord, which is drawn as a belt around the *alb* at the waist.

The *stole* is a long, narrow strip of cloth, sometimes embroidered, that hangs around the neck and down the front of the *alb*. The *stole* symbolises the priest's sacramental power as he represents Jesus Christ. It is the Saviour's 'yoke' that the priest has accepted (see Matthew 11:29-30).

The *chasuble* is the outer vestment the priest wears at Mass. Some historians trace its origins to a sort of sleeveless poncho worn by shepherd in ancient times. They could use it almost as a shelter, a tent. As a vestment, then, the *chasuble* symbolises the priest's role as a leader, after the Good Shepherd.

Second Sunday of Advent – Year B

1st Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 84 (85):9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him

and his glory will dwell in our land.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;

justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth

and justice look down from heaven.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

2nd Reading - 2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel – Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'