



# St. Kevin's Catholic Parish

HAMPTON PARK



## First Sunday of Advent (Year A) – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Parish Centre

A: 120 Hallam Road,  
Hampton Park, Vic. 3976

T: (03) 9799 2108

E: [hamptonpark@cam.org.au](mailto:hamptonpark@cam.org.au)

H: Tue to Fri 9.15am - 1:15pm

W: [stkevins.org.au](http://stkevins.org.au)

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](mailto:safeguarding.hamptonpark@cam.org.au)

### Team

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Fabian Smith

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Antony Santhiyagu

**Deacon:** Rev. Dr Graeme Pender

**Parish Coordinator:** Mrs. Macrina Martin

**Admin Assistant:** Miss Nikita Ravi

### School Principals:

**St. Kevin of Glendalough**

Jason Micallef - (03) 9709 8600

**St. Francis De Sales**

Christine White - (03) 8773 6700

### Weekday Mass Times

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat – 9:15am

Every Wed – 7:00pm followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

### Sunday Mass Times

Vigil Sat 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Sun: 9:00am, 11:00am & 6:00pm

A Priest is 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 Wednesday evening.**

Please call (03) 9799 2108, email the **Parish Office** or **drop off** the mass intention envelope in the **postal slot** in the **Parish Office door.**

### Thank you!

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) begins this Sunday and will continue till Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Thank you for your generous support of our three fundraising events. We raised **\$13,827.71** with which we have been able to subsidise the cost of registration and meals for the 37 pilgrims attending ACYF from our Parish. We are very happy that our young people get to experience these three days of faith, fun and fellowship along with 6000 others. Please keep all our young pilgrims in your prayers as they embark on this journey of grace. May each one of them have an awesome spiritual encounter.

### Parish Sacrament Program 2026 - Reconciliation and Holy Communion

Does your child attend a non-Catholic school?

Do you want your child to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and First Holy Communion in 2026?

Enrolment forms for the Parish Sacrament program for 2026 are available in the foyer. Please fill in the forms and return to the Parish office by **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.**

### Parish Christmas Carols

Join us on Sunday, **14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 6:00 PM** for a joyful evening of Christmas Carols at **St Kevin's.**

Let's come together as a community to celebrate the season in song. Your voice matters—whether you sing loud and proud or hum along quietly, your presence will help make this event truly special.

Bring your family, invite your friends, and let's fill the air with music, joy, and the spirit of Christmas. The success of our carols evening depends on all of us joining in harmony! We look forward to singing with you!

### Piety Stall

2026 Columban calendars, God's Word 2026, nativity sets and Christmas decorations are being sold in our Piety stall. The calendars are \$10 each with part of the money raised sent to support the Columban missions. The profits from the Piety Stall support the work of St Vincent de Paul Society. Please visit the Piety Stall to see all they have in store.

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December

To honour our Blessed Mother, we will have two masses on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. We invite you to join us for the **9.15am mass** or the **7pm mass** on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. The evening mass will be animated by our Legion of Mary praesidiums and will be followed by a cuppa in the foyer.

### What's On this week

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December: 5pm:** Junior Legion of Mary

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December: 7pm:** RCIA

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 9am:** Two Hearts devotion

**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December: 7pm** Advent Program (Office)

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December: 5pm:** Mothers who pray

**6.30pm:** First Friday devotions – Rosary, Sacred Heart devotion followed by Mass and Vigil



### **ROSTERS for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December**

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

### **CHURCH CLEANERS**

Team 5: Tyrone, Tyronie, Emeli, Pelenato, Susanne

### **COUNTERS**

Team 4: Gerard, Margaret, Ashley, Linda, Sydney, Veera, Sanath

### **Last Weekend's Collection**

Envelopes: \$4991.00

Unpledged: \$2306.20

Presbytery: \$2258.75

**Thank you!**

### **This Sunday we Pray**

#### **Thanksgiving**

Bernadette

Bernice Peters

Prosper Family

Wendel Thomas

Ashton Vaz

Mary Fernando

### **For those who are sick:**

Elcira Baez

Pamela Chen

Colin Cunningham

Baby Vash

Rosemary Jansz

Baby Sofia Taranto

Aurelie

### **For those who have died recently:**

Carla Maria Marques

Hector Gerald Caszo

If you would like to donate towards the building of the Grotto:

**St Kevin's Building Appeals A/c**

**BSB 083 347**

**Account No.:851452646**

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:**

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December: St Francis Xavier

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December: St John Damascene

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December: St Nicholas

### **For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

All whose names are in the Book of Remembrance and all the souls in purgatory.

### **Children's Christmas Party**

**Date: 7th December 2025**

**Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Location: St Kevin's School Hall**

Join us as we make this Christmas season

unforgettable for our little ones (**Babies – Year 12**)!

This special celebration will feature games, delicious food, festive fun, and a visit from Santa himself.

Parents/carers are kindly asked to accompany their children.

Help us plan ahead- scan the QR code to confirm your child's /children's attendance

Let's create magical memories together—we can't wait to see your family there!



### **Parish Office - Christmas Closure Dates**

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (both days inclusive). If you would like to offer mass intentions for that period, please offer them by **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025**.

### **Advent and Christmas Program 2025**

**Children's Christmas Party - Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December - 3-5pm** – St Kevin's Hall

**Parish Christmas Carols – Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm** –St Kevin's Hall

**First Rite of Reconciliation – Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6pm – 7pm (Please arrive by 5.30pm)**

5 Priests available. Confessions will finish at 7pm. No other scheduled confessions will take place till Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December – 9.15am Mass** (no novena)

**Christmas Eve masses – Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**6:30pm** Carols and Children's Nativity Play, **7pm** Mass

**8:45pm** Carols and **9pm** Mass

**11pm** Carols and **12am** (Midnight) Mass

**Christmas Day mass – Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**9am** Carols and **9:30am** Mass

**Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December – 9.15am Mass** (no evening mass and novena)

**New Year's Eve – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

**11pm** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary

**12am (Midnight) Mass**

**New Year's Day – Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

**10am** Mass

**First Friday – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

**9.15am** Mass

**7pm** Mass and Sacred Heart devotion. No night vigil.

**Please note that all other weekend and weekday masses will be held as per the usual schedule.**

## HEAVEN IS FULLNESS OF COMMUNION WITH GOD

*Heaven as the fullness of communion with God was the theme of John Paul II's catechesis at the General Audience of 21 July 1999. Heaven "is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit," the Late Pope said.*

1. When the form of this world has passed away, those who have welcomed God into their lives and have sincerely opened themselves to his love, at least at the moment of death, will enjoy that fullness of communion with God which is the goal of human life. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, "this perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed is called 'heaven'. Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness" (n.1024). Today we will try to understand the biblical meaning of "heaven", in order to have a better understanding of the reality to which this expression refers.

2. In biblical language "heaven", when it is joined to the "earth", indicates part of the universe. Scripture says about creation: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gn 1:1).

**Heaven is the transcendent dwelling-place of the living God.** Metaphorically speaking, heaven is understood as the dwelling-place of God, who is thus distinguished from human beings (cf. Ps 104:2f.; 115:16; Is 66:1). He sees and judges from the heights of heaven (cf. Ps 113:4-9) and comes down when he is called upon (cf. Ps 18:9, 10; 144:5). However the biblical metaphor makes it clear that God does not identify himself with heaven, nor can he be contained in it (cf. 1 Kgs 8:27); and this is true, even though in some passages of the First Book of the Maccabees "Heaven" is simply one of God's names (1 Mc 3:18, 19, 50, 60; 4:24, 55). The depiction of heaven as the transcendent dwelling-place of the living God is joined with that of the place to which believers, through grace, can also ascend, as we see in the Old Testament accounts of Enoch (cf. Gn 5:24) and Elijah (cf. 2 Kgs 2:11). Thus heaven becomes an image of life in God. In this sense Jesus speaks of a "reward in heaven" (Mt 5:12) and urges people to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (ibid., 6:20; cf. 19:21).

3. The New Testament amplifies the idea of heaven in relation to the mystery of Christ. To show that the Redeemer's sacrifice acquires perfect and definitive value, the Letter to the Hebrews says that Jesus "passed through the heavens" (Heb 4:14), and "entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself" (ibid., 9:24). Since believers are loved in a special way by the Father, they are raised with Christ and made citizens of heaven. It is worthwhile listening to what the Apostle Paul tells us about this in a very powerful text: "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:4-7). The fatherhood of God, who is rich in mercy, is experienced by creatures through the love of God's crucified and risen Son, who sits in heaven on the right hand of the Father as Lord.

4. After the course of our earthly life, participation in complete intimacy with the Father thus comes through our insertion into Christ's paschal mystery. St Paul emphasizes our meeting with Christ in heaven at the end of time with a vivid spatial image: "Then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thes 4:17-18).

**Sacramental life is anticipation of heaven.** In the context of Revelation, we know that the "heaven" or "happiness" in which we will find ourselves is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is always necessary to maintain a certain restraint in describing these "ultimate realities" since their depiction is always unsatisfactory. Today, personalist language is better suited to describing the state of happiness and peace we will enjoy in our definitive communion with God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums up the Church's teaching on this truth: "By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has 'opened' heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will. Heaven is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ" (n. 1026).

5. This final state, however, can be anticipated in some way today in sacramental life, whose centre is the Eucharist, and in the gift of self through fraternal charity. If we are able to enjoy properly the good things that the Lord showers upon us every day, we will already have begun to experience that joy and peace which one day will be completely ours. We know that on this earth everything is subject to limits, but the thought of the "ultimate" realities helps us to live better the "penultimate" realities. We know that as we pass through this world we are called to seek "the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Col 3:1), in order to be with him in the eschatological fulfilment, when the Spirit will fully reconcile with the Father "all things, whether on earth or in heaven" (Col 1:20).

**First Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5**

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it; and they  
will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’  
He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.  
O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm 121(122):1-2,4-5,6-9**

***Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

‘Let us go to God’s house.’

And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

***Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is,  
there to praise the Lord’s name.

There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David.

***Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

‘Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!’

***Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: ‘Peace upon you!’

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good.

***Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

**Second Reading - Romans 13:11-14**

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, aleluia!

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

Alleluia!

**Gospel - Matthew 24:37-44**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’