



# St. Kevin's Catholic Parish

HAMPTON PARK



## Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) – 21<sup>st</sup> December 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.**

### News from Fr Fabian - Parish Building Project Update

Our Parish Building Project has been endorsed by the Archdiocesan Building & Property Commission ("ABPC") at its recent meeting on 3 December 2025. I received a letter confirming this endorsement on Thursday 18 December 2025. The Committee endorsed the redevelopment of St Kevin's Church to proceed to detailed design, documentation stage and Application of town planning.

### Fundraising Committee

Upon advice and recommendation, I have brought together parishioners representing our cultural diversity to form a fundraising committee. The Committee Members will coordinate planned events for two years to help raise money for the Grotto in 2026 and assist with offsetting some of our loan repayment in 2027. If there are any other parishioners who would like to be part of this committee, please see me after mass.

The Members are as follows;

Filipino Community	Chloe Hall & Gina Thomas
Indian Community	Anita Fernandez & Warren Peters
Kerala Community	Abey & Victoria Prince
Mauritian Community	Veronique michaud
Samoan Community	Myra , Nora Tuiloma & Telesia Mulitalo
Sri Lankan Community	Desiree Van Estrop & Ingrid Pereira
South African Community	Anne Joyce & Mary Hanekom

I'd like to thank our parishioners for generously contributing their time for the next two years.

### Parish Office - Christmas Closure Dates

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (both days inclusive). **In case of emergencies, please call (03)97992108 and leave a message.** We will contact you as soon as possible.

### Advent and Christmas Program 2025

#### First Rite of Reconciliation – Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 5.30pm – 7pm

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

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



**ROSTERS for 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**CHURCH CLEANERS**

Team 3: Jeneview, Khuram, Priscilla & Hayley, Michael, Maria, Doreen, Jerome

**COUNTERS**

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

**Last Weekend's Collection**

Envelopes: \$5380.60

Unpledged: \$2213.15

Presbytery: \$2232.45

**Thank you!**

**This Sunday we Pray****Thanksgiving**

Henry Dominic Fernandez

David & Lynelle Sinclair

Adrian Narcis

Jonathan Parnell

Gloria and Conrad Beale

Khuram and Family

Shane and Susanne Paternott

Rod and Chloe Hall

Lisa and Napit Family

**For those who are sick:**

Rudy Hendricks

Elcira Baez

Pamela Chen

Colin Cunningham

**For those who have died recently:**

Robert Mark Menezes

Adriano Kalau (Mau-Boof)

Esperansa Maria C.Boavida

Noel dos Santos Vicente

Eamon Rooney

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:**

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December: St Valerian

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> December: The Nativity of the Lord

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> December: St Stephen, The First Martyr

Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> December: St John, Apostle and Evangelist

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

Walter Lockwood, Reneir Noel Snr., All souls in purgatory, Josiane and Anick Michel, Nikita Araujo Boavida, Victor and Mary DeSouza, Amelia Pinto, Teresa Racasa, Marilou Villanueva Bartlett, Christopher and Anselm Creado

**Special Collections for Christmas and New Year**

We will have a special collection at the Christmas masses to purchase the monstrance for our new adoration chapel. At the New Year's masses we will have a collection for the painting and repairing of the current statue in the grotto.

**Parish Raffle Winners Announcement**

We are delighted to share the results of our Annual Parish Raffle!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who purchased tickets.

Congratulations to our winners: Ticket #224 Gina T, Ticket #096: Antoinette,

Tickets#260: Auril R.K. May God continue to bless each of you for your kindness and generosity. Thank you again, and we look forward to another wonderful event next year! The Social Group

**Pilgrimage – Footsteps of St Paul**

St Mary's Parish, Dandenong, under the leadership of Fr Sebastian Arockia is organising a pilgrimage (Greece to Turkey) from 5th to 21st May 2026, to walk in the Holy Footsteps of St Paul's missionary journey. Please contact the St Mary's Parish office 97914611 or Fr Sebastian.

**A Christmas message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli**

When we wish someone a 'Happy Christmas', there's a quiet gift that comes with those words. Hope is that gift. We are saying, I hope that you and those you love may be well, whatever your circumstances. 'Happy Christmas' is more than a seasonal greeting. It's a small ritual of kindness that says, 'I want what is good for you, even if life is imperfect.' Hope is a kind of glue. It binds our relationships together across time. At Christmas especially, hope takes on a gentle but persistent strength—the belief that peace and joy are possible, even in difficulty. For children, hope at this time of year looks like anticipation: presents, surprises, family moments. It is immediate and tangible. For us adults, especially parents, hope often becomes an intentional responsibility: the desire to provide, to make each day a blessing, even under pressure. For grandparents, and those gone before us, hope is often about peace, endurance and unity. They cherish what they have, knowing how fragile life can be. In our Christian life, hope goes far deeper. It is not merely a feeling; it has become enfleshed in a person. Our hope has a name: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel—God-with-us. At Christmas, we remember not only the child in Bethlehem but the God who came through to us and for us, and who continues to do so. This is hope beyond optimism. It is a light the darkness cannot overcome. Christian hope is the light of the world. The birth of Jesus is part of each of our stories. His coming assures us that this broken world is still destined for goodness and beauty. In your challenges, burdens and suffering, take heart: God's love and peace are truly present for all who thirst for him. So, when someone wishes you a 'happy Christmas' in the Christian sense, they offer more than goodwill. They offer a gift: You are not alone. Hope is real—today and every day. I wish you and your families a joyful and hope-filled Christmas. *Source: Melbourne Catholic*

## Feast Day: December 25 — Christmas Day

### Joseph and the power of obedience

Being the 'strong silent type', Joseph says little in the Gospels. Yet he does much just by being there and by being himself: Joseph the just; Joseph the worker; Joseph the foster-father, the reliable, the available.

Like most men in most cultures, Joseph speaks by his daily work. In this ordinariness, Christ is present, a man as human and even as ordinary as Joseph, a carpenter.

Like Mary, who quietly pondered in her heart (Luke 2:19), Joseph stands there in the manger scene, in silent readiness. That is how Christ comes to him, to Mary, to us.

Christ had invaded Joseph's life most intimately just when it seemed God had abandoned him to tragedy: his beloved Mary was pregnant, but not by him. Joseph suffers in silence. Noise and busyness cover over inner hurts; perhaps that is why there is so much of these qualities in our world.

Joseph responds to his crisis both justly and charitably; in him "justice and peace meet together". He resolves to "put Mary away," ie, to break the solemn engagement rather than live a lie. That is justice. But for Mary's sake, "privately". That is charity.

Then the angel came to him, as he had come to Mary earlier and would come later to the shepherds. The angelic message, as usual, begins with "fear not". For the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and Joseph was a wise man. But it is not the end. Fear exists to be overcome with love (1 John 4:18).

The angel announces the good news — the ev-angel-ium — that this apparent tragedy was God's work. God, not man, certified by his angel that this revelation, this Word of God, this Christ, was from God, and not man, from a divine father, not a human one.

Joseph provided for Mary and Jesus: travel to Bethlehem, shelter for the birth and later safety in Egypt from murderous Herod. But Joseph could not afford a horse, only a donkey. He could not get a room in the inn, only a cattle stall. He may have thought himself a failure as a provider, as many a man feels today if he cannot afford to give his family "the best". But he has not failed; he can be "the best". Look how Mary and Jesus turned out under Joseph's providence! But his work was for them, not for him. He was no work addict. He is not always in his carpenter shop; but he is always there for his family.

Even Satan cannot defeat this simple man. Satan inspires Herod to slaughter the innocents, as he inspires our modern Herods to the holocaust of abortion. But Satan fails because Joseph obeys God's angel and provides for his family: two deeds of ordinariness that are more powerful against the very forces of Hell than anything else in the world. Take away all the Nobel prize winners and humanity would survive. But take away obedience to God and loyalty to family, and even with a million Nobel prize winners, humanity is doomed. And these are precisely the two traditional values most imperiled in our time.

When the threat passes, Joseph takes his family home. Home — that holy word, symbolic of Heaven. Homecoming was cruelly delayed but Joseph was patient and did not run ahead of God, whatever the circumstances. Travel to and living in a foreign land were no vacation then; rather, they involved real hardship. But to run ahead of God onto our own path is to run out of the only real safety (however dangerous it appears) into danger (however safe it appears).

If Joseph had been less obedient, Mary and Jesus may not have survived. The gates of Hell cannot prevail against the Church, but the same divine Providence which wills that end also wills the means: our faithfulness, our free choice to trust and obey, like Joseph.

Joseph appears briefly 12 years later when Jesus is lost and found in the Temple. Surely he shared Mary's pain of loss and joy of finding, as we do whenever we lose Christ in disobedience and find him in reconciliation. We too find Jesus in the Church, where he is even now "going about his Father's business". Unlike Mary, Joseph was a sinner. Mary shared only our pain in losing Christ; Joseph also shared our guilt. No sinner was ever so humanly close to Christ as Joseph was.

We hear absolutely nothing more about Joseph. The rest of his life is as silent as Christ's silent, Joseph-like years. These years are like the hidden troughs of a wave which propel it forward: The visible froth on the crest is only the effect. Never think God has put you on the shelf; he has only planted you in the ground.

The last thing Scripture says about Joseph is that Christ was subject to him and Mary and grew in soul and body (Luke 2:51-52). Obedience is food. Christ grew by obeying. Later he said: "Doing the will of him who sent me and bringing his work to completion is my food" (John 4:34).

Thus Joseph, like Mary, shares in the work of redemption. And so do we. That is the ultimate dignity of daily work and obedience. It saves the world. Our acts of love to God and neighbour can save souls from Hell, souls we have never met in this life. (What a merry meeting it will be to encounter them in the next!)

**Peter Kreeft, *National Catholic Register***

## Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

### First Reading - Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us."

### Responsorial Psalm 23(24):1-6

***Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.***

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

***Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.***

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

***Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.***

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

***Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.***

### Second Reading - Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our

Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

### Gospel - Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.