



Third Sunday of Advent (Year A) – 14th December 2025

Parish Centre

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

T: (03) 9799 2108

E: hamptonpark@cam.org.au

H: Tue to Fri 9.15am - 1.15pm

W: 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

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**.

St Vincent De Paul Society Christmas Appeal

Thank you very much to all who have taken a Christmas card to donate a Christmas hamper for a deserving family. We plan to make deliveries by 23 December 2025. Therefore, we will appreciate it if the toys are received by **Sunday 21 December 2025**.

Thank You, St Vincent De Paul Society – Hampton Park.

Parish Office - Christmas Closure Dates

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

Calling All Bakers and Christmas Joy Creators!

We need YOU to sprinkle some sweetness by donating Christmas goodies to sell whether it be homemade or store bought. Think of it as sharing joy... one delicious bite at a time. Here's How:

1. Whip up your favourite sweets or savoury items or a combination of the two
2. Pack them in pretty boxes or fancy cellophane bags, the more the merrier.
3. Add a festive gift tag and remember: the more attractive the packaging, the faster it'll sell!
4. Drop-off: at the masses on the weekend of 20/21 December in church. Sale of goodies after all masses on the weekend of 20/21 December 2025. Each box will sell for \$10, so portion accordingly. Need packaging? Contact an SG member for help. All proceeds go to the building of the grotto. Let's spread Christmas cheer together! The Social Group

Parish Christmas Carols

Join us on Sunday, **14th December 2025 at 6:00 PM** for a joyful evening of Christmas Carols at our parish. 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!

Pope's Prayer intention for December

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

What's On this week

Monday, 15th December: 5pm: Junior Legion of Mary

Tuesday, 16th December: 7pm: RCIA

Wednesday, 17th December: 9am: Two Hearts devotion

Thursday, 18th December: 7pm: Advent Program (Office)

Friday, 19th December: 5pm: Mothers who pray



ROSTERS for 20th & 21st December

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

CHURCH CLEANERS

Team 2: Antonio, Samangi, Eileen, Joelle, Rennla

COUNTERS

Team 1: Anne, Michael, Lyn, Nadine, Tyronie, Renee, Alexandra, Kharece

Last Weekend's Collection

Envelopes: \$4964.30

Unpledged: \$2340.05

Presbytery: \$2665.55

Thank you!

This Sunday we Pray**Thanksgiving**

Alana Peters

Dominic Crasto

Cassie Duncan

Treasure Clarke and Family

Andre, Veronique and Luc Michaud

For those who are sick:

Pamela Chen

Elcira Baez

Colin Cunningham

Baby Vash

For those who have died recently:

Fr Michael Shadbolt

Noel Santos

Giovanni Furfaro

Eric Seefuss

Nazario Coutinho

Rosebita Briton

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:

Monday, 15th December: St Valerian

Friday, 19th December: St Anastasius, Pope; Blessed Urban V, Pope

Saturday, 20th December: St Philogonius, Bishop

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Angela and Philip Coutinho, Maria da Costa O. Pires, Felizberto Monig Calan, Walter Lockwood, Reneir Noel Snr., Joseph Crasto, George and Mallika Fernando, Edith Yan, Rosina Furfaro, Mema Pisano, Nikola Varzofski, John Kristinhof, Joyce Hookens, Relita Malbas, Margaux Malbas, Mathew Uthiriyasamy

Holy Land Crafts

Today, we are joined by a Christian family from Bethlehem – the birthplace of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have fled the war in the Holy Land. For centuries, more than 600 Christian families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem have made their living by hand-carving religious items from the blessed olive trees. Their work has always depended on pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. But in these challenging times, our Christian families in the Holy Land are facing great hardship. The war has left deep scars not only on the land but also on their hearts. Unfortunately, because of the ongoing conflict, there are no pilgrims, and the entire tourism sector has come to a halt. Many families are struggling and now rely entirely on small initiatives like this to survive. After Mass, you will find a display of their beautiful handmade olive-wood carvings perfect as Christmas gifts or meaningful keepsakes. Each piece carries not only the beauty of the olive wood, but also the faith, hope, and prayers of the families who crafted it. Your support today helps Christian families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem sustain their livelihoods and keep their faith alive in the land where our faith began.

Advent and Christmas Program 2025

Children's Christmas Party - Sunday, 7th December - 3-5pm – St Kevin's Hall

Parish Christmas Carols – Sunday, 14th December at 6:00pm – St Kevin's Hall

First Rite of Reconciliation – Monday, 22nd 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, 6th January 2026.

Wednesday, 24th December – 9.15am Mass (no novena)

Christmas Eve masses – Wednesday, 24th 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, 25th December

9am Carols and 9:30am Mass

Wednesday, 31st December – 9.15am Mass (no evening mass and novena)

New Year's Eve – 31st December 2025

11pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary

12am (Midnight) Mass

New Year's Day – Thursday, 1st January 2026

10am Mass

First Friday – 2nd 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.

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE HOME

The father of the family recites the antiphon. The psalm is then recited alternately with the rest of the family.

Antiphon: Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy, for the Lord has come.

Psalm 95: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless His name

Proclaim His salvation day after day.

Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,
to be feared above all the gods.

For all the gods of the heathen are vain idols;
but the Lord made the heavens.

Majesty and beauty are before Him:
Power and splendor are in His sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and power;
ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name.
Offer sacrifice, and enter His courts.

Worship the Lord in holy attire.
Tremble before Him, all the earth.
Proclaim among the nations "the Lord is king."
He has established the world that is not moved;
He rules the people with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea and all that it contains resound,
let the fields exult and all that is in them.

Then shall the trees of the forest rejoice before the Lord,
for He comes, for He comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice,
And the peoples according to His faithfulness.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated by all together:

Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy, for the Lord has come.

FIRST READING: The mother of the family reads:

After the fall of our first parents the earth was bare and desolate; the world stood in the darkness of sin. But when the Savior was born our earth shone with a new brightness; the glory of the Almighty had renewed the world, making it more beautiful than before. This tree once stood dark and empty in a cold world. But now resplendent with lights and bright adornments in its new glory, this Christmas tree reflects the new beauty that

God brought to earth when "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." By a tree the whole world has been redeemed, and therefore, with great joy we celebrate the glory of this tree.

SECOND READING: One of the children reads:

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

At that time it came to pass that while Mary and Joseph were at Bethlehem, the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of God shone about them and they feared exceedingly. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you news of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there has been born to you today in the town of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

All recite: Glory to God on high, * and on earth peace to men whom God has chosen. * We praise you. * We bless you. * We adore you. * We glorify you. * We worship you for your great glory. * Lord God, heavenly king, * God the Father all-powerful! * Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son! * Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father! * You that take away the sins of the world, * have mercy on us. * You that take away the sins of the world, * receive our prayer. * You that sit at the right hand of the Father, * have mercy on us. * For you alone are the Holy One, * you alone are the Lord. * You alone are the Most High, O Jesus Christ, * with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. * Amen.

Father: Christ is the tree of life.

All: In the midst of the paradise of delights.

Father: He is the tree.

All: We are the branches.

Father: In Him was life

All: And the life was the light of all people.

Father: The Lord be with you.

All: And with you also.

Father: Let us pray:

Bless, we beseech Thee, O Holy God, Father Almighty, this noble tree which we have adorned in honor of the new birth of Thy only-begotten Son, and do Thou so adorn our souls with the manifold beauties of Thy graces that being internally enlightened by the splendor radiating from this tree, we like the wise men may come to adore Him who is eternal Light and Beauty, the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Imprimatur: + Joannes P. Cody, S.T.D.

Kansanopolitanae-Sancti Josephi

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Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

First Reading - Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm 145(146):6-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age
Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading - James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. 'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'