



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## 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!

Thank you to Audrey Pereira, David and Sharmila Pereira, Philip and Sandra D'Souza, Stephen and Gina Thomas, Judy Thomas and Doreen Smith for cooking the food sold last weekend 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February. Thank you to all who helped to sell the food and all who supported the sale. The total amount raised towards the grotto was **\$2315**.

## Garage Sale – 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February – Traffic arrangements

The garage sale will take place from 3pm to 8.30pm on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February and from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February. Please note that roundabout will be closed to all traffic. The four disabled car parks in front of Church will not be accessible next weekend. However, you may park in front of the temporary bollards on either side of the roundabout.

## Friendship Group Anointing Mass

The Friendship Group will be starting our 2026 year of events by celebrating an Anointing Mass on **Thursday 12th February at 11.00 am**, followed by fellowship in the foyer. Please bring a plate to share. We will take this opportunity with our members to discuss future events. All non-members and parishioners are most welcome to attend and enjoy our hospitality of love.

## Safeguarding session – Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm

Last year, we asked you to save the date for the Parish Safeguarding session. This session will be held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. Tamara Cugnetto, Safeguarding officer from the Archdiocese will be at the session.

**Coin collection** – A box (marked Grotto Collection) has been placed on the sanctuary steps in which you may donate your silver coins (5c, 10c, 20c, 50c).

## Memorial Wall in the new grotto – Last date for EOI 15<sup>th</sup> February

Over the last two weekends, information has been provided about the installation of memorial tiles on the walls of the new grotto. The information is also available on our Parish website and social media. We are currently seeking expressions of interest. **Please use the QR code to express interest.**



## Altar Servers Training – Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm

We invite all altar servers and those who wish to join this ministry to attend the next training session on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm in the Church.

## Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for February - For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

## What's On

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February: 5pm:** Junior Legion of Mary

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February: 7pm:** RCIA, **7.30pm:** Exodus 90 meeting (Office)

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February: 11am:** Friendship Group Anointing Mass

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February: 5pm:** Mothers who pray for their children (Office)

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February: 3pm to 8.30pm:** Parish Garage Sale

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February: 10am to 2pm:** Parish Garage Sale

**ROSTERS for 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February**

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: \$5229.50

Unpledged: \$2374.70

Presbytery: \$2592.65

**Thank you!**

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

Dias and Pires Family  
Philip, Sandra and Nathan D'Souza  
Ashley De Souza  
Henry Bagcal  
Maria Rosa Karunakaran  
Marguerita Mannays  
Rylan Ferdinand  
Franklin Boustead  
Dolores and Dilhan  
Philip and Merilla Gonsalves  
Tony and Portia Foulstone  
Mary and Johan Hanekom  
Christopher and Nikita Vaz  
Elisha Scurville  
Jude, Jessica and Athanasia Rodrigo

**For those who are sick:**

Jean Pierre Michaud  
Baby Vash  
Samantha  
Giedrius Kalvaitis  
Felicity Rulach  
Lily Hayes  
Charles  
Sistek Shalia

**For those who have died recently:**

Gisele Lebrasse  
Levao Lona Luti

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, 10<sup>th</sup> February: St Scholastica

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February: Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> February: Sts Cyril and Methodius

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

Walter Lockwood, Camilo Cardozo, Leo Cooray, Charlotte Cooray, Iranganie Cooray, Eric Cooray, Susil Cooray, Shama Cooray, Antony Wisidagama  
Mahendra Wisidagama, William Dias Abeysinghe, Marjorie Dias Abeysinghe, Clement Hettiarachchi, Derreck Kelaart, Girley Perera, Laugalis and Albinas Ulskis, Frank and Doris Almeida, Derek Clarke, Geoffrey and Ernest Atkinson, Brendan and Ian Parnell, Late Ajit Gunasekera, Norma Collins, Newton Fernando Hector Pique, Jorge Alejandro Leiva

**Lenten Program 2026**

Date	Event	Time
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday	7am Mass 9.15am Mass 5pm Mass 7pm Mass
20 <sup>th</sup> February 27 <sup>th</sup> February 6 <sup>th</sup> March 13 <sup>th</sup> March 20 <sup>th</sup> March 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Fridays in Lent	6pm to 6.50pm Holy Hour and Confessions 7pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday procession (TBC)	3pm to 5pm
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday	5pm and 7pm - Vigil Masses on 28 <sup>th</sup> March 9am 11am 6pm
30 <sup>th</sup> March	First Rite of Reconciliation	5.30pm to 7pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Holy Thursday	8pm Mass Followed by Adoration in the School Hall till 11pm (No Morning Mass)
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Good Friday	8.30am Divine Mercy Novena (repeated for one week) 9am Passion Play 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion. 6 to 7pm Veneration of the Cross
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Holy Saturday	8pm Easter Vigil Mass
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday	9am Mass 11am Mass No evening mass
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Divine Mercy Sunday	1 to 3pm Confessions 1.30pm Holy Rosary and Prayers 3pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by Mass (no evening mass)

## Feast Day: February 8 — St Josephine Bakhita

Saint Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869 and died in Schio (Vicenza) in 1947.

This African flower, who knew the anguish of kidnapping and slavery, bloomed marvelously in Italy, in response to God's grace, with the Daughters of Charity.

In Schio (Vicenza), where she spent many years of her life, everyone still calls her "our Black Mother".

Divine Providence guided the Sudanese slave through innumerable and unspeakable sufferings to human freedom and to the freedom of faith and finally to the consecration of her whole life to God.

Bakhita was not the name she received from her parents at birth. The fright and the terrible experiences she went through made her forget the name she was given by her parents. Bakhita, which means 'fortunate' in Arabic, was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

Sold and resold in the markets of El Obeid and Khartoum, she experienced the humiliations and sufferings of slavery, both physical and moral.

She was first bought by a Turkish general, in whose service she was subjected to all manner of ill-treatment and torture, including being branded with some 60 "tattoos" or incisions across her stomach to indicate she was a possession of the general.

Eventually, in the Capital of Sudan, Bakhita was bought by an Italian consul, Callisto Legnani. For the first time since the day she was kidnapped she realised with pleasant surprise, that no one used the lash when giving her orders; instead, she was treated in a loving and cordial way. In the Consul's residence, Bakhita experienced peace, warmth and moments of joy, even though veiled by nostalgia for her own family, whom, perhaps, she had lost forever.

Political situations forced the consul to leave for Italy. Bakhita asked and obtained permission to go with him and with a friend of his, a certain Augusto Michieli.

On arrival in Genoa, Mr Legnani, pressured by Mr Michieli's wife, consented to leave Bakhita with them. She followed the new 'family', which settled in Zianigo (near Mirano, Veneto). When their daughter Mimmina was born, Bakhita became her babysitter and friend.

The acquisition of a big hotel in Suakin, on the Red Sea, forced Mrs Michieli to move to Suakin to help her husband. Meanwhile, Mimmina and Bakhita were entrusted to the Canossian Sisters in Venice. It was there that Bakhita came to know about God, whom "she had experienced in her heart without knowing who He was" ever since she was a child. "Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: Who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage."

After several months in the catechumenate, Bakhita received the sacraments of Christian Initiation and was given the name Josephine. It was January 9, 1890. She did not know how to express her joy that day. From then on, she was often seen kissing the baptismal font and saying: "Here, I became a daughter of God!"

With each new day, she became more aware of who this God was, whom she now knew and loved, who had led her to him through mysterious ways, holding her by the hand.

When Mrs Michieli returned from Africa to take back her daughter and Bakhita, the latter, with unusual firmness and courage, expressed her desire to remain with the Canossian Sisters and to serve that God who had shown her so many proofs of his love. The young African, who by then had come of age, enjoyed the freedom of choice which the Italian law ensured.

Bakhita remained in the catechumenate where she experienced the call to be a religious, and to give herself to the Lord in the Institute of St Magdalene of Canossa.

On December 8, 1896, Josephine Bakhita was consecrated forever to God whom she called "the Master". For another 50 years, this humble Daughter of Charity lived in the community in Schio, engaged in various services: cooking, sewing, embroidery and attending to the door.

When she was on duty at the door, she would gently lay her hands on the heads of the children who daily attended the Canossian schools and caress them. Her amiable voice, which had the inflection and rhythm of the music of her country, was pleasing to the little ones, comforting to the poor and suffering and encouraging for those who knocked at the door of the institute.

Her humility, her simplicity and her constant smile won the hearts of all. Her sisters in the community esteemed her for her sweet nature, her exquisite goodness and her deep desire to make the Lord known.

"Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

As she grew older she experienced long, painful years of sickness. Mother Bakhita continued to witness to faith, goodness and Christian hope. To those who visited her and asked how she was, she would respond with a smile: "As the Master desires." During her agony, she relived the terrible days of her slavery and more than once she begged the nurse who assisted her: "Please, loosen the chains ... they are heavy!"

It was Mary Most Holy who freed her from all pain. Her last words were: "Our Lady! Our Lady!", and her final smile testified to her encounter with the Lord's Mother.

Mother Bakhita breathed her last on February 8, 1947, at the Canossian Convent, Schio, surrounded by the sisters. A crowd quickly gathered at the convent to have a last look at their 'Madre Moretta' and to ask for her protection from heaven. The fame of her sanctity has spread to all the continents, and many are those who receive graces through her intercession.

In his homily at her canonisation Mass, Pope St John Paul II said that in St Josephine Bakhita, "we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance, but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights".

**First Reading - Isaiah 58:7-10**

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,  
clothe the man you see to be naked  
and do not turn from your own kin.  
Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of the Lord behind you.  
Cry, and the Lord will answer;  
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry,  
and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows become like noon.

**Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 111(112):4-9**

***A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour.

***A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***

The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

***A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.

His head will be raised in glory.

***A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***

**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
the man who follows me  
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

**Gospel - Matthew 5:13-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'