



First Sunday of Lent (Year A) – 22nd February 2026

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**.

Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity and support of our garage sale and food sale held on 14th and 15th February. Together we raised **\$9478.62**. Raffle tickets are being sold after the masses this weekend. The raffle will be drawn after the 11am mass on Sunday, 22nd February.

Thank you to our parishioners who cooked, donated and sold food last weekend: Kevin and Michelle Vaz, Candice and Carlton Vaz, Sita and Justin Faoa-Harris, Angelina D'Silva, Doreen Smith, Bernadette Graham, Debra and Malcolm Vieyra, Sharon and Brian D'Cruz, Sheridan Vaz and Dennis Vaz.

Thank you to Gisele Farkas, the coordinator of our garage sale who along with her team worked tirelessly to make the garage sale a success. Thank you to Cindy and Dexter, Doreen, Helen, Veronique, Nadine, Gail, Elizabeth, Marilyn, Segundo, Philomena and Warren, Johnson, Cyril, Florence, Andrew, Joseph, Ferdinand, Deneise, Aloysius, Charistina, Areata, Harold, Roxanna, Rhiannon, Hannah, Dulcie, Anil, Justin and Sita, Jennifer, Audrey, Leslie and Lorraine, Ryan, Ian, Nancy, Briony, Priscilla and Roger.

Safeguarding session – Tuesday, 24th February at 7pm in the School Hall

All parishioners who are in ministry are required to attend the Parish Safeguarding session on Tuesday, 24th February at 7pm. Tamara Cugnetto, Safeguarding officer from the Archdiocese will be addressing us at the session.

Youth Event – Saturday, 28th February – 10am to 3pm

All youth aged Year 9 to 25 years are invited to attend a day filled with games and activities, talks, adoration, confession, praise and worship and more. Please sign up using the QR code on the posters displayed in the Church foyer.

Good Friday Passion Play – Youth needed

If you are aged Grade 4 to 25 years and are interested in being part of the Good Friday Passion Play, please sign up using the link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10udZExXlarly1v30pogLyTUviEneHpCNNtgUWtfzB0I/edit?ts=6995c52c>



or QR code. The first Passion Play practice will be held on **Sunday, 1st March from 3pm to 5pm**.

Working Bee – Saturday, 14th March – 8am to 2pm

We would like to clean the inside and outside of our church in readiness for Holy Week and Easter. If you can spare an hour or more of your time, please sign up for the Parish Working Bee on Saturday, 14th March from 8am. Please contact Brian D'Souza via the Parish Office 03 97992108.

What's On

Monday, 23rd February: 5pm: Junior Legion of Mary

Tuesday, 24th February: 7pm: Safeguarding session (School Hall)

Wednesday, 25th February: 4.30pm: Reconciliation class

Thursday, 26th February: 10am and 7pm: Lenten Program

6.45pm: Sacrament commitment mass (Schools)

Friday, 27th February: 6pm: Holy Hour and Confessions

7pm: Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

ROSTERS for 28th Feb. & 1st March

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

CHURCH CLEANERS

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

COUNTERS

Team 1: Anne, Michael, Tyronie, Rene, Alexandra, Kharece

Last Weekend's Collection

Envelopes: \$5005.00

Unpledged: \$2498.80

Presbytery: \$2501.15

Thank you!

This Sunday we Pray**Thanksgiving**

Rachel Fernandez

Mathias Malbas

Ellen & Megan Abangan

KK and Andrea Karunakaran

Sahan Fernando

Ashley and Linda Franklin

Ronith Chatterji

Jose Marques

Lisa Napit

Miya Napit

Rod and Chloe Hall

For those who are sick:

John Vasquez

Jean Pierre Michaud

Baby Vash

Samantha

Giedrius Kalvaitis

Felicity Rulach

Lily Hayes

Charles

Sistek Shalia

For those who have died recently:

Pedro Mau Ribus Da Silva

Marcelino Alvares Pereira

Rolande Lalanne

Leslie Ferero

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, 23rd February: St Polycarp

Saturday, 27th February: St Gregory of Narek

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Walter Lockwood, Annie and Clement Philogene, Joze and Marija Juntez and Family, Stanislav Schafer and family, Jozica Kastelic, Fani Drnovsek, Janez Kastelic, Fernando Marques, Maria Carlota, Antanas Laugalis, Albert Britto, Vladas Dovidavicius, Nariman Umrigar, Francis Cordeiro, Kim Nohe Shadrock, David Nivan, Oscar L. Pereira Araujo, Maryann Xavier and Anthony Xavier, Anthony Francis, Francis Family, Subramaniam Family, Alcina Da Silva, Augustine Vaz, Victor Machado, Terrence McDonnell, Whitby Dubier, Rodelio and Teresita Alzona, Raul Isaac

Lenten Preparation: COMPASSIO Lenten Program 2026

Lent is a sacred time to refocus our hearts on God and to make a more intentional effort to place Him at the centre of our lives. All parishioners are warmly invited to join our Lenten Prayer,

Reflection, and Discussion

Group Session Details

Thursdays, beginning **19 February 2026**

After the **9:15am Mass** – Church Foyer

For those unable to attend in the morning, the same session will be repeated on Thursday evenings at **7:00pm**. Those interested are kindly asked to register using the QR code, where you can select your preferred session time.

**Memorial Wall in the new grotto**

Over the last month, 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 or contact the Parish Office to express interest.**

**Caritas – Project Compassion Sunday 2026**

This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code on the poster. Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate Or by calling: 1800 024 413.

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Live Your Best Life in Love...**A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple**

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend.

The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. We are currently offering 2 weekends in 2026.

Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend:
April 24 - 26th

St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

November 6 - 8th

St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Information/Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au **Website:** wwme.org.au

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

Feast Day – St Polycarp – 23rd February

Imagine being able to sit at the feet of the apostles and hear their stories of life with Jesus from their own lips. Imagine walking with those who had walked with Jesus, seen him, and touched him. That was what Polycarp was able to do as a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. But being part of the second generation of Church leaders had challenges that the first generation could not teach about. What did you do when those eyewitnesses were gone? How do you carry on the correct teachings of Jesus? How do you answer new questions that never came up before? With the apostles gone, heresies sprang up pretending to be true teaching, persecution was strong, and controversies arose over how to celebrate liturgy that Jesus never laid down rules for. Polycarp, as a holy man and bishop of Smyma, found there was only one answer – to be true to the life of Jesus and imitate that life. Saint Ignatius of Antioch told Polycarp "your mind is grounded in God as on an immovable rock." When faced with heresy, he showed the "candid face" that Ignatius admired and that imitated Jesus' response to the Pharisees. Marcion, the leader of the Marcionites who followed a dualistic heresy, confronted Polycarp and demanded respect by saying, "Recognize us, Polycarp." Polycarp responded, "I recognize you, yes, I recognize the son of Satan." On the other hand when faced with Christian disagreements he was all forgiveness and respect. One of the controversies of the time came over the celebration of Easter. The East, where Polycarp was from, celebrated the Passover as the Passion of Christ followed by a Eucharist on the following day. The West celebrated Easter on the Sunday of the week following Passover. When Polycarp went to Rome to discuss the difference with Pope Anicetus, they could not agree on this issue. But they found no difference in their Christian beliefs. And Anicetus asked Polycarp to celebrate the Eucharist in his own papal chapel. Polycarp faced persecution the way Christ did. His own church admired him for following the "gospel model" -- not chasing after martyrdom as some did, but avoiding it until it was God's will as Jesus did. They considered it "a sign of love to desire not to save oneself alone, but to save also all the Christian brothers and sisters." One day, during a bloody martyrdom when Christians were attacked by wild animals in the arena, the crowd became so mad that they demanded more blood by crying, "Down with the atheists; let Polycarp be found." (They considered Christians "atheists" because they didn't believe in their pantheon of gods.) Since Polycarp was not only known as a leader but as someone holy "even before his grey hair appeared", this was a horrible demand. Polycarp was calm but others persuaded him to leave the city and hide at a nearby farm. He spent his time in prayer for people he knew and for the Church. During his prayer he saw a vision of his pillow turned to fire and announced to his friends that the dream meant he would be burned alive. As the search closed in, he moved to another farm, but the police discovered he was there by torturing two boys. He had a little warning since he was upstairs in the house but he decided to stay, saying, "God's will be done." Then he went downstairs, talked to his captors and fed them a meal. All he asked of them was that they give him an hour to pray. He spent two hours praying for everyone he had every known and for the Church, "remembering all who had at any time come his way -- small folk and great folk, distinguished and undistinguished, and the whole Catholic Church throughout the world." Many of his captors started to wonder why they were arresting this holy, eighty-six-year-old bishop. But that didn't stop them from taking him into the arena on the Sabbath. As he entered the arena, the crowd roared like the animals they cheered. Those around Polycarp heard a voice from heaven above the crowd, "Be brave, Polycarp, and act like a man." The proconsul begged the eighty-six-year-old bishop to give in because of his age. "Say 'Away with the atheists'" the proconsul urged. Polycarp calmly turned to the face the crowd, looked straight at them, and said, "Away with the atheists." The proconsul continued to plead with him. When he asked Polycarp to swear by Caesar to save himself, Polycarp answered, "If you imagine that I will swear by Caesar, you do not know who I am. Let me tell you plainly, I am a Christian." Finally, when all else failed the proconsul reminded Polycarp that he would be thrown to the wild animals unless he changed his mind. Polycarp answered, "Change of mind from better to worse is not a change allowed to us." Because of Polycarp's lack of fear, the proconsul told him he would be burned alive but Polycarp knew that the fire that burned for an hour was better than eternal fire. When he was tied up to be burned, Polycarp prayed, "Lord God Almighty, Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and powers, of the whole creation and of the whole race of the righteous who live in your sight, I bless you, for having made me worthy of this day and hour, I bless you, because I may have a part, along with the martyrs, in the chalice of your Christ, to resurrection in eternal life, resurrection both of soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. May I be received today, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice, among those who are in your presence, as you have prepared and foretold and fulfilled, God who is faithful and true. For this and for all benefits I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal and heavenly High Priest, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, through whom be to you with him and the Holy Spirit glory, now and for all the ages to come. Amen." The fire was lit as Polycarp said Amen and then the eyewitnesses who reported said they saw a miracle. The fire burst up in an arch around Polycarp, the flames surrounding him like sails, and instead of being burned he seemed to glow like bread baking, or gold being melted in a furnace. When the captors saw he wasn't being burned, they stabbed him. The blood that flowed put the fire out. The proconsul wouldn't let the Christians have the body because he was afraid they would worship Polycarp. The witnesses reported this with scorn for the lack of understanding of Christian faith: "They did not know that we can never abandon the innocent Christ who suffered on behalf of sinners for the salvation of those in this world." After the body was burned, they stole the bones in order to celebrate the memory of his martyrdom and prepare others for persecution. The date was about February 23, 156.

In His Footsteps: When faced with challenges to your Christian life, try a version of Polycarp's prayer of martyrdom: "Lord God Almighty, Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and powers, of the whole creation and of the whole race of the righteous who live in your sight, I bless you, for having made me worthy of this day and hour, I bless you, because I may have a part, along with the martyrs, in the chalice of your Christ, to resurrection in eternal life, resurrection both of soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. For this and for all benefits I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal and heavenly High Priest, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, through whom be to you with him and the Holy Spirit glory, now and for all the ages to come. Amen."

Prayer:

Saint Polycarp, sometimes Christ seems so far away from us. Centuries have passed since he and the apostles walk the earth. Help us to see that he is close to us always and that we can keep him near by imitating his life as you did. Amen

First Sunday of Lent (Year A)

First Reading - Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death." ' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

My offences truly I know them;

my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading - Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed

in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel - Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.