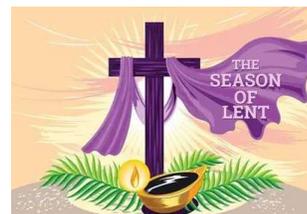




St. Kevin's Catholic Parish

H A M P T O N P A R K



Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday (Year A) – 15th March 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

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.**

Mauritian Food Sale

The Mauritian community invites all parishioners to participate in the Mauritian Food Sale that will take place on the **14th & 15th of March.** There will be a delicious variety of Mauritian cuisine, including savoury and sweet. All proceeds will go towards the fundraising for the grotto. Please bring your family and friends along to support this great cause.

Save the date – 16th May 2026

Karaoke Saturday – Presented by the South African community and friends Raffles, prizes, Food on sale

Bring your vocals, dancing shoes, good vibes and plenty of gold coin for a night of musical fun and live entertainment. Tickets on sale after Easter. Stay tuned...

Palms Wanted!

Do you have a palm tree? Do you know someone who does?

We require a large quantity of palms for Palm Sunday. Please contact the Parish Office on 97992108 if you would like to donate palms.

Project Compassion 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 posters in the foyer.

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.*

Palm Sunday walk – Saturday, 28th March at 4.30pm

The 5pm vigil mass on Saturday, 28th March will be preceded by the Parish Palm Sunday Walk. More details will be in next week's bulletin.

Pope Leo's Prayer intention for March

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

What's On

Sunday, 15th March: 3pm to 5pm: Passion Play Practice

Monday, 16th March: 5pm: Junior Legion of Mary

Tuesday, 17th March: 7pm: RCIA

Wednesday, 18th March: 4.30pm: Reconciliation class

Thursday, 19th March: 10am and 7pm: Lenten Program

7pm: Mass for St Vincent de Paul Society members

Friday, 20th March: 6pm: Holy Hour and Confessions

7pm: Stations of the Cross followed by Mass

ROSTERS for 21st & 22nd March

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: \$5362.00

Unpledged: \$2790.85

Presbytery: \$2723.05

This Sunday we Pray

Thanksgiving

David Victor

Anna Maria Paris

Leo Fernandes

King Family

Shanika Costa

Alston, Ana, Adriana, Alina

Serena Starr

Giaquinta Family

Aidan and Keyan

Sahan Ayagama

Philomena Peters

Gina Thomas

For those who are sick:

Sandra Wills

Anna

Elcira Baez

Greg Jacobs

Angus Jacobs

Dominique

Jason Large

John Vasquez

For those who have died recently:

Eddie Shui On Lee

Lorensz Oorloff

Pedro Mau Ribus Da Silva

Marcelino Alvares Pereira

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, 17th March: St Patrick

Wednesday, 18th March: St Cyril of Jerusalem

Thursday, 19th March: St Joseph

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Fernando Marques, Maria Carlota, Oscar L. Pereira Araujo, Lucette Brabant, Joseph Crasto, Tyrone Rosayro, Maria Luisa Lay, Leonardo O. Moniz Araujo, Walter Lockwood, Shane Narcis, Noela Lebrasse, Gerald Hector Caszo, Baptist Abeyadeera, Stewart and Christobel De La Motte, Deceased members of Abeyadeera, Neydorff and De La Motte families, Austin Peters, Noreen Fletcher, Mervyn Nathan, Concy Peiris, Vivian MacFarlane

Holy Thursday and Good Friday Collections

Holy Thursday – **2nd April** – A collection will be taken up at mass to add to the Caritas appeal. Please return your Caritas boxes and envelopes during the Holy Thursday collection.

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, **3rd April**. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world.

Melbourne Synod 2026

Last Sunday, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli formally convoked Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026.

Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at

<https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

What is a Synod?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"



Corpus Christi Procession - Save the date!

Sunday 7 June 2026, Melbourne City

As we look forward to bringing our Archdiocese together to share our light and hope, Jesus in the Eucharist, into the city of Melbourne, we encourage you to save the date for the Corpus Christi procession.

Further details will follow.

Feast Day – St Joseph – 19th March

Patron of the Universal Church

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture.

We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the sceptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, 'Is this not the carpenter's son?' (Matthew 13:55). He was not rich, for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as 'son of David', a royal title used also for Jesus.

When Scripture describes Joseph, it is like God is introducing us to him. And what does he say? 'Joseph was an upright man.' (Matthew 1:19) If you think about it, that is an amazing statement. It means that God was fully satisfied with St Joseph. God could count on him; he was upright, trustworthy, honest, virtuous—this is God describing him, and God really knows. We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He planned to divorce Mary according to the law but he was concerned for her suffering and safety. He knew that women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he decided to divorce her quietly and not expose her to shame or cruelty (Matthew 1:19-25).

We know Joseph was man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife.

Joseph's dispositions were so acceptable to God, that he sent the angel, not to reprimand anything in his conduct, but to dissipate all his doubts and fears, by revealing to him this adorable mystery. How happy should we be if we were as tender in all that regards the reputation of our neighbour; as free from entertaining any injurious thought or suspicion, whatever certainty our conjectures or our senses may seem to rely on; and as guarded in our tongue!

After the joy of the birth of our Lord and the adoration of the Magi, a new sorrow arises; Joseph is ordered in another vision to fly into a foreign country, without help or acquaintance. It is the opinion of the Fathers that upon their entering Egypt, at the presence of the child Jesus all the oracles of that superstitious country were struck dumb, and the statues of their gods trembled, and in many places fell to the ground, as Isaiah had foretold: 'And the statues of the Egyptians shall be shaken in his presence'. (19)

After the death of King Herod, which again was notified to St Joseph by a vision, God ordered him to return with the child and his mother into the land of Israel, which our saint readily obeyed. But when he arrived in Judea, hearing that Archelaus succeeded Herod in that part of the country, and worried that Archelaus might be infected with his father's vices—cruelty and ambition—he feared to settle there, as he would otherwise probably have done, for the better education of the child. And therefore, being directed by God in another vision, he retired into the dominions of his brother Herod Antipas, to Galilee, to his former habitation in Nazareth, where the wonderful occurrences of our Lord's birth were less known.

Our Saviour being advanced to the 12th year of his age, accompanied his parents to Jerusalem; who, having performed the usual ceremonies of the feast, were now returning with many of their neighbours and acquaintances towards Galilee, and, never doubting but that Jesus had joined himself with some of the company, they travelled on for a whole day's journey without further inquiry after him before they discovered that he was not with them.

But when night came on, and they could hear no tidings of him among their kindred and acquaintance, they, in the deepest affliction, returned with the utmost speed to Jerusalem; where, after an anxious search of three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the learned doctors of the law, hearing them discourse, and asking them such questions as raised the admiration of all that heard him, and made them astonished at his understanding: nor were his parents less surprised on this occasion.

And when his mother told him with what grief and earnestness they had sought him, and to express her sorrow for that privation of his presence, said to him: 'Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I sought thee in great affliction of mind': she received for answer that, being the Messiah and Son of God, sent by his Father into the world in order to redeem it, he must be about his Father's business; and therefore that it was most likely for them to find him in his Father's house: intimating that his appearing in public on this occasion was to advance his Father's honour, and to prepare the princes of the Jews to receive him for the Messiah; pointing out to them from the prophets the time of his coming. But though by staying in the temple unknown to his parents he did something without their leave, in obedience to his heavenly Father, yet in all other things he was obedient to them, returning with them to Nazareth, and there living in dutiful subjection to them.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or Resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry. St Joseph is thus the patron of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also patron of the universal Church, fathers, carpenters, and social justice.

We celebrate two feast days for St Joseph: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker.

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

First Reading - 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 22(23)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he

only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:
'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'
Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:
'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'