

The Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart & St Columba

Our Parish is a Christian community which welcomes all to walk together in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.

PARISH NEWSLETTER 7 / 8 DECEMBER 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



St Columba Church

cnr Glenhantly & Normandy Rds
Elwood 3184

Sacred Heart Church

83 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182

St Columba Primary School

24 Glenhantly Road Elwood 3184
9531 6560; www.stcolumbasprimary.org

Sacred Heart Mission

87 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182
9537 1166; www.sacredheartmission.org

PARISH HOUSE

2 Normandy Road, Elwood 3184
03 9531 6120; shsc@shscparish.org.au
www.shscparish.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr John Petrus
john@shscparish.org.au

Pastoral Ministry Leader: Christine Mitchell
christine@shscparish.org.au

Office Manager: Jane Hearnese
jane@shscparish.org.au

SHM Pastoral Care Worker

St Columba Principal / REC:

Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Bern Bradley
bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Safeguarding Committee:

Fr John Petrus, Christine Mitchell,
Daniella Maddalena, Jane Hearnese

Parish Visiting Team: Lay Pastoral Care

Group; Legion of Mary Groups
Call or email the Parish Office.

St Vincent de Paul President: Dominic Tesoriero
domtess1@gmail.com

Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary

Please contact the parish office.

Gospel Reflection by Pope Francis

[Source: Faith Circles, Catholic diocese of Wollongong faithcircles.dow.org.au]

Last Sunday, the liturgy invited us to experience the Season of Advent and of anticipation of the Lord with an attitude of vigilance and also of prayer: "be mindful" and "pray". Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are shown how to give substance to this anticipation: by undertaking a journey of conversion, how to make this anticipation concrete. As a guide on this journey, the Gospel presents the figure of John the Baptist who "went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Lk 3:3). To describe the Baptist's mission, the Evangelist Luke refers to the ancient prophecy of Isaiah which says: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (vv. 4-5).

To prepare the way of the Lord's coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us. What are these requirements for conversion? First of all we are called to fill the 'valleys' caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention which takes on the needs of our neighbours. To fill the valleys caused by coldness. One cannot have a relationship of love, charity and fraternity with one's neighbours if there are 'gaps' just as one cannot travel a road with many potholes. This requires a change of attitude. And all this should also be done with special attention to the neediest. Then there is the need to curtail the indifference caused by pride and arrogance. How many people, perhaps without realizing it, are proud, are indifferent, lack that kindly relationship. It is necessary to overcome this by making concrete gestures of reconciliation with our brothers and sisters, asking for forgiveness for our faults. It is not easy to reconcile with another. One always thinks: "who will take the first step?". The Lord helps us in this if we are of good will. Indeed, conversion is complete if it leads us to humbly recognize our errors, our infidelity and failings.

The believer is someone who, by being close to his brothers and sisters, like John the Baptist, opens pathways in the desert, that is, he indicates perspectives of hope, even in those existential contexts that are arduous, marked by failure and defeat. We cannot give up in the face of negative situations of closure and rejection: we must not allow ourselves to succumb to the mentality of the world, because the centre of our life is Jesus and his word of light, love and solace. It is He! The Baptist invited the people of his time to conversion, with force, with vigour and with firmness. Nevertheless, he knew how to listen, he knew how to perform gestures of tenderness, gestures of forgiveness toward the multitude of men and women who went to him to confess their sins and to be baptised with the baptism of repentance. continued over page around us this week?

The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant. Today too, Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day with the power of the Holy Spirit. Let each of us ask ourselves: how can I change something in my attitude, in order to prepare the way of the Lord?

May the Virgin Mary help us prepare the way of the Lord Day by day, beginning with ourselves; and to scatter around us with steadfast patience, seeds of peace, justice and fraternity.

WARM WELCOME

Welcome to all who celebrate the Eucharist with us today, to the church communities across our parish and a special welcome to all who happen to be visiting our Parish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. May we acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Kulin Nations, who are the traditional custodians of our parish land, whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this land since men and women awoke from the great dream. We acknowledge their continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

Our Parish supports the recommendations of the Royal Commission and all endeavours to bring healing to and justice for the victims of abuse. Our Parish Leadership & Development Team and Safeguarding Committee work proactively to ensure the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

WHAT IS THE BEST GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS?

Pope Francis' latest [encyclical](#) (On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ) makes it clear that the love of Christ is the only answer to such questions:

"In a world where everything is bought and sold, people's sense of their worth appears increasingly to depend on what they can accumulate with the power of money. We are constantly being pushed to keep buying, consuming and distracting ourselves, held captive to a demeaning system that prevents us from looking beyond our immediate and petty needs. The love of Christ has no place in this perverse mechanism, yet only that love can set us free from a mad pursuit that no longer has room for a gratuitous love. Christ's love can give a heart to our world and revive love wherever we think that the ability to love has been definitively lost" (n. 218).

The greatest gift you can give someone this Christmas isn't the latest iPhone or Nike sneakers, but rather the gift of your love, manifested in the giving of your time, your attention, your listening, your hospitality, your forgiveness. Whether you're on the journey to becoming Catholic or learning more about your faith, this Christmas I encourage you to bring the child Jesus, whose birth we celebrate so fondly at Christmas, into the lives and hearts of others. For that's the greatest gift of all.

[From an article entitled, Challenging the consumerism of Christmas]

BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2025

We have ordered copies of **Break Open the Word 2025**. If any parishioners, especially readers at Mass, would like a copy please let Jane or Christine know. We ask for \$15 to cover costs.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord Jesus Christ, you are already in our midst, yet we long for you to come more fully and more deeply into our hearts.

Give us patience and hope as we prepare for your coming.

In the desert of our fear and anxiety, your light is calm and strong.

In the wilderness of violence and despair, your light is peace and hope.

In the desert of narrow, darkened alleys, your light lets us see to build anew.

In the wilderness of our hearts, you light up our way as we prepare for you.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!

[Source: carmelities.org.au]

GARRATT ADVENT SERIES 26 NOV - 17 DEC 2024

Garratt Publishing are running a series of free, online four Advent talks by Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union. During each week in Advent, this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the various readings. For those who missed the 26 November, you can access a recording.

Details: Tuesdays - 26 November and 3, 10, 17 December 2024. **Time:** 7.00pm - 8.00pm. To access these talks, visit:

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/event/advent-series-24-november-17-december-2024/>

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024 - WE NEED YOUR HELP

FINAL CALL! This year, our Vinnies Elwood St Kilda volunteers have made over 300 visits to families and individuals, providing essential support with food, clothing and furniture. Following Christ's call to love our neighbours, we invite you to help us prepare 80 Christmas hampers to bring hope and joy to those in need within our community. How can you make a difference? Here are three ways:

1. Donate hamper items: We're collecting Christmas treats for each hamper, including tinned ham, mince pies, chocolate biscuits, lollies, tea, fruit cakes and puddings.

2. Contribute financially: If time is short, consider a financial contribution. Our volunteers will use your donation to purchase hamper items. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

3. Donate time: Pack and deliver hampers with our volunteers! Join us on Saturday, December 14th, 10:00 am at St Columba's Church. We will be finished by 12 midday.

Thank you for your support. Together, we make a lasting impact.

To get involved : Please speak with Laura Alfonso, Helen Freris, Alecia Rathbone, or email Dom Tesoriero at dtco@bigpond.net.au

Thank you very much to everyone who has already donated financially. Your generosity will go a long way to help people in our local area who need our support.



ALL WELCOME FOR THE JOURNEY

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December

5.30pm Carols and

6.00pm Family Mass, St Columba Church

Children are encouraged to dress in nativity costumes

AND

10.30pm Carols and

11.00pm Mass, Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Day: Wednesday 25 December

9.00am Mass, St Columba Church

11.00am Mass, Sacred Heart Church

New Years Day: Wednesday 1 January

10.00am Mass, Sacred Heart Church

Parish House
2 Normandy Road, Elwood

Sacred Heart Church
83 Grey Street, St
Kilda West

St Columba Church
26 Glenhuntly Road,
Elwood

SACRED HEART MISSION: 'EAGLE'

Executive Advisory Group on Lived Experience (EAGLE)

In late 2023, EAGLE was established with 10 participants who have a lived or living experience of accessing our services. The members contribute their wisdom, commitment and determination to make services and systems better for others. Together with EAGLE, we developed the **Lived Experience Advisory Framework (LEAF)**, which will become an integral part of the Mission's core business.

LEAF integrates our efforts in gathering participant feedback and promoting consumer participation under the concept of lived experience. It is the culmination of genuine co-design including the framework's name, purpose and key principles.

For more information please visit: [https://](https://www.sacredheartmission.org/about-us/lived-experience-voice/)

www.sacredheartmission.org/about-us/lived-experience-voice/

ADVENT RETREAT AT ST DOMINIC'S PARISH

This retreat will feature a variety of activities, including Mass, spiritual talks, Confession and adoration/benediction. Special guest speakers for the retreat include Sr Mary-Helen Hill OP, Clara Geoghegan and Fr Joseph Vnuk OP. For enquiries, please contact Carlo: pastoral.associate@stdominics.org.au

Date and time: Saturday 14 December, 9.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.

Venue: St Dominic's Parish, 816 Riversdale Road, Camberwell
Cost: \$20 (lunch included)

PARISH CHRISTMAS BBQ: SIGN UP SIGN UP...

This free event is fast approaching on **Sunday, 15 December**. We need to order the meat, so if you are coming, please **SIGN UP** this weekend. Parishioners are asked to bring either a dessert or salad to share. You will need to list the ingredients on a card/sheet. If you require or can give a lift, please also indicate this.

There are sign up sheets at the back of church or you can RSVP to shsc@shscparish.org.au or via our website: <https://www.shscparish.org.au/events-1>

An added bonus will be our Parish Choir entertaining us with Christmas Carols

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Thursday 19 December:** Communal Reconciliation, 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church
- **Saturday 21 December:** First Rite of Reconciliation, 9.00am at St Columba and 11.00am at Sacred Heart

RECYCLING OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christina Siciliano from Sacred Heart is a volunteer with Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. Christina and her fellow volunteers are seeking old Christmas cards to recycle and reuse for seafarers. If you have any old Christmas cards please give them to Christina or leave them at the back of either church. In 2025, when you are putting your Christmas cards away, you are welcome to leave them at the back of church to use for next Christmas. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS CHOIR

Anyone wishing to join us in singing of carols and throughout the Family Mass on Christmas Eve at St Columba - please email Christine (her details are on the front of the newsletter). Carols begin at 5.30 p.m., followed by the Mass at 6.00 p.m. Both children and adults are welcome. There will be three to four rehearsals sessions during the coming weeknights. By the time we go to press, we would have had one rehearsal - there will be three more so there is still time to join.

COLUMBAN CALENDERS AVAILABLE FOR \$10

The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. 2025 marks the 103rd edition.

Features:

- Colour-coded Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials.
- Spacious date pads.
- Meaningful bible quote that is showcased each month.
- FREE online art guide resource - **Visio Divina**

These are a great gift for Christmas and can be purchased from Anne at Sacred Heart or Christine at St Columba.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 2 December - SUNDAY 8 December 2024

MONDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community,
101 Grey Street, St Kilda (WWCC required)

THURSDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9.00am MASS in Parish House, Elwood

SATURDAY 6.00pm MASS at Columba Church

SUNDAY 9.00am MASS at St Columba Church
11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(this mass is also live streamed)

Gospel: Luke Luke 3: 10-18

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$80.00	Total \$180.40
Loose cash	\$383.00	
Total	\$413.00	
Average for 45 weeks	\$402.86	Average for 45 weeks \$231.51

PARISH SERVICE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

Fr John and the parish team are so grateful for the wonderful support that continues to be given to him and the parish.

You can contribute to the collections through Tithe.ly - click this link - [tithe.ly https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524](https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524)

for once off or regular giving using your credit card or download the tithe.ly app. You can also contact Jane in the office to set up giving.

Just a reminder that our First Collection at mass supports the running of the parish, such as pastoral support & various ministries and administration costs - phones, utilities etc. Our Second Collection supports Fr John and covers his stipend and living expenses."



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

"Prayer is what keeps the faith, without it, faith wavers"
Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased:

1st Anniversaries: Enda Czermak 23.12, Gerard McCarthy, Gerard Dowling, Wilma Ryan, Monty Sultana, Conor Riordan

9th Anniversary: Thérèse Mitchell 6.12.2015

Anniversaries: Mak Czermak 28.12.10, Mark Watkins 13.12, Carole Bilton 15.12, Helena Szeffler 17.12, D. Graham Bilton 29.12, Graeme Corners, Mary Conney, Sean Deville, Bernadette Jennings, Ethan Carmichael, Stephen Keegan Ondrej Soukup, Roger Graham, Maurice Kay, Karl Roberts, Jason Curran, Ernie O'Keeffe 3.12.2019, Dorothy Corcoran, Raphael Ruske, Mrs Amad, Bob Collins Anthony Ellul, Merrill Lees, Pamela Pimento, Merrill Lees, Eva Bebjewsky, Norman Garland, Naser Azari, Lucas Santos Fraga, Robin Wheatley, Leslie Korosztos, Barry Scanlan, Bill Waucope, Rolando Chan, Bridie Spierings, Bartolo Canestra, Maria Terzita Canestra, Angelo Marcon 5.12.69, Mark Samuel-King, Peter Cescato, Royce Hagen, Stuart & Beryl Melville 5.12, Stephen Phillips, Domenico Cerasuolo, Millie Walker, Esther Dempsey 19.12, Julie Lyons-Vague, Rita Briglia, Rachel West, Maria Cafarella 26.12.11, Augusto Strangis 2.12.01, Bob Alexander, Agnes Castellano 8.12.10, Darryl Shand 16.12.10, Frank Ruberto 26.12.10, Charlotte Cooper 12.12.73, Clare O'Connor 29.12.05, Maria Basile, Mara Dale, Jackie Everett, Sandra Aerche, Gary Munari, Dorothy McEwan, Kolja and Peter Kovacevic, Pashko and Lena Djelovic, Michele Pescatore, Maria Pescatore, Maria Duca, Nicola Duca, Nicola & Maria Panella, Paolo & Maria Duca, Nunziata Panettieri, Denise McAlorum 24.12.03, Gavin Curran 23.12.11

Sick: Lol Patten (UK), Jackie Pyster, Ramon Lopez, Colin Meanwell, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Chail and her husband Callum, Patrick McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue McLennan, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Sophia, Ned Connors, Jean Cropley, Rose Fonti, Alexander, Felipe and Anne, Pat Ficcaro, Seamus Quinn, Lyn Crossly, Petra Dreischaefer, Nichole Garnaut, Francesca Shelton.

If you have someone you would like on the prayer list please contact Jane at the office.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

14 / 15 December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Meg Taylor, Volunteer needed

Set up: Meg Taylor

9am Mass:

M: Lou Bevilacqua

C / L: Lina Tesoriero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier & Priscilla No Hospitality Roster: The Brazilians

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Carlo Marcon / Adrian Cropley, Toni Vatta

Set up: Anzel & Chella

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy team