

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 23 / 24 NOVEMBER 2024 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

St Columba Church

cnr Glenhuntly & Normandy Rds
Elwood 3184

Sacred Heart Church

83 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182

St Columba Primary School

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

Office Manager: Jane Hearnese
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SHM Pastoral Care Worker

St Columba Principal / REC:

Daniella Maddalena
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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: A Royal Shepherd

On this last Sunday of the Church's year we always celebrate the Feast of Christ, the Universal King.

The first reading from the prophet, Daniel, speaks of the coming of one who will rule in the name of God in an eternal kingdom. The second reading from the Book of the Apocalypse speaks of Christ as the 'faithful witness' to God and 'ruler of the kings of the earth'. Here is a king who loves his people and sheds his own blood to save them.

The Gospel comes from the Passion of Jesus in St John's Gospel. It is Jesus' dialogue with Pilate about his kingship and the nature of his kingdom.

Jesus is anything but a traditional king. This King reigns, not from a golden throne, but a cross of rough wood; naked, with no rich, flowing robes; no bejewelled crown, just thorns; no orb and sceptre, just nails in his hands. He comes among his people, not as a tyrant wielding weapons of suffering and death, but as a powerless baby.

Jesus says that his kingdom is 'not of this world'. It is not a kingdom with geographical and national boundaries. It is not a kingdom in the earthly sense where power and oppression reign, but a kingdom where justice, love, mercy, truth and peace reign.

At the end of the day, the disciple is called to be the Kingdom (the living presence) of God in the world and to transform the suffering of its people into joy by deeds of loving kindness.

Virtuous disciples are the living presence of Jesus in the world. They realise that until Jesus comes again, the kingdom has been entrusted into their hands. In the Kingdom of Jesus, the disciple is not master but 'servant'.

The power of the spirit of Jesus fuels deeds of loving kindness - reversing horrible human conditions, and bringing healing and salvation.

Whenever we act like Christ the Kingdom of God (the reign of God's grace) breaks into our world.

Whenever we are moved by the Spirit to proclaim the truth, to respond to need, to work for justice, to transform and heal our society, the Kingdom of God breaks into human reality and the grace of God becomes clearly visible in our words and actions.

Source: <https://www.carmelites.org.au/5012-celebrating-at-home-christ-the-king-pdf/file/>

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. There are a range of important and interesting resources on the Church noticeboards and on our website supporting and highlighting Safeguarding. Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding Committee if you have any concerns or ideas.

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.

A special welcome to **Julian and Oscar** who are baptised this weekend St Columba. We pray blessings for them as they grow in love and the faith of their family.

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.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024 – WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please remember in prayer the six children from school and parish who will make their First Reconciliation this weekend. They have been studying the scriptures of Zacchaeus, who took the second chance offered him by Jesus to turn his life around; the Prodigal Son, whose Father's heart only knew love not judgment or condemnation when his son returned to him having squandered everything, and the 'lost sheep', whose message was about the worthiness of all of God's beloved, whom God continually seeks out. May these messages always be the guiding path for these children throughout their lives, that takes them back to a compassionate God, through the loving heart of Jesus.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving Jesus,

You call us to follow in your footsteps as a servant king.

In our earthly lives, may we be diligent in serving you and others.

Instill in us a deeper sense of wonder and awe, adoration and worship, humility and service

and let us always see your presence in those around us. Amen

SIXTEEN DAYS OF ACTIVISM

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) is calling the community to join a 16-day campaign to end violence against women and girls. The 16 days of activism will run from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. Each day, ACRATH's campaign calendar provides opportunities to learn, engage and take action against gender-based violence. For almost 20 years ACRATH has been raising awareness and inspiring action against modern slavery through its annual 16-day campaign calendar, which serves as a resource to educate and involve people in the campaign.

According to the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022*, out of every 10 human trafficking victims detected globally, four are adult women and two are girls, with 91 per cent of those trafficked for sexual exploitation being female.

During these 16 days, ACRATH invites everyone to explore its calendar of events, resources and stories. Whether it's listening to a podcast, learning about the latest data, watching the *Educating for Change* university project promotion video or attending the 'Holding the Light' ecumenical service in Melbourne to honour victims and survivors of domestic violence, there is something for everyone to engage with.

Lys Crowe, Acting ACRATH National Executive Officer stated that, 'The victim/survivors of gender-based violence are at the heart of the work we do at ACRATH. Over the 16 days, starting on 25 November, we would like to shine a light on the steps you can take to learn more about gender-based violence and the advocacy work we do. We strive for a future where we won't need these awareness-raising campaigns or fundraising drives, but for now, join the action.'

[You will find a copy of the 'Sixteen Days of Activism' at the back of the church. Otherwise, visit the ACRATH website: <http://acrath.org.au> to see how you can show support.]

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

As we approach the end of the year, the Legion of Mary invite members of the parish to join them for Christmas lunch on **Friday, 6 December at the Elsternwick Hotel at 12 noon.**

The menu has a good range of options and is reasonably priced to suit all budgets. There is also a Seniors menu. We have a week before a booking will be made, so if you wish to attend, please let our Pastoral Ministry Leader, Christine, know, or our Office Manager, Jane. Their emails are in the front of the newsletter. Alternatively, let Legionaries: Fran, Joan, Ada or Anne Dexter know that you would like to attend.

SACRED HEART MISSION (SHM)

Message from Hang Vo, Sacred Heart Mission CEO

When you have a strong community backing you, anything is possible! It is with the help of this community that we have been able to achieve so much in the last year. We invite you to read our latest [Annual Report](#) which highlights the many ways in which we, with your help, supported hundreds of people experiencing homelessness, deep disadvantage and social exclusion over 2023-24. You will read about milestones including the celebration of the opening of our Campus of Care, hear from long-term supporters of SHM, see what the op shops have accomplished as well as a recap of our Strategy 2030 launch.

As we begin to enter the holiday season, we know it can be a difficult time for many of our participants. We are committed to building safe and welcoming spaces for everyone to feel valued - all year round. This is why we have a robust series of social inclusion and wellness programs at SHM.

We thank you for all your support over the last year and we look forward to making an even greater impact as we head into 2025.

[Copies of the SHM Annual Report are at the back of our churches and on the Parish and SHM websites.]

Volunteering Opportunities

Come and volunteer at Sacred Heart Community as part of the Aged Care Visitor Volunteer Scheme (ACVVS). You will be matched with a resident with common interests who you will visit and provide companionship, friendship and meaningful interaction. Visiting a resident and providing companionship can give them connection and a feeling of inclusion that they otherwise might struggle with. For further information on how to volunteer, please visit the SHM website:

www.sacredheartmission.org.au

What's in a Name?

Realising the historical connotation that First Nations People have with the word 'Mission', and given that at least, 10 per cent of the people they serve are First Nations People, Sacred Heart Mission has decided to always refer to itself as 'Sacred Heart Mission' and not 'the Mission'. In Australia's history, missions, reserves and stations were reserves of land to which Aboriginal people were forcibly relocated. These missions were run by officials who had total control over the lives of First Nations People, including the legal guardianship of their children. For them, it is a trauma-filled term that connotes suffering and hardship. Given this, we are all asked to use the full title of Sacred Heart Mission when referring to this organisation, that always seeks to address injustice through the many facets of its work.

CALLING THOSE WITH MUSCLES!

On **Saturday, 7 December from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.** we will be emptying the parish garage at the back of the parish house into a skip. We need some helping hands to lift some of the bulkier items, such as an old couch and other furniture into the skip. Many hands will definitely make light work, so please come and join Fr John in this task!

HOLDING THE LIGHT

This is an ecumenical service remembering victims and survivors of family and domestic violence, who are tragically front of mind this year. The service is open to anyone who might wish to take part in a time of quiet, lament, and prayer/reflection on the devastating results of violence and in hope for a better future. Now in its ninth year, the service is invitational and held in a spirit of welcome. While it is held within the Christian tradition, it is open to anyone who might wish to join together and take part in a ritual and is a time for anyone to engage in a period of quiet, lament, and prayer/reflection on the tragic results of violence and in hope for a better future for our communities.

We remember:

- Those killed as a result of domestic violence by naming those who are victims in the service, and by tolling a bell.
- We stand in solidarity with victim survivors by recognising their pain, and listening to their voices.
- We take time to reflect and commit ourselves to addressing the drivers of violence in our own attitudes, communities and contexts.
- We take hope in the Christian message that all may be healed and redeemed, while acknowledging the ongoing trauma, suffering and danger experienced by so many in our communities due to the ongoing use of violence and abuse.

Date and Time: 28 November at 5:00pm

Venue: Wesley Church Melbourne, 136 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 4 is speeding along and our school is alive with activity.

On Friday we held a School Mass for the Grade Prep - Year 2s and for the new 2025 Preps. The theme was 'Walking and Growing Together'. It was a beautiful liturgy and included a wonderful song by the Preps for the Psalm, a beautiful blessing for the teachers and a lovely welcome for the new Preps and their families. They were also given a flower seedling to symbolise the nurturing and growth they will receive at St Columba. Thank you to all involved and a big thank you to all the families who attended the mass.

The Grade Six students have been working hard on their PYP Exhibition. You are warmly invited to attend this wonderful yearly exhibition in the school hall this **Tuesday 26 November, 6.30pm-7.30pm.**

The latest St Columba's school newsletter is available online at <https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/NRxXYwM/issue-11/page/cover>

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Daniel 7: 13-14

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is King; he is robed in majesty.

Second Reading: Revelation 1: 5-8

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 18: 33-37

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 25 November - SUNDAY 1 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 21:25-28, 34-36

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Sunday 15 December:** Parish Carols and BBQ - details TBC
- **Monday 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

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 Tithely - click this link - [tithely](https://tithely.com/give?c=911524) <https://tithely.com/give?c=911524> for once off or regular giving

using your credit card or download the [tithely](https://tithely.com) 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: Sebastian Maximilian Johann Fitzgerald, Nicholay Solochen Ko, Daniel Planke, Diane Cist

Anniversaries: John Ensabella, Ron McColl, Ross Hargreaves, Bernadette Jennings, Elaine Barker, Anne Hennessy, Immaculate Maio, Bruna Skerl, Mary Fisher, Therese Mannix, Stephen Bolger, Jason Knowles and Jason Currie, Bill Hill, Manny Cassar, Patricia Featherstone, Max Jackson, Malcolm Gerber, Cassie Bricknell, Molly McKay, Tram Champion, Josef Bogner, Nicholas Dobrotwir 3.11, Eric Mousey, Dick Martin, Els Hendricks, Maria Ulehla 7.11, Betty Rogers, Bob Hunter, Denis McCarthy, Maria Rosa Contino, Giuseppina Barnao, Brian Solis, Eric Walter Peters 4.11.2015, Kathleen Redman, Sean Atkinson, Charlie Noble 16.11, Monsignor James Murray, Christopher Gamble Moloney, Sydney Pyster, Domenico Cerasuolo 23.11.03, Ian Stewart 24.11, Gordon Hill 6.11, George Thomson, 5.11, Rachael DeSilva, Luta Skorwider, John Brown 16.11, Carl Hofler 17 11, Sofia Czarnowaj 27.11, Norman Pittari 2.11.52, Maria Rosa Contino 3.11, Kathleen Sullivan 11.11.01, Margaret Upfold 24.11.05, Alberto Dos Santos, Clara Santini-Marcon 5.11.07, Sheila Keogh 26.11.00, Denis Halden 24.11.93, Michael Sylvester Ryan, Guiseppina Ranieri, Gabrielle Ranieri, Giuseppe Lo Piccolo, Concetta Lo Piccolo, Nunziata Panettieri, Francesco Panettieri, Rosario Russo, Antonio Russo, Sonia Battaglia 15.11.09, Amelia, Emma & Aida Carretta, Herbert Summers, Tom Wilczewski, Ella Blumeris, Aileen Palmer, Pasko Lena, Nikola Lena Saindra

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

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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

30 November / 1 December: 1st Sunday of Advent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Rica Garcia

Set up: Karen Ramanair, Sree Chelvakumaran

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Kate Bebejewaska, Brigid Murphy / Karen Engelbretsen

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier & Priscilla No

Hospitality Roster: Srs Karen & Brigid

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes

C / L: Helen Freris, Jane Sims / Daniel O'Connor

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Cecilia Mwangi