

# 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 11 / 12 JANUARY 2025 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### **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](http://www.stcolumbasprimary.org)

### **Sacred Heart Mission**

87 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182  
9537 1166; [www.sacredheartmission.org](http://www.sacredheartmission.org)

### **PARISH HOUSE**

2 Normandy Road, Elwood 3184  
03 9531 6120; [shsc@shscparish.org.au](mailto:shsc@shscparish.org.au)  
[www.shscparish.org.au](http://www.shscparish.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Petrus  
[john@shscparish.org.au](mailto:john@shscparish.org.au)

**Pastoral Ministry Leader:** Christine Mitchell  
[christine@shscparish.org.au](mailto:christine@shscparish.org.au)

**Office Manager:** Jane Hearnese  
[jane@shscparish.org.au](mailto:jane@shscparish.org.au)

**SHM Pastoral Care Worker:**  
Karen Englebretsen  
[kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org](mailto:kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org)

**St Columba Principal / REC:**  
Daniella Maddalena  
[dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au)

**Deputy Principal:** Bern Bradley  
[bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:domtess1@gmail.com)

**Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary**  
Please contact the parish office.

### **Reflection on the Gospel**

The baptism of Jesus is a wonderful feast, in the simple words of Luke's Gospel we see the Christ who was promised, praying in the waters of the Jordan river when the heavens opened to reveal Jesus as part of the Trinity with him the voice of the father and the descending spirit uniting them all in love.

At first glance, the scene makes little sense. People of all shapes and sizes flocked to John in the water. They are baptised in the Jordan as a sign of repentance and cleansing. Suddenly, out of the crowd steps John's cousin, Jesus. Wait a minute. What's Jesus, the sinless one, doing in a crowd of repenting sinners? What's he doing coming forward to be baptised by John, who is by his own admission, inferior to his cousin? Jesus does not enter the water to be sanctified. No he enters the water to sanctify. He empowers the water to become no longer just an outward sign, but a vehicle of

the Holy Spirit bringing inner cleansing, rebirth, and transformation. Here Jesus institutes the sacrament of Christian baptism, something essentially different and greater than the baptism of John, which foreshadowed it.

Jesus's baptism was literally a watershed in his life. From it all his mission flowed, until that day when the veil of the Temple rent in two as he gave his life up for us on the Cross and rising from death revealed the Resurrection. It is the prototype of our baptism, in the waters of the font we die to sin and receive the life of Christ, we truly become Children of God and, anointed with Holy Chrism, receive the life-giving Spirit.

Immediately after coming out of the water, the spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove. Now another Sacrament is instituted by Christ, the sacrament of confirmation. In confirmation we receive our own mission and the power to carry it out. For being a "Christian" is not about just "being saved". It's about sharing in Christ's anointing to transform the world. The mission is an essential part of the package, not an option. That's why we are called "Christians" or anointed ones. It is not just priests and religious who are supposed to make it happen. Every single one of us is called and anointed. And that's why confirmation, together with Baptism and First Holy Communion, is one of the essential sacraments of initiation.

The fact of our baptism ought to have continuing significance and impact upon our lives. It ought to be a continual source of strength and comfort. Baptism isn't just a one-off event but an ongoing reality. We have a new identity in Christ. Every day we are to live out the meaning of our baptism. To say 'I belong to God' is to find new strength to meet the difficult situations life presents us with. To remember our baptism is to gain a new sense of personal responsibility for our lives - we are accountable to God for the life we live.

### **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.

### **MILESTONE BIRTHDAY**

Our dear Giuseppina from our Sacred Heart community is celebrating her 100th birthday this weekend. Buon Compleanno Giuseppina. Wishing you blessings of love and laughter as you celebrate with your family and friends.

## A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of light and darkness, through water and Spirit you shine your light into the darkness of our lives. Bring reconciliation to those who are divided, help us wash away our anxiety by your promised presence, and set us free from despair. In baptism you unify yourself with our world, and bring your reign into being. Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place, and motivate us to serve this hurting world with justice, and without prejudice. Amen.  
[Source: based on a prayer by Rick Pryce.]

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Oh, bless my soul!

**Second Reading:** Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 13 January - SUNDAY 19 January 2024**

<b>MONDAY</b>	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community 1.30pm Funeral for Michael Cummings at Sacred Heart Church
<b>THURSDAY</b>	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9.00am MASS in the Parish House
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6.00pm MASS at St Columba Church
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00am MASS at St Columba Church 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church (this mass is also live streamed) Gospel: John 2: 1-11

## STAFF HOLIDAYS

Christine is on a very well deserved break and will return on Monday 20 January 2025. Thank you to everyone who is providing extra support during this time.

### COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$37.00	Total	\$297.45
Loose cash	\$299.45		
Total	\$336.45		
Average for 1 week	\$336.45	Average for 1 week	\$297.45

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

**All Recently Deceased:** Patrick Gang

**1st Anniversaries:** Ben Dalton, Vincenzo Lococo, Neil Corkery, David Evers, Susan McLellan, Nora Reynolds

**Anniversaries:** Diane Lopez, Fr Tao Pham, Gary Wilson, Patricia Irwin, Gary Blight, Donal Murphy, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Fernando Grellet Alves, Audrey Hooker, Sr Josephine Hoare, Lizzy Ferris Sue Barbuto, Pauline Paulka, Michael Cash, Nagib Charma, John Nolan, Bob Maes, Barry Hanrahan, Claudio Bevilacqua, Damian Moloney Victor Saunders, Mr Allan Shallue, Bill McGrath, Randall Clarke, Neil Anderson, Pat Crofts, Tom Tesoriero, Anna Debac, Teh Kok Leong, Dale Carlos, Jennifer Anderson, Katherine Ford, Dylan Anderson, Tracey Reynolds, Tibly Hart, Kate Mason, Sean Heraghty, Cynthia Pyster 3.1, Cecilia Opie, Daysi Fajardo, Adrian Smith, Ray Gill, Gladys Wheeler, Jane Robinson 13.1, Delsyia Fullinfaw 10.1, Rose Bell 14.1, Paulina Mejia Bonila 14.1, Llewellyn Wood, Susie Nolen 5.1, Loretta McCormick 24.1, Lee Ranahan, John Simington, Joseph Panettieri, John Weston, Mario DiMarzio, Billy Cannon, Gavin O'Leary, Vittorio (Vic) Di Muzio 9.1, Pauline McEvoy, Frances Tierney, Victor Chircop, Merlin Coles, Reg 'Maldon' Nicholson 21.1, Maria Terzita Canestra 7.1.72, Paula Nelson, Jospeh Micallef, Joannie Lloyd, Mary Reagan, Miguel Marin 5.1.10, Anna Durack 13.1.2010, Rosario Russo 19.1.2010, Bernice Marten 3.1.07, Alberto JR Dos Santos, Julie O'Callaghan, Luciana Spring, Tracey Doherty, Leon Massoni, Margaret O'Keefe 12.1.2010, Nunziata Panettieri, Neily Murphy, Natie Mario Contino 18.1, Dominic Mizzi, Samantha Mizzi, Ruby Boulter, Rosaria Russo 19.1, Gaby Pozo, Ken Reynolds, Paul Reynolds, Danny Reynolds.

**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 Dreischaerf, 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

**18 / 19 January 2025: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Legion of Mary / Jenny Harrison, Rica Garcia

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Maria Kovacevic

C / L: Lina Tesoriero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Pristille No, Priscilla Soares

Hospitality Roster: Dom

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Nancye Edwards / Anna Griffiths

Set up: Cecilia

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Daniel O'Connor