

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 31 NOV / 1 DEC 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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
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.

The Season of Advent - To be Anchored in Hope with an Open Spirit.



As we know, Advent, a season of renewal is marked by hope, longing and joyful expectation of the birth of our Lord and his return. It's not meant to be a passive but rather an active season of renewal where we are challenged to, as the Opening Prayer of this Sunday's Mass states to, 'Run forth to meet the Lord'. We are called to be actively engaged in interior preparation of hearts and minds and express this in our actions.

Deacon Justin Stanwix from St Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Wollongong states that despite the world being in such turmoil with war, climate disasters, displaced people who are rejected, economic disparity, injustice, self-absorption, famine and so much more, we must not withdraw in despair but intentionally make an Advent resolution where, 'Our prayer must be more earnest, our generosity palpable, our internal and external expression of love must be manifest. We might recall the early Christians and the description of them: "They are Christians - see how they love one another". Our response to bad behaviour is to give our best behaviour, to pray the word of God and practise it... We must declare our immediate Advent resolution -- to love our God better, to love our neighbour more obviously, to be bearers of God's love and of his peace more visibly."

There are great parallels between the Season of Advent and the forthcoming Jubilee Holy Year of Hope. For this reason, we have chosen the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' as our Parish Advent theme.

Pope Francis states that, 'Pilgrims immerse themselves fully in the places they encounter, listen to the message they communicate and make them a part of their quest for happiness and fulfillment.'

He calls on us to 'Fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainly look to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and a far-sighted vision. He goes on to say that too many are, "Tempted to live without hope, as prisoners of boredom (or) depression' or destructive behaviours. The key to overcoming those temptation is to trust in the Lord and keep turning to him when the road gets rocky. Getting tired is a normal part of any long journey, but that is different from 'ennui, the apathy and dissatisfaction that affect those who never set out, choose, decide, take risks, preferring to remain in their own comfort zone, closed in on themselves, seeing and judging the world from a distance, without ever "dirtying their hands" with problems, with other people, with life itself.... Ennui is 'a kind of wet cement in which we stand; eventually it hardens, weighs us down, paralyses us and prevents us from moving forward.'

Hope, faith and charity gives inward direction and purpose to the life of the faithful. Pope Francis' call to act with an open spirit echoes Jesus' call in Sunday's Gospel to 'Stay awake' and 'Watch ourselves' so walking in our pilgrimage of Advent and beyond, we take a renewed commitment to take out into the world the message of the one who came to save us and who will return; to live and to act out his love, to be his presence and to recognise his presence in the most unlikely places and to be beacons of peace and hope wherever we go.

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 **Elias** who is baptised this weekend Sacred Heart. We pray blessings for him as he grows in love and the faith of his 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.

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.

SERVICE OF CAROLS AT NEWMAN COLLEGE

Join the Newman College Choir at the Chapel of Holy Spirit for an enchanting evening of carols this Advent. Enjoy a diverse repertoire of carols performed in the beautiful and serene setting of our chapel. These concerts are not just about music; they're about coming together, sharing in the joy of song and experiencing the sense of community for which Newman College is well known. Everyone is welcome. Details:

Date and Time: Sunday, 1 December @ 7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

Venue: Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville 3052.

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/>

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

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

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

INVITATION FROM COPP FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

All are welcome to three events to celebrate International Day of People with Disability

a. Panel Discussion

St Kilda Library is hosting a panel discussion with three of Victoria's most ardent disability advocates: Peta Hooke, host of the *I Can't Stand* podcast, Sam Drummond, lawyer and author, and Eliza Hull, award winning musical artist, writer and journalist. Focusing on the theme of allyship, the panellists will explore how we can all act to positively impact the world around us. AUSLAN interpreters available at this event.

Details: **Tuesday, 3 December from 6:30pm - 7:30pm at the St Kilda Library.**

b. A Day in the Life of Dindi the Guide Dog StoryTime with Maribel Steel

Local writer and disability advocate Maribel Steel will bring her guide dog, Dindi along and share stories about what it's like in the life of Dindi. This event is aimed at children and their families. **Details: Tuesday, 3 December, 11:00am - 12:00pm at the St Kilda Library**

c. Music

Saint Ergo is an award-winning songwriter and performer, having appeared on national television, performed as a showcasing artist at Big Sound music festival and recently winning a VMA Amplify Award. Represented by Tibi Agency, a leading booking agency that aims to empower and promote musicians with disabilities, Saint Ergo weaves together threads of folk, jazz, classical, rock pop and electronic music supported by her truly exceptional voice and a strong lyrical narrative about challenging the society we live in and finding how our differences enhance us all. Details: **Wednesday, 4 December, 6:30pm - 7:30pm at the St Kilda Library**

For all three events, visit: <https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/what-s-on/be-an-ally-on-international-day-of-people-with-disability> to book via the link.

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.

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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS BBQ & CAROLS

Our wonderful Brazilian BBQers are getting their sizzle on in preparation for another parish favourite, the Christmas BBQ. Please join us on **Sunday 15 December at 12.30pm-3.00pm** in the grounds of St Columba Primary School for a chance to catch up with old and new friends.

Meat and vegetarian options supplied as well as drinks.

Parishioners are asked to bring along a salad or dessert to share. We can arrange a lift for those who need it so please indicate that too. 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

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.

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!

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 week nights.

SOCIAL @ THE MALVERN

For those aged 30-45 years - Join us for Christmas drinks with the opportunity to meet fellow Catholics from across Melbourne. Dinner and drinks available at bar prices. For more information, please contact Penny on 0423 267 276 or Steph on 0423 668 471. All parishes welcome. Details:

Date and Time: Friday, 6 December @ 7.00 p.m.- 10.00 p.m.

Venue: The Malvern Hotel (near the sofa area), corner of Glenferrie and Malvern Roads, Toorak.

COLUMBAN CALENDERS AVAILABLE FOR \$10

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: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Responsorial Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 12 - 4:2

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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: 1-6

COLLECTIONS: Last two weekends

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$64.00	Total \$363.45
Loose cash	\$778.05	
Total	\$842.05	
Average for 44 weeks	\$401.94	Average for 44 weeks \$232.67

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?](https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524)

[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: Tony Wright 6.11

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

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'Keefe 3.12.2019, Dorothy Corcoran, Raphael Ruske, Mrs Amad, Bob Collins Anthony Ellul, Merrill Lees, Pamela Pimento, Merrill Lees, Eva Bebjewsky, Thérèse Mitchell 6.12.2015, 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 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

7 / 8 December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Bronwyn Illott, Volunteer needed

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet

C / L: Priscilla No, Tony Lopes

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier & Priscilla No

Hospitality Roster: Dominic Tesoriero

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy team