

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 28 / 29 DECEMBER 2024 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS



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
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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 on the Feast of the Holy Family [An extract from a reflection by Mike Marsh, *Interrupting the Silence*, interruptingthesilence.com]

Growing up means establishing our identity and figuring out our place in this world. It involves creating relationships, setting priorities, making decisions. We must choose values and beliefs that structure our lives. Along the way we make mistakes, get lost, backtrack, and sometimes just need to start over. Ultimately, growing up means moving out and finding a new home. This may be a geographical move, but most certainly it involves psychological and spiritual moves.

So, it is no surprise that Mary would be in a panic when she discovers that Jesus is not with the group of travellers. With great anxiety she and Joseph search for him. Three days later the one who was lost has been found. Mary's first words are, "Child, why have you treated us like this?" What I really hear is, "Where have you been young man? Your father and I did not survive angel visits, birth in a manger, and living like refugees in Egypt only to have you get lost in Jerusalem." But Jesus isn't the one who is lost. He knows who he is and where he belongs. Mary and Joseph are the ones who are lost. Today's gospel is a story about growing up but it is not Jesus' growing up. It is about Mary and Joseph growing up. It is about you and me growing up. Growing up is not about how old we are. It is really about moving into deeper and more authentic relationships with God, our world, each other, and ourselves.

... "Why were you searching for me?" he asks. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Jesus is telling Mary she should have known where he was... Jesus has put the Father at the centre of his world and asks Mary and us to do the same, to move to the Father's home.

We all live in many different homes. Homes of fear, anger, and prejudice. Homes of grief and sorrow. Homes in which we have been told or convinced that we don't matter, that we are not enough, unacceptable, or unloveable. Homes in which we have been or continue to be hurt or wounded. Homes in which we have hurt or wounded another. Homes of indifference and apathy. Homes of sin and guilt. Homes of gossip, envy, pride. Every one of us could name the different homes in which we live, homes that keep our life small, our visions narrow, and our world empty... They are not our true homes. They are not the home God offers us. We may have to pass through them but we do not have to stay there.

Jesus says that there is not only another home for us but invites, guides, and grows us up into that home. It is a place he knows well. It is the Father's home in which we can know ourselves and each other to be his beloved children, created in his image and called to be like him... In the Father's home our place at the banquet is set. It is a home in which we live in rooms of mercy, forgiveness, joy, love, beauty, generosity, compassion.

Leaving home does not necessarily mean leaving our physical or geographical home though sometimes it might. It does mean examining and re-prioritizing the values, beliefs, and relationships that establish our identity and give our life meaning and significance.

It means letting go of an identity that is limited to our biological family, job, community reputation, ethnic group, or political party and trusting that who we are is who we are in God. It means that we stop relating to one another by comparison, competition, and judgment and begin relating through love, self-surrender, and vulnerability. It means that we let go of fear about the future and discover that God is here in the present and that all shall be well. We stop ruminating on past guilt, regrets, and sins and accept the mercy and forgiveness of God and each other. We see our life not in opposition to others but as intimately related to and dependent upon others.

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.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: FOR FAMILIES

Loving God,
I give you all the members of our family.
You know them all so well and love them all.
I ask that you cover us with a rainbow of hope:
Hope that draws us together to work out our differences.
Hope that helps us to celebrate together and care for one another.
Hope that rides like a banner in our lives and watches over us wherever we go.
Hope that overcomes adversity and gathers strength to overcome.
Hope that guides us and gives us vision for our future alone and together.
Hope filled with love. Hope that fuels faith. Hope that breathes peace.
May our family live in you underneath your promises. Amen
[Author Unknown]

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Responsorial Psalm:

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 30 December - SUNDAY 5 January 2024

MONDAY	NO 11.00am Mass
WEDNESDAY	10.00am NEW YEARS DAY MASS at Sacred Heart Church
THURSDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	NO MASS
SATURDAY	6.00pm MASS at St Columba Church
SUNDAY	9.00am MASS at St Columba Church 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church (this mass is also live streamed) Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

STAFF HOLIDAYS

Christine will be on a very well deserved break from Thursday 26 December and will return on Monday 20 January 2025.
Jane will return on Thursday 2 January 2025.

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 Szefer 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, Merril Lees, Pamela Pimento, Merril 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 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

4 / 5 January 2025: The Epiphany of the Lord

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Joan Davies, Rica Garcia

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Kate Bebejewski, Tony Lopes

Set up: Priscila Soares

Hospitality Roster: Dom

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Helen Freris, Daniel O'Connor

Set up: TBC

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy committee