

# 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 21 / 22 DECEMBER 2024 FOURTH 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](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

### 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.

### Mary journeys, Mary encounters, Mary rejoices.

[An extract from a reflection of Today's Gospel by Pope Francis]

**Mary journeys from Nazareth to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth. It is the first of Mary's journeys, as related by the Scriptures. The first of many. She will journey from Galilee to Bethlehem, where Jesus will be born; she will go down to Egypt to save her Child from Herod; she will go up again every year to Jerusalem for the Passover (cf. Lk 2:31), and ultimately, she will follow Jesus to Calvary. These journeys all have one thing in common: they were never easy; they always required courage and patience... She is our sister at every step of the way. She knows what it is to be weary of walking and she can take us by the hand amid our difficulties, in the most perilous twists and turns in our life's journey.**

**Mary encounters Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39-56), a woman already advanced in years (v. 7). But Elizabeth, though older, is the one who speaks of the future and, "filled with the Holy Spirit" (v. 41), prophesies in words that foreshadow the last of the Gospel beatitudes: "Blessed are those who believe" (cf. Jn 20:29). Remarkably, the younger woman goes to meet the older one, seeking her roots, while the older woman is reborn and prophetically foretells the future of the younger one. Here, young and old meet, embrace and awaken the best of each. It is a miracle brought about by the culture of encounter, where no one is discarded or pigeonholed, but all are sought out, because all are needed to reveal the Lord's face... Mary, as she journeys to visit Elizabeth, reminds us where God desired to dwell and live, where his sanctuary is, and where we can feel his heartbeat: it is in the midst of his People...**

**Mary rejoices because she bears in her womb Emmanuel, God-with-us: "The Christian life is joy in the Holy Spirit" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 122). Without joy, we remain paralyzed, slaves to our unhappiness. Often problems of faith have little to do with a shortage of means and structures, of quantity, or even the presence of those who do not accept us; they really have to do with a shortage of joy. Faith wavers when it just floats along in sadness and discouragement. When we live in mistrust, closed in on ourselves, we contradict the faith. Instead of realizing that we are God's children for whom he does great things (cf. v. 49), we reduce everything to our own problems... In our sadness, we forget that we are not orphans, for we have a Father in our midst, a powerful saviour. Mary comes to our aid, because instead of reducing things, she magnifies them in "magnifying" the Lord, in praising his greatness.**

**Here we find the secret of our joy. Mary, lowly and humble, starts from God's greatness and despite her problems - which were not few - she is filled with joy, for she entrusts herself to the Lord in all things. She reminds us that God can always work wonders if we open our hearts to him and to our brothers and sisters.**

## 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 **Eve** who is baptised this weekend St Columba. We pray blessings for her as she grows in love and the faith of her 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.

## LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERING SIGN-UP

This weekend will be the last opportunity to sign-up for Volunteering at the Christmas Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday. The sign-up sheets are located at the back of the Church, and Christine will get back to people on Monday. Thank you to all who have signed up already.

## JUBILEE 2025

Every major moment of Jubilee 2025 will be made available worldwide, with the Vatican Media offering audio streams and video live and on demand through its *Vatican News* portal

and on YouTube. On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door to begin the Jubilee of Hope. In particular, the multimedia portal Vatican News, which is available in 53 languages, will allow people to follow all the Jubilee and Papal events thanks to the audio streams of Vatican Radio and videos offered by Vatican Media in collaboration with YouTube. It will be possible to participate, in real time and on demand, in the main events of the 2025 Jubilee, immersing oneself in a true spiritual journey enriched with educational, cultural, and historical content.

From the opening of the Holy Doors, beginning with the one in St. Peter's Basilica, to the conclusion of the Holy Year, Vatican News programming on YouTube will be varied and engaging.

Audio and video content will be designed to encourage viewers to discover the main themes of the Holy Year, offering food for thought, stories of faith, and testimonies of pilgrimages from all over the world.



## A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

### Light of the World

We adore you, O Christ.  
 We bless you, O Incarnate Wonder.  
 We acclaim you, O Light of the World.  
 We gaze in love, like Mary.  
 We stand in awe, like Joseph.  
 We shine in joy, like a star.  
 O Word-made-flesh, lead us.  
 O Wonder of Humanity, liberate our desire.  
 O Child of Bethlehem, give us new birth.  
 Because, our journey is sometimes harsh,  
 and our vision clouded, and our hearts are afraid.  
 Our lives pass, our dreams float away,  
 and our purpose is sometimes unsure.  
 Our world seems shattered, and our future blurred,  
 our destiny seems like darkness.  
 But you bring hope, you give life,  
 you bear in your small body the immense promise of God.  
 Blind us with your radiance.  
 And ravish us with your splendour.  
 Touch us with your mercy.  
 Pour upon us the treasures of your kingdom.  
 And bathe us in the brilliance of your light.  
 Bring us new birth in your likeness.  
 Teach us to marvel in your words,  
 to tune our voices to your glory.  
 Make us magi of your epiphany.  
 We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
 Because by your holy incarnation,  
 You have redeemed the world. Amen.

*[Source: from the book, At The Name of Jesus by Michael O'Neill McGrath and Richard N Fragomeni.]*

## VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL THANKS

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported our Christmas Appeal. Your overwhelming generosity has allowed us to pack over 80 hampers, bringing joy to those in our community who need a helping hand. Thank you for being such a vital part of making a real difference.



***A special thank you from our Parish to the hard working and dedicated Vinnies Conference. Thank you all!!***



**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

## **CARITAS AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES VANUATU EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**

At least 14 people have been killed in Vanuatu following two earthquakes in 24 hours, impacting an estimated 116,000 people. Hundreds of people are injured or trapped following the collapse of buildings resulting from successive 7.4 and 6.1 magnitude earthquakes. As rescue efforts continue, the death toll is expected to rise. The Port Vila hospital has been overwhelmed, having also sustained damage resulting in the closure of operating theatres. Two major water reserves that supply Port Vila have also been destroyed. Major damage to infrastructure has been sustained, impacting communications, airport runways and bridges. As part of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CANDO) Caritas Australia will be supporting on the ground through its partners. These partners are assessing the situation, and are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements, which are likely to include emergency shelter, food and other essentials, as well as psychosocial support.

To support Caritas Australia's Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal, visit

<http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>

or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

## **DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

- **Wednesday 1 January 2025: New Years Day Mass.**  
10.00am at Sacred Heart Church

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM HANG VO, CEO SACRED HEART MISSION**

With the holidays just around the corner I'm taking some time to reflect on the incredible year we have had together. With your support we have accomplished so much this year, not only in the lives of our participants but also in launching Strategy 2030 and roadmap that will guide our impact for years to come.

Christmas in the Dining Hall is so special, and I can't wait to see the incredible spread our team and volunteers have cooked up this year. And while Christmas day lunch is very special, we need your support to keep the Dining Hall open every day of the year. This Christmas we need to raise \$480,100 to keep the Dining Hall doors open. I encourage you to dig deep and [donate](#), (visit: [www.sacredheartmission.org](http://www.sacredheartmission.org)) with donations doubled thanks to our matching fund set up by a generous group of supporters.

Thank you for all your support over the last year and I hope you and your loved ones have a safe and happy holiday season.

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI**

Over recent weeks, much attention has been drawn to the window displays in the heart of Melbourne's CBD. These displays have sparked conversations about their social history and the tradition they represent for families. At the same time, they've prompted reflections on the suffering caused by global conflicts, urging us to look at ourselves in our local settings... However, one window stands out. It depicts a mother and a father hovering attentively over their newborn child. In this moment, they have found shelter and security, a place of refuge and safety from their struggles. They are together, united in a joyful love, at peace with each other, and resting in the grace that surrounds them.

We all know this scene, even if for some, the gift it represents has become hidden. In the midst of what may be a commercial display, this simple image reminds us of a promise that transcends time and place. Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus are there, inviting us into their lives. Hope springs from this image; peace is at its heart. The Holy Family speaks to us of hope and joy in new life—to each of us in our own local families. The child points us to where peace can be found—especially for the world beyond us.

Here in Melbourne, we await this Christmas knowing far too many are suffering in the throes of war internationally, and struggle at home. As we look to that humble family from Bethlehem, how might we give special attention to how we live with all our brothers and sisters as a holy family? Families, of course, are not always easy places to be, and they require a daily practice of love and self-giving, patience and respect, attentiveness and forgiveness.

As we see the loving gaze of Mary and Joseph on their Child, who is our Saviour, might we lift up a humble prayer, asking that God's love and mercy surround us, and Christ's peace and compassion flourish among us.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Micah 5: 1-4

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10: 5-10

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 1: 39-44

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 22 December - SUNDAY 29 December 2024**

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

**SEE CHRISTMAS POSTER ON PAGE 3**

**THURSDAY** NO MASS

**FRIDAY** NO MASS

**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 2: 41-52

### COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection
Envelopes \$30.00	Total \$300.85
Loose cash \$310.65	
Total \$340.65	
Average for 46 weeks \$401.51	Average for 46 weeks \$233.02

## 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](https://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."

## PARISH TEAM ANNUAL LEAVE

Jane will be on leave from Monday 23 December - Wednesday 1 January 2025. Christine will be on leave from Thursday 26 December - Sunday 18 January 2025. Please contact Fr John if anything urgent arises. THANK YOU.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

*Pope Francis*

**All Recently Deceased:** Father Leonard (Len) Thomas PE, Michael Cummings.

**1st Month Anniversary:** Michael Cavaliere

**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 Dreischaerf, Nichole Garnaut, Francesca Shelton.

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**28 / 29 Dec: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Joan Davies, Sr Caroline Price

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Priscilla No & Trish Kelly

Set up: Priscilla No

Hospitality Roster: Dom

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Legion of Mary

C / L: Margaret Barry & Volunteer needed

Set up: Anzel & Chella

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Liturgy committee