

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 18 / 19 JANUARY 2025 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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St Columba Principal / REC:
Daniella Maddalena
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Deputy Principal: Natalie Cromie
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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.

Reflection on the Gospel by Pope Francis: The Wedding at Cana

The Gospel of today's liturgy recounts the episode of the wedding at Cana, where, to the couple's delight, Jesus transformed water into wine. This is the way the account ends: "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (Jn 2:11). We notice that the evangelist John does not speak of a miracle, that is, of a powerful and extraordinary deed that provokes wonder. He writes that a sign took place at Cana, a sign that sparked the faith of his disciples. We can, then, ask ourselves: What is a "sign" according to the Gospel?

It is a sign that gives a clue that reveals God's love, that does not call attention to the power of the action, but to the love that caused it. It teaches us something about God's love that is always near, tender and compassionate. Jesus' first sign took place when a couple faced a difficulty on the most important day of their lives. Right in the middle of the feast, an essential element for a feast, the wine, is missing and their joy risked being snuffed out due to the criticism and dissatisfaction of the guests. Imagine how a wedding feast could go ahead only with water. How terrible! What a bad impression the couple would make.

It is Our Lady who became aware of the problem and discretely brought it to Jesus' attention. And he intervened without fanfare, almost without making it obvious. Everything took place reservedly, everything took place "behind the scenes" - Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water, then it became wine. This is how God acts, near to us and discretely. Jesus' disciples understood this: they saw that, thanks to him, the wedding banquet became even more beautiful. And they saw the way Jesus acted as well - the way he served hiddenly (this is Jesus - he helps us, he serves us hiddenly) in that moment so much so that it was the groom who was complimented for the good wine. Nobody was aware of it, only the servants. This is how the seed of faith began to develop within them - that is, they believed that God, God's love, was present in Jesus.

How beautiful it is to think that the first sign Jesus accomplished was not an extraordinary healing or something prodigious in the temple of Jerusalem, but an action that responded to a simple and concrete need of common people, a domestic gesture. Let us put it this way - a miracle done on tip toes, discretely, silently. Jesus is ready to help us, to lift us up. And then, if we are attentive to these "signs", we will be conquered by his love and we will become his disciples.

But there is another distinctive characteristic about the sign at Cana. Generally, the wine provided at the end of the feast was not as good - this is still done today. At that point, people don't distinguish as well if it is good wine or wine that's been diluted a little. Jesus, instead, acts in such a way that the feast ends with better wine.

Symbolically, this tells us that God wants what is better for us, he wants us to be happy. He does not set limits and he does not ask us for incentives. There is no place for ulterior motives or demands placed on the couple. No, the joy Jesus brought to their hearts was complete and disinterested joy, a joy that was not diluted, no!

So, I want to suggest an exercise to you that would be very good for us. Today, let us try to rummage through our memories, looking for the signs the Lord has accomplished in my life. Let each of us say: in my life, what are the signs the Lord has accomplished? What are the hints of his presence, the signs he has done to show that he loves us? Let us think about that difficult moment in which God allowed me to experience his love... And let us ask ourselves: what are the discrete and loving signs through which he has allowed me to feel his tenderness? When have I felt the Lord nearer to me? When have I felt his tenderness and his compassion more? Every one of us has these moments in our personal history. Let us go in search of these signs, let us remember them. How have I discovered his nearness and how did it fill my heart with great joy? Let us relive the moments in which we have experienced his presence and Mary's intercession. May she, the Mother who is always attentive as at Cana, help us treasure the signs of God's presence in our lives.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Eternal God,
 we are empty vessels waiting to be filled
 but our minds and souls are busy with many things
 which impede our being filled by you.
 Help us to divest ourselves of the cares and troubles which so
 daily beset us.
 Empty us of them now that we may be filled with,
 a sense of your presence, the touch of your Spirit,
 and new energy, power, trust and faith.
 Empower and enable us to impact the world.
 Change the stagnant water of our lives to wine
 and touch us as you touched those people in Cana.
 Be with our men and women in harms way
 and all those touched by the tragedy of war.
 Give them strength for each day as they live with terror.
 Give to the leaders of our world the resolve to wage war not
 on people
 but on poverty, injustice, hunger, disease, and all manner of
 human suffering.
 Give them the vision to shape a new world where self-interest
 is tempered
 and corrected by love and compassion and a hunger for
 justice.
 Give to all the world the gift of being filled with new wine and
 new vision. Amen

[Based on a prayer by Richard Einerson, <http://www.richardeinerson.com/>]

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Responsorial Psalm:

Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel

to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 2: 1-11

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 20 January - SUNDAY 26 January 2024

MONDAY	11.00am Communion Service at Sacred Heart Community
THURSDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	9.00am MASS in the Parish House
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: Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM IRELAND

Kelley McManamin sent a lovely Christmas card, beautifully sealed with her waxed initials, with love from Dublin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

All Recently Deceased: Francesca Shelton, Gladys Koetsveld 11.01

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 Fullinaw 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, Josph 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), 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.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

25 / 26 January 2025: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Legion of Mary, Caroline Price

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Ada Nardella

C / L: Lydia St Ange, Sr Trish Kelly

Set up: Pristille No, Priscilla Soares

Hospitality Roster: Dom

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter

C / L: Adrian Cropley / Carlo Marcon, Toni Vatta

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy committee