

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 25 / 26 JANUARY 2025 THIRD 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

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:
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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.

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel, based on an extract by Mike Marsh

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... The life Jesus offers us is a life of freedom. I'm not talking about autonomy, the ability to choose and do what we want, a life determined by individual preferences. I'm speaking of the freedom to be and become fully alive, the freedom to be and become fully human, the freedom to be and become fully Christlike. That can only happen here and now, in the present moment. Jesus neither reminisces about the past nor forecasts the future. He comes to his people in the very circumstances of their lives. That's what he did that day in Nazareth and it's what he does for each one of us. "Filled with the power of the spirit" and "anointed to bring good news to the poor," he comes "to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk. 4:14, 18-20).

... We are the poor, the captive, the blind, the oppressed, and the ones seeking the Lord's favour. How we understand that about ourselves depends on our own lives and experiences. Poverty might be about money or material needs such as food, clothing, or housing. It might also be poverty of love, hope or meaning. Regardless, our world is empty. The captive might be a prisoner, an addicted person, a cancer patient, or one overcome by anger and resentment. Regardless, our world is small and closing in. Blindness is not only physical but can also be emotional or spiritual. Regardless, our world is dark. Oppression happens in hundreds of ways from physical or emotional violence, to racism, to fear, to profound sorrow. Regardless, our world is not safe.

In the midst of these circumstances, when life gets really difficult, it is easy and tempting to run away, to get stuck in the past, or fixate on the future. Yet, Jesus comes to us today, here, now. He is not lost in our past or hidden in an unknown future. The only place we can meet Jesus is today, in this present moment, in whatever the circumstances of our life might be.

"Today" is the first word of Jesus' public teaching. It's not about what happened yesterday or what might happen tomorrow. It is about today. "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing," Today he brings good news to the poor. Today he proclaims release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. Today he lets the oppressed go free. Today he proclaims the year of the Lord's favour.

Here's the irony. We too often miss today fretting over yesterday and worrying about tomorrow and yet the presence of Christ today somehow heals our past and prepares us for the future. Good news, release, sight, freedom, the Lord's favour. All these are made real and present today, in the current context and circumstances of our lives.

Those are not just things Jesus does, they are the manifestation of God's presence, life, and love with and in God's people. They are manifestations of the freedom Christ brings. They are fulfilled, brought to fullness, in our hearing. To the extent we are unable to hear Jesus' words we are either stuck in the past or living in a future we do not yet have.

Hearing is about more than sound. It is about our presence, openness, and receptivity. We must be willing to take into ourselves the reality and truth of what is spoken. We must also be willing to take into ourselves the life and presence of the one who is speaking. Jesus is not just speaking words. He is speaking new life. In his speaking and our hearing his life, and our life, become one life and it is happening today.

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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 **Harrison** who is baptised this weekend St Columba. We pray blessings form 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.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the certainty of Your Word,
handed down to us through faithful witnesses.
As Jesus proclaimed the good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed,
help us to embrace the power of His Spirit in our lives.
Open our hearts to His message of hope, healing, and salvation.
May we, too, be vessels of Your grace,
sharing the light of Christ with the world around us.
Strengthen us to live out His mission each day, for Your glory.
Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm:

Your words, Lord are spirit and life.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 27 January - SUNDAY 2 February 2024

MONDAY NO MASS - Public Holiday
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 2: 22-40

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

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, Tibby 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.

If you have someone you would like on the prayer list please contact Jane at the office.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

1 / 2 February 2025: Presentation of the Lord

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Legion of Mary, Rica Garcia

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Kate Bebejewaska, Tony Lopes

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Granier, Priscilla Soares

Hospitality Roster:

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: Cecilia Mwangi