

# 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 4 / 5 JANUARY 2025 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



### **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  
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**SHM Pastoral Care Worker:**  
Karen Englebretsen  
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**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.

### **A Reflection on the Feast of the Epiphany by Pope Francis**

[Source: Faith Circles, Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, [faithcircles.dow.org.au](http://faithcircles.dow.org.au)]

In today's Gospel, the narrative of the Magi coming from the East to Bethlehem to adore the Messiah, conveys a breath of universality to the Feast of the Epiphany. This is the breath of the Church which wants all peoples of the earth to be able to encounter Jesus, to experience his merciful love. This is the desire of the Church: that peoples may find Jesus' mercy, his love. Christ is newly born, he does not yet know how to speak, and already people – represented by the Magi – can meet him, recognise him, worship him. These Wise Men were prestigious men, of a distant religion and different culture, and they were on their way to the land of Israel to worship the newborn king. The Church has always seen in them the image of humanity as a whole, and with today's celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church almost tries to direct, respectfully, each man and each woman of this world to the Child who is born for the salvation of all.

On Christmas Eve Jesus manifested himself to shepherds, humble and scorned men – some say brigands. They were the first to bring a little warmth to that gelid cave in Bethlehem. Then the Magi arrived from faraway lands. They too were mysteriously drawn by that Child. The shepherds and the Wise Men were very different from each other; however, they had one thing in common: heaven. The shepherds of Bethlehem immediately hastened to see Jesus, not because they were particularly good, but because they kept watch in the night and, raising their eyes to heaven, they saw a sign, they heard its message and followed it. It was the same for the Magi: they observed the heavens, saw a new star, interpreted the sign and set out on their journey, from afar. The shepherds and the Wise Men teach us that in order to encounter Jesus it is necessary to be able to lift our gaze to heaven, not to withdraw into ourselves, into our own selfishness, but to have our heart and mind open to the horizons of God, who always surprises us, to be able to welcome his messages and respond with readiness and generosity.

When the Magi, the Gospel says, "saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly" (Mt 2:10). For us too, there is great comfort in seeing the star, in other words in feeling guided and not abandoned to our fate. The star is the Gospel, the Word of the Lord, as the Psalm states: "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (119[118]:105). This light guides us to Christ. Without listening to the Gospel, it is impossible to encounter him! The Wise Men, indeed, by following the star arrived at the place where they found Jesus. Here "they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him" (Mt 2:11). The experience of the Magi exhorts us not to be satisfied with mediocrity, not to "cut corners", but to seek the meaning of things, to fervently explore the great mystery of life. It teaches us not to be scandalised by smallness and poverty but to recognise majesty in humility, and to be able to kneel before it.

May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed the Wise Men in Bethlehem, help us to lift our gaze from ourselves, to allow ourselves to be guided by the star of the Gospel in order to encounter Jesus, and to be able to humble ourselves to adore him. In this way we will be able to bring to others a ray of his light, and to share with them the joy of the journey.

### **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 PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving God, may we seek to encounter each other through dialogue,  
to reach mutual respect and reciprocal acceptance,  
and to break down the walls of division that stand  
at the centre of most misunderstandings and conflicts.  
Make us instruments of your light, love and peace.  
Show us the way to harmony and unity to reach the fullness of  
human fraternity.  
Give us the wisdom to discern the truth and to freely choose  
what is right and just  
to make this world a better place to live in. Amen.  
*[Source: based on a prayer by the Lasallian Mission]*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60: 1-6

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 2: 1-12

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 6 January - SUNDAY 12 January 2024**

**MONDAY** NO 11.00am Mass  
**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 3: 15-16, 21-22

## STAFF HOLIDAYS

Christine is on a very well deserved break and will return on Monday 20 January 2025. Thank you to everyone who is providing extra support during this time.

### COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$105.00	Total	\$1371.90
Loose cash	\$1192.55		
Total	\$1297.55		
Average for 52 weeks	\$380.13	Average for 52 weeks	\$232.52

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

*Pope Francis*

### All Recently Deceased:

**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 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, Francesca Shelton.

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

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**11 / 12 January 2025: The Baptism of the Lord**

**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Legion of Mary, Bronwyn Illott

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Kate Bebejewaska, Tony Lopes

Set up: Pristille No, Priscilla Soares

Hospitality Roster: Dom

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Helen Freris, Daniel O'Connor

Set up: Chella Valdivia