

# 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 16 / 17 SEPTEMBER 2023 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### **St Columba Church**

cnr Glenhantly & Normandy Rds  
Elwood 3184

### **Sacred Heart Church**

83 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182

### **St Columba Primary School**

24 Glenhantly 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 Hearn

[jane@shscparish.org.au](mailto:jane@shscparish.org.au)

### **SHM Pastoral Care Worker:**

Karen Englebreten

[kenglebreten@sacredheartmission.org](mailto:kenglebreten@sacredheartmission.org)

### **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 Hearn

### **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.

### **Continuing Our Reflections of the Readings in the Context of Season of Creation.**

The readings today remind us not to let our prophetic call to others turn into anger or vengeance against them. If we do not forgive each other, embracing a spirit of nonviolence, we cannot expect God to forgive us. We are invited to reflect with gratitude on all the failings, sin and abuse of creation that God has forgiven us and is now calling us to confront, heal and transform. The call to be prophetic, yet patient, non-judgmental and forgiving with each other if we hope God to forgive us extends to all the dimensions of the "integral ecological conversion" which Pope Francis identifies as the prophetic word of God to our world at this time: the interconnected environmental, economic, and social dimensions.

### **Reading from the Book of Sirach**

The mission of relaying God's call to "integral ecological conversion" in these times can lead to frustration and anger when people refuse to listen, deny the truth and evidence, resist acting, and even actively oppose the work of caring for and healing Earth and all its Web of Life out of greed for wealth or power. When crises are as urgent and destructive as the ecological/climate crises today, it is hard to be patient and gentle with those causing them who do not see the truth and the need or are not willing to change. When we watch families starve, the Amazon burn, floods ravage, arctic regions melt, nations wage wars, and crucial waters evaporate in rising heat, anger about the thoughtlessness and destruction seems just and called for. When people we love suffer from the changing climate or various forms of environmental racism and injustice, the desire to strike out against those responsible rises quickly. The human costs to those alive now and to future generations can be devastating. Earth is even now going through the Sixth Great Extinction with massive costs to all life. Still, Sirach warns... that we must forgive others' injustice if we hope to have God forgive our own. Legitimate righteous anger, on the other hand, can provide energy and courage to speak out and work for change, but this kind of anger seeks understanding, conversion, and reconciliation, not vengeance or destruction. It does not become bitter. As we nurture a spirituality of nonviolence, the frustration and fear for the future that we feel can move us to join and strengthen nonviolent movements for the societal transformation essential to creation care.

**Matthew's Gospel** answers two questions: How often must we forgive someone who seeks forgiveness? And what will happen if we don't forgive each other? Jesus could not be clearer: We must forgive not 7 times but 77 times - a metaphor in his time and culture for a number without limit. Every time they ask forgiveness sincerely, we must give it from our hearts. If we do not forgive each other when we have been forgiven so much by God, we will lose God's forgiveness.

To recognise how precious God's forgiveness for the misuse of the gifts of creation is, we need to be conscious of how precious and sacred those gifts are. What do we most appreciate, enjoy and rely on in nature? How can we come to recognise it more as a gift from God? How can we contemplate God present in these gifts? How can we grow in discerning God's Self-gift in and through them? As we have grown in consciousness of God's gifts in creation and of our destructive use and abuse of them, we have experienced God's patience, mercy, and call to conversion in our lives - a conversion to Gospel nonviolence and to what Pope Francis has called an integral ecological conversion. How can we expand our consciousness of the ways we continue to live unaware of or unconcerned about the violence to creation from waste, pollution, a "throw away culture," overuse of resources, inequality, and poverty? Acknowledging our sins, failures, slowness to change, and asking forgiveness, we need to contemplate and give profound thanks to God for this patience, gentleness in forgiving us, teaching us, drawing us to work for the new creation. [Source: 2023 Season of Creation: Let Justice and Peace Flow; a Catholic Liturgical Guide]

## 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 and thank you to **Fr Erick Niyiragira** who is Presider at masses this weekend.

## 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.

## 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 in our parish.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding Committee if you have any concerns or ideas.

## MORNING TEA / COFFEE: MAKE IT A DATE

Following the success of our first morning tea / coffee, we warmly invite you to come along on Wednesday 4 October. It will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11.00am at the parish house. All are very welcome!

## FROM IGNATIAN AND JESUIT SPIRITUALITY AUSTRALIA: GLIMMERS OF GRACE

With October, like May, being months dedicated to Our Lady, the Ignatian and Jesuit Spirituality Australia are offering daily online, free prayers called *Glimmers of Grace: The Heart of Mary through the Heart of Ignatius*. Once you sign up, you will receive daily images of Mary and prayer via email. It begins on 1 October until 31 October. While free, you can also offer up a donation. For further information, visit: [www.info@jisa.org.au](mailto:www.info@jisa.org.au)

This painting here is: *Christ's farewell to Mary* by Piotr Stachiewicz which catches the deep relationship between Mary and Jesus as adults. Jesus is departing to begin his public ministry. Mary gives him her blessing and love.



## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Creator God,  
you have entrusted the human family with the richly diverse gifts of creation,  
asking us to receive them with gratitude,  
share them generously, and care for them wisely.  
Your Son came to show us your loving forgiveness,  
teaching us to forgive each other as we long to be forgiven.  
Holy Spirit of God, you are at work in us and among us  
making us more conscious of the sacredness of all creation,  
raising up global movements in these times to care for Earth  
and for each other.  
Open our hearts to hear your message and act upon it.  
Amen.

## PARISH CONCERT FOR TIMOR-LESTE STUDENTS

How blessed are we to have incredibly talented musicians in our parish willing to donate their time and musical gifts to support those in need. In addition, how thankful we are for all the parishioners who



came to support this wonderful cause. **Seventy** parishioners and family members of musicians came last Sunday to raise money for our two parish-sponsored educational scholarships for disadvantaged youth in the remote region of Lospalos in Timor-Leste. We were overwhelmed to find that, unexpectedly, through this one event we had raised the entire amount for a year.

Thank you to all who came, who donated money, who brought items for afternoon tea, who set-up, who packed up and who provided lifts to those who needed it.



And let's not forget the Social Committee who organised the musicians, the 'road crew' and the organisation that such an event requires.

We welcomed Br Michael Lynch, Salesian who talked about their work in Timor-Leste, crucial to rebuilding this nation. We also were privileged to have some people from Timor-Leste join us, expressing their gratitude for our assistance. As Pope Francis said last week in Mongolia, "Even though a community might be small, this love can be a powerful witness. 'God loves littleness, and through it he loves to accomplish great things'. And that we did! *Jane in our office is organising a poster of the event so all can see the wonderful joy of the day.*





## SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY: A TIME TO REFLECT AND GIVE THANKS

This Sunday we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we invite all to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 43 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the recent 2021/22 Social Justice Statement – *Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor* – released by the Australian Catholic bishops, which reminds us of the social mission of the Church and which urges us to reflect on 'the bigger picture' and to act together on social, economic and ecological issues. Together, we all have a role to play in building a just and equitable society, where all have equal opportunities to flourish and prosper.

In releasing his September prayer intentions, Pope Francis focused on those living on the margins. He reflected on the indifference endured by many people who are marginalised when others look the other way and urged everyone to pay attention to those walking in the shadows of our society, especially those suffering from "poverty, addictions, mental illness, or disability." In response to such indifference, he held up a "culture of welcoming, of providing shelter, of giving a home, of offering love, of giving human warmth." Pope Francis concluded by inviting every Christian to pray for those people "on the margins of society living in subhuman living conditions."

Let us hold in our prayers our local Catholic Social Service agencies of Sacred Heart Mission, St Vincent de Paul and the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, all of whom accompany, care and advocate for those on the margins of our society.

## CRA PROMOTES CONVERSATION IN CHURCH ON MATTERS CONCERNING LGBTQIA+

At the invitation of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA), Dr James Alison, a prominent Catholic theologian, will be speaking at events around the country from 18 September to 18 October 2023, to promote conversation and outreach in the Church on matters concerning LGBTQIA+ people. CRA has been encouraged by two recent historic events affecting the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia: Pope Francis' invitation to enter into a synodal journey and the Plenary Council of Australia. James Alison will be sharing a vision of an inclusive, psychologically healthy Christian life that is scripturally based, theologically orthodox, and ecclesially grounded. He will be focusing on how to facilitate transparency and psychological well-being as part of coping with change in self-understanding in this area.

James Alison's Melbourne engagements are listed on the CRA website: [www.catholicreligious.org.au](http://www.catholicreligious.org.au)

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA MOROCCO APPEAL

The Catholic aid agency, Caritas are responding to the devastating earthquake in Morocco, where over 2,600 lives have been lost and thousands have been injured. The 6.8 magnitude earthquake is the strongest in over a century. Entire buildings have collapsed, and there are reports some remote villages have been completely destroyed, leaving people trapped or homeless.

'Earthquakes of this magnitude devastate communities, destroying homes and infrastructure,' said Melville Fernandez, Caritas Australia's Humanitarian Emergencies Associate Director. Immediate needs include getting essentials like food, clean water, emergency shelter and medicine to families affected by the earthquake, while preparing for the long-term needs of people who no longer have homes to which to return.

To help provide emergency relief for families to recover and rebuild from disaster, visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/Morocco-earthquake> or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to these Moroccan families.

## ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday the last assembly for Term 3 was held. It included a special, heartfelt farewell to Liane Pimenta. Liane has been a teacher for 17 years at St Columba and is leaving to return home to England. Liane was

presented with a beautiful piece of art "Elwood Views" and many messages of love and thanks. Children spoke about their wonderful memories of Ms Pimenta and musician / teacher Chris, helped the children sing a song featuring the words,

"Ms Pimenta we don't want you to go". Thank you to Liane and we look forward to her promised return visits. Thank you also to Chris, Bern and all the staff and children who made Liane's final day so special.

Another special presentation was made by the Grade 6 girls who played in the State Netball Championships. A wonderful effort by the girls and they presented their coach / teacher, Ms Dixon with flowers as thanks for all her support.



## CELEBRATION OF MIGRANT REFUGEE SUNDAY

Celebrate with migrant communities from all over Melbourne on **Sunday, 24 September at St Patrick's Cathedral**. The Rosary will be prayed at 2.00 p.m. in various languages, and Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and migrant chaplains of the Archdiocese at 3.00 p.m. All most welcome! For further information, email [proclaim@cam.org.au](mailto:proclaim@cam.org.au).

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Sirach 27: 30 - 28: 7

**Responsorial Psalm:**

The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

**Second Reading:** Romans 14: 7-9

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 18: 21-35

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 18 September - SUNDAY 24 September 2023**

<b>MONDAY</b>	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
<b>THURSDAY</b>	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9.00am Communion Service in Parish House
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6.00pm MASS at St Columba Church
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00am MASS at St Columba Church 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church (this mass is also live streamed) Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16

### COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$185.60	Total	\$330.10
Loose cash	\$32.00		
Total	\$217.60		
Average for 36 weeks	\$342.61	Average for 36 weeks	\$237.09

## SERVICE AND SUPPORT

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.

## FR JOHN'S ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr John is on his very well deserved annual leave and will return on Thursday 5 October. We wish him all the best for a safe and peaceful period of rest and look forward to his return. We thank Christine, Sr Trish, Brigid, Fr Erick, Fr Mal and Fr Terry who are supporting masses and communion services during this time.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

*Pope Francis*

**All Recently Deceased:** Miralda Lopez (sister-in-law of Ramon, wife of Claude), Sr Anne Boyd CSB 12.9.

**1st Anniversaries:** Bernard Alfonso 28.9, Neil McKean, Daphne Omar, Mark Steele, Luke Peiper, Brent Daly, Simone Rodgers.

**Anniversaries:** Noreen Dempsey, Norma Tyley, Paul Roberts, Steven Perry, Donald Kaye, Sabina Parrella, Sasha Bak, Patricia Pulbook, Peter Hayes, Sadika Dulic, John Hunt, Nancy Bright, Margaret Szubanski, Beatrice Tarquinio 1.9.2002, (Leslie) Anthony Jones 14.9, Kosara Molner, Michael O'Connor 6.9, Monica Clifford, Colleen Edwards, Lydia Ulehla 24.9.14 John Hart, Geoff Lee, Darryl Carmichael, Annetta Tesoriero, Irene Moore, Marica Cvitanovic, Victor Hunt 26.9, Graeme Johnson 7.9.12, John Duffy 11.9, Peter Courtney 19.9.11, Ivy D'Lima 12.9.11, Nevil Ryan 2.9.11, Joan Jayne 17.9.11, Rosario Patane 1.9, Gabriele Ramen 21.9, Edmund George 30.9.06, Kevin Sullivan 27.9.87

**Sick:** All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell. Luke Dennis, Michael Meagher, Richard Davis, Eddie.

**We periodically start our sick list again. If you have someone you would like on the sick list please contact Jane at the office**

## RIP SR ANNE BOYD CSB

Sr Anne passed away peacefully on 12 September aged 80 and in her 58th year of profession. ... "She was gifted, creative and a compassionate Brigidine woman. We celebrate Anne's gifts as an educator, leader and a woman of wisdom. All things come from God and to God we return."

Please keep Anne, her family and her beloved Brigidine family in your thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace Anne.

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**23 / 24 Sept: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Volunteer needed

Set up: Karen Ramanair, Sree Chelvakumaran

9am Mass:

M: Roger Vail

C / L: Alecia Rathbone, Raymond Bolger

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: Michael and Lulu

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter, Mary-Anne Culhane

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

Set up: Legion of Mary

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Liturgy team - Melanie Williams