

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 MARCH 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



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

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
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Pastoral Ministry Leader: Christine Mitchell
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Office Manager: Jane Hearnese
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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.

Jesus Calls Forth Life from Death

This weekend, for our Elect who are to be baptised at the Easter Vigil, the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-45) forms the basis of their Third and Final Scrutiny, as our Lord enters the ultimate contrast: from death, he calls forth life.

Jesus travels to Bethany knowing that his presence there and the miracle he will work will lead to his Passion and Death. Lazarus' story is filled with emotion. When Jesus, the one who came to give us life in abundance, encounters death, he is deeply disturbed. For four days, Lazarus had laid in the earth which to the Jews meant that he had decayed beyond recognition, he was fully overcome by the power of death. And yet, the One who proclaims to Martha "I am the resurrection and the life," is not restrained by the decay of death. "Lazarus, come out!" He calls. The raising of Lazarus is an anticipation of what will happen on the last day. Jesus reminds us that death is not the end of our life, but rather eternal life is our final destination.

Pope Francis states that, "With these words of the Lord we believe that the life of whoever believes in Jesus and follows his Commandment after death will be transformed into new life, full and immortal. As Jesus is resurrected with his own body, though he does not return to an earthly life, so too will we be raised with our bodies which will have been transfigured into glorified bodies. He expects us with the Father, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, who raised him, he will also raise those who are united to him.

Christ is not resigned to the tombs that we have built for ourselves... He calls us insistently to come out of the darkness of that prison in which we are enclosed, content with a false, selfish and mediocre life. "Come out!", he says to us, "Come out!". It is an invitation to true freedom, to allow ourselves to be seized by these words of Jesus who repeats them to each one of us today. It is an invitation to let ourselves be freed from the "bandages", from the bandages of pride. For pride makes of us slaves, slaves to ourselves, slaves to so many idols, so many things. Our resurrection begins here: when we decide to obey Jesus' command by coming out into the light, into life; when the mask falls from our face – we are frequently masked by sin, the mask must fall off! – and we find again the courage of our original face, created in the image and likeness of God.

Jesus' act of raising Lazarus shows the extent to which the power of God's grace can go, and, thus, the extent of our conversion, our transformation. There is no limit to the divine mercy offered to everyone! The Lord is always ready to remove the tombstone of our sins, which keeping us apart from him, the light of the living.

Through their Third Scrutiny, the Elect begin their final journey to the baptismal font. There, they will "die with him" and there they will also embrace new life in the risen Christ. May we accompany our Elect, Amy and Stella, to the font, to fully renew our faith in the Son of God. The same God who embraced our death, in order, by the power of His Resurrection, to bring us new and eternal life.

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY

May your troubles be less and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our Irish brethren.

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.

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.

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.

VATICAN NEWS

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to dedicate 2024 to intensifying their prayer lives in preparation for the celebration of the Holy Year 2025, and the Vatican has published a resource guide to help them. "[Teach us to Pray](#)," a 76-page volume prepared by the Dicastery for Evangelization.

Pope Francis launched the year in late January, saying it would be "dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church and in the world."

The theme for the Jubilee in 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope," as it will be a year of walking together in hope and trust amidst a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increased threats to global climate. For more information on the Jubilee Year go to: www.giubileo-2025.it/en

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation: THIS Monday 18 March, 7.00pm

Sacred Heart Church. Please join us for this prayerful time as we prepare for the Easter Triduum.

SUPPORT FOR FUNERAL

Fr John will be celebrating the funeral for **Ian MacKenzie** this **Monday 18 January at 1.30pm at Sacred Heart Church**. Ian lived for a short time at Sacred Heart Community but doesn't have any known family so if anyone can join Fr John to commemorate Ian's life it would be greatly appreciated.

PRAYER FOR THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out of our dark places,
offering us the grace of new life.
When we see nothing but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.
Call us out of our complacency and routines,
set us free from our self-imposed bonds,
and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace,
In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.

[Source: Nancy Johnson on Wonderings through life and other such nonsense. <http://ruminari.wordpress.com/>]

EASTER SUNDAY PARISH PICNIC

Sunday March 31, 1.00pm to 3.30pm. ALL WELCOME.

Point Ormond Playground, 87, State Route 33, (off Point Ormond Road) Elwood VIC. Parish Families and friends are warmly invited to join us. Please bring picnic rugs, chairs, and picnic food to share. BYO drinks also. This is our first Parish social event of the year and a great way to celebrate Easter with each other by sharing a meal in the park. There will be a few fun activities and just maybe Easter eggs. Please use the sign up sheet to indicate if you can attend, if you can help on the day and if you need a lift or can provide a lift.

ST COLUMBA'S CHILDREN'S FLEA MARQT & FAIR

Our wonderful St Columba Primary School is holding it's annual Children's Flea Marqt & Fair next **Sunday 24 March, 10.00am - 1.00pm.**

All families in and around Elwood and the wider Parish are very welcome. There will be games, music and entertainment; meet the Easter Bunny and Becky Bubble; and enjoy the stalls that the children are running selling second hand books and toys. Proudly sponsored by Bendigo Bank's Elwood Community Bank.



PARISH COFFEE AND CHAT

The March coffee and chat gathering was lively! We had a review of the gatherings so far. Attendance has varied possibly because many medical appointments are in the morning. We decided to change the time to 2.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This gives us an opportunity to extend an invitation to school parents so they could attend en route to picking up children from school.

Our next gathering is on **10 April at 2.00pm in the Parish House**. The following two will be 8 May and 12 June. Please put these dates in your diary and all are very welcome.

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE WEEK FIVE: WALKING TOGETHER TO NEW LIFE

Walking Together to New Life is the theme of our parish Lenten journey. It not only refers to a spiritual renewal, the hallmark of Lent but also a parish renewal.

Last week we looked at a question on "Pastoral Care". People were asked to spend 8-10 minutes within the homily time chatting with two or more people about what could be possible in this area. This week we move onto: 'Community Outreach' What could that look like in our parish? Remember, this is a time to be creative and new imaginings of what could be possible. Thank you to all for participating, we implore you to do the same this week and invite others into your group discussion, even if they are visiting for this week or a short time. We are working towards a parish Visioning workshop, planned for **18 May, Pentecost Eve**. If you do not wish to chat with another, that's fine but we still encourage you to write down some thoughts. These will be collected in baskets and later pinned up on the boards in the church. If you have thoughts later, you are welcome to email them into our office manager: Jane on jane@shscparish.org.au

'What If...?' Questions for Parishioners about What We Could Be Like As A Parish

Week One: On Faith Formation and Liturgy: What if...

1. We had an opportunity to explore our faith in a way that is vibrant and nurturing for us and also attracts new people and those who have left their faith. What might it look like?
2. We had lay leaders who took our worship out of the church and into the community? What might it look like?

Week Two: On Welcome, Hospitality and Belonging: What if...

1. A stranger approaches you outside the church, curious about what is there inside for them: What can you offer, that will encourage the stranger to enter with you, and return at another time?
2. What if we create a spirit of belonging for all, no matter what their life circumstances or where people are on the 'scale of faith'? What would this look like?

Week Three: On Leadership and Governance: What if...

1. We all shared the leadership of the parish, how would it look like?
2. What if we thrived without a priest to lead us?

Week Four: On Pastoral Care: What if...

1. If we all took responsibility for care and wellbeing of those in most need in our parish and beyond. What would be possible?

Week Five: On Community Outreach: What if...

1. The wider community knew about the gifts within our parish?
2. Those on the edges or outside the parish were at the centre? What would our parish be like?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTER LITURGIES

Our volunteers make our Easter liturgies so very special. We warmly invite anyone interested to use the sign up sheets at the back of Church. See the flyer for details of the Easter Liturgies and don't be shy to put your name down as we need lots of volunteers for lots of different roles.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (SIP)

"From co-dependency to adult faith" presented by Robert Van Mourik on **Wednesday 20 March at Hampton RSL**. Dinner available from 6.00pm with the presentation starting at 7.30pm. Bookings are essential by calling or emailing Michele 0415956107 / michelekennan@presvic.org.au or Catriona 0419109830 / catriona3171@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION.

A Cultural Celebration: International Dinner, Saturday 25 May 6pm in St Columba's Hall, Elwood.

A night of celebration of our multicultural community. There will be food, music and dancing highlighting the different cultures in our community. Come along and join in the festivities. This is a joint fundraiser by the parish and the school and will be our contribution to Dine with Heart which supports Sacred Heart Mission. We will be setting up food stations representing each culture so if you have an idea for dinner items from your culture and you would like to be a part of the preparations, please email Jane in the parish office, jane@shscparish.org.au or speak to Jeferson or Marita at St Columba or Adrian or Toni at Sacred Heart after mass.

JESUIT AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

Guided reflection, silent contemplative walking and listening to God's presence within yourself and nature.

Starting from Ferny Creek Reserve in the Dandenongs, we walk two loops. In the morning via quiet country roads to the Alfred Nicholas Garden for an explore, then back to the cars at Ferny Creek for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we cross the road for a loop through Sherbrook Forest. A mix of tall forest, lush tree fern gullies, quiet streets, pine tree avenues and ornamental gardens. Total distance approx. 13km, some 200m climbing including some steep sections in the Alfred Nicholas Garden.

When: Saturday 23 March 2024, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Start Point: Ferny Creek Recreational Reserve in the Dandenongs

Price: \$50 including retreat facilitation, prayer material and take-home resources.

BYO: Day pack, lunch, water, snacks to carry, wet weather gear.

Wear: Shoes/boots with good tread, sunhat, sunblock.

Walk Grade: 3 - Medium, approx. 13km.

For further information or to book, visit: [https://book.venue.life/pch/register/contemplative-walk-sherbrook-forest-bwgin`](https://book.venue.life/pch/register/contemplative-walk-sherbrook-forest-bwgin)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Responsorial Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 11: 1-45

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 18 March 2024 - SUNDAY 24 March 2024

MONDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community,
101 Grey Street, St Kilda

1.30pm Funeral for Ian MacKenzie
at Sacred Heart Church

THURSDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9.00am MASS at 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: Mark 11: 1-10

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$34.00	Total	\$158.85
Loose cash	\$325.90		
Total	\$359.90		

Average for 11 weeks \$442.04 Average for 11 weeks \$247.30

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 app. You can also contact Jane in the office to set up cash, direct debit or credit card payments.

THANK YOU!

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."



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Ian MacKenzie

1st Anniversaries: Lorraine Donovan

2nd Anniversaries: Christy Leahy

Anniversaries: Rosario Marino, Mavis Heywood 5.3, David James Chieng, Patricia Herkess 11.3, Matilda Foster, John Pratt Fr Ernie Smith 28.3.18, David Griffin, Thomas Szabo, David Carter, David Rickard, Caterina Pino, Michael Grigorio, John Huggett, Graziella Pesenti, James Rodrigues, Ines Picone, Wally Haire, Michael Hayward, Concettina Schiano Moriello 13.3, Maurice Thomas, John Lawler, Mary Tudor, Peter Brady, Yehia Ragheb, Brian Scanlan, Tom Schepsi, Max Hunter, Ben Tripp 16.3.14, Tony Tripp 8.3, John Muldoon, Donald Everard, Dudley Gomez, Patricia Moore, Bozo Martinov, Jean Curtis 8.3, Roza Pawloska 9.3, Arnold Krumins 11.3, Peter Wilson, David Nightingale, Tom Connelly, Jack Edwards 29.3, Kevin Mooney 19.3.04, Joseph D'Agata, Tom Rehill, John O'Shaughnessy, Patricia McHale 4.3.01, Whippy Peters 13.3.11, Ladislav Mikus 25.3.11, Matthew Beyer 15.3.08, Giuseppina Mazzella 18.3.10, Peter O Connor 5.3.51, Maria Terzita Pittari 15.3.10, Patrick Reade 13.1.10, Andrew Crook 21.3.10, Andrea 7 Raffaele Fraccalanza, Octavia Santini 8.3.98, Muriel Bowes 25.3.02, Nunziata Panettieri, Maria Tesoriero, Max Korber, Caterina Cutelle, Pat Mooney, Maria Alfonse 18.3, Denise Jacoby 18.3

Sick: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell. Luke Dennis, Richard Davis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright (Sydney), Chail and her husband Callum, Norma Childers (Texas - Becca's grandma), Patrick McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue McLennan, Liz Hawes, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg.

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

ROAD CLOSURES AFFECTING MASSES

Next Sunday 24 March, road closures due to Triathlon, 6.00am-12.00pm. Beaconsfield Pde, Marine Pde, Jacka Blvd, Ormond Espl from Kerferd Rd to St Kilda St.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

23 / 24 March 2024: Palm Sunday

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Caroline Price

Set up: Karen Ramanair & Sree Chelvakumaran

9am Mass:

M: Roger Vail, Ada Nardella

C / L: Alecia Rathbone, Volunteer needed

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier, Priscilla

Hospitality Roster: Michael & Lulu

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter

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

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Team