

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 AUGUST 2025 TWENTIETH 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 Hearn
jane@shscparish.org.au

SHM Pastoral Care Worker

St Columba Principal / REC:

Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Natalie Cromie
ncromie@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

Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary
Please contact the parish office.

Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks words that are both powerful and unsettling: *"I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!"* These are not the gentle, reassuring phrases we might expect. Instead, they speak of urgency, transformation and a discipleship that will not always sit comfortably with the world around us.

The "fire" Jesus speaks of is not one of destruction but of God's purifying and renewing love. It is the fire of the Holy Spirit—a flame that burns away fear, apathy and injustice. It is a fire that lights the way for the Gospel in dark places. When that fire takes root in us, it cannot be contained. It moves us to action, calling us to live with courage and to speak truth even when it costs us.

Jesus also speaks of division—between households, generations, and communities. This does not mean he desires conflict for its own sake but rather that his message will challenge the values and priorities of the world. When we truly embrace the Gospel, we will sometimes find ourselves swimming against the tide, even among those we love. Following Jesus is not always about keeping the peace at any cost; it is about living in the truth of God's kingdom, where love, justice, and mercy reign.

And yet, in the midst of this challenge, the Gospel also calls us to radical compassion. To bear the fire of Christ's love means seeking out those on the margins, the isolated, the lonely and the forgotten. It means opening our doors, our tables and our hearts. It means moving towards those in need, not waiting for them to come to us.

This kind of discipleship will sometimes make us uncomfortable. It will push us beyond our preferences and habits. It will ask us to set aside the safety of familiar patterns for the sake of the Gospel. However, in doing so, it will also fill our lives with meaning and joy.

In our parish community, we are invited to be a people of that fire—a people whose faith is more than words, whose love is more than sentiment. When we listen to the Spirit, we will see opportunities everywhere: to welcome a newcomer, to visit someone who is unwell or grieving, to stand alongside a person who feels excluded, to speak for those who have no voice.

The fire of God's love is not a small candle we hide away. It is a light meant to be shared. As we draw close to Christ in prayer, Scripture, and the Eucharist, we are reminded that we do not carry this fire alone. The Spirit strengthens us, the Church surrounds us and Christ himself walks with us.

May we leave today's liturgy with hearts burning—ready to live boldly, love generously and be the warmth of God's presence in the lives of those around us.

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.

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 supporting and highlighting Safeguarding. Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding Committee if you have any

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

In keeping with our commitment to keeping our community safe and providing a safe environment for all, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults, we will celebrate our annual Safeguarding Weekend on 6 / 7 September. During August we will focus on and promote a number of safeguarding initiatives.

Our Safeguarding Weekend will focus on the deeper meaning of 'Safeguarding' as we continue to strengthen the culture of care in our community. Our parish holds the values of dignity, commitment to justice and care for the vulnerable at its heart.

We also need to continue our support for the important regulatory and compliance components of Safeguarding, areas that are PLDT and Safeguarding Committee primarily manage for us.

As we have communicated before, all parish volunteers must complete three mandatory requirements as part of our Safeguarding Policy. All volunteers must have a Working With Children Check (WWCC). Despite the name, this check is required for anyone working / volunteering with vulnerable people. The Code of Conduct must be signed by all volunteers at the commencement of their time and at least three yearly. Additionally, the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Unit's Essential Training Module must be completed every three years. Our Office Manager, Jane, will continue to provide information to all volunteers about these three requirements and feel free to contact her if you have any questions.

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, the St Kilda Baptist Church Community Kitchen invite all to join them for *Matters of the Heart*, an evening of live music, BBQ with salad and storytelling. For further information, contact Ross Dickson on: 0412 383162.

Remaining dates: 27 August, 24 September, 22 October and 26 November. **Time:** 6.00 p.m. **Venue:** 9 Pakington Street, Just come along and enjoy!

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus,
You came to set the earth on fire with God's love.
Ignite our hearts with courage and compassion.
When following you brings challenge or division,
keep us steadfast in faith.
Open our eyes to those in need,
our arms to the isolated,
and our hearts to welcome all without judgement.
May your Spirit guide us to live your truth
and bring hope to our world. Amen.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE: WALKING WITH PURPOSE

SIGN UP! SIGN UP! SIGN UP!

A pilgrimage doesn't always require distant travel or ancient shrines—it can be a local, prayerful journey that opens our eyes and hearts to the presence of Christ in the margins. A short, local pilgrimage with a social justice focus offers parishioners an opportunity to walk in solidarity with the vulnerable and reflect deeply on the Gospel call to justice, compassion and action.

So, on Saturday, **30 August from 9.00 a.m. -**

noon, our parish will undertake our local pilgrimage under the theme of: *Go out to the world* (Matthew 16:15) Going out into the world is not just a suggestion but a calling for every believer. The scriptures remind us that we are to embody our faith, share God's love and actively engage with those around us. Whether through words or actions, we are encouraged to be vessels of kindness, compassion and hope in our communities and beyond.

We will begin at 9.00 a.m. travelling to five stations, as follows:

1. St Columba Primary School
2. Point Ormond
3. St Kilda Marina
4. St Kilda Botanic Gardens
5. Sacred Heart Church

We will finish at 11.30 p.m. with lunch provided.

If you wish to be part of this pilgrimage, **please register on the sheets at the back of our churches.** We understand that some people cannot walk, and they are invited to drive (or be driven) from one station to another. Please indicate if you require a lift to each station.



VIGIL MASS FOR BISHOP PETER ELLIOTT

A Vigil Mass for the repose of the soul of Bishop Peter Elliott will be held at St Patrick's Mentone, a place of significance for the late bishop, who served as an assistant priest there from 1976 to 1984, during which he was also secretary to Bishop John Kelly, and later, as an Auxiliary Bishop for Melbourne, Bishop Elliott was responsible for the Southern Region of the Archdiocese. **Date and time:** Sunday 17 August from 7.30 p.m.-8.30p.m. **Venue:** St Patrick's Church, 10 Rogers St, Mentone.

ANNUAL ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2025

Next weekend, the 2025 Archbishop's Campaign will take place. People are asked to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese which are outlined in the campaign brochure which you will find in the churches today. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, the University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries. We are asked to review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign materials. Archbishop Comensoli states that, "By joining together and supporting the fundraising effort within our Archdiocese we are responding to Christ's invitation to "go out to all the world and spread the Good News." Thank you for responding so generously with your time and efforts".

BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT (BASP)

Discussion Session

At this session local MP, Josh Burns will share his insights and experience. We will discuss and ask questions about how to bring about political change, and how the public and elected politicians can work together. As a Member of Parliament, Josh was instrumental in pushing the government in 2021 to release the refugees transferred from offshore processing who were in indefinite detention, and he remains actively committed to fighting for dignity and respect for asylum seekers and refugees. On this afternoon, we will be able to raise many of the urgent issues, such as the work rights issue, and the growing destitution among asylum seekers who have been in limbo for so long, with all the effects flowing on from that and how they can be addressed. Details:

Date and time: Wednesday, 20 August from 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. **Venue:** St Joseph's Hall, 274 Rouse St, Port Melbourne (behind the bluestone St Joseph's church - note change from usual venue)

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT FORUM

The Xavier Social Justice Network invites you to join them for the Dare to Be Different Forum, its annual advocacy event exploring the theme *Hope Lost, Hope Found*. Focusing on the refugee and asylum seeker experience in Melbourne, the evening will feature courageous storytelling and meaningful dialogue, rooted in Xavier's Jesuit ethos and commitment to social justice. Arrive from 6pm to enjoy food trucks and First Nations artworks. **Date and time:** Thursday 21 August from 7.30 p.m.-9.00 p.m. **Venue:** Eldon Hogan Performing Arts Centre, (Xavier College Senior School), 135 Barkers Road Kew **Register via:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1421065>

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS VICTORIA AGM & SISTER SHIRLEY SEDATE ORATION

The Executive Committee of the Council of Christians and Jews (Victoria) Inc. announces its forty-first Annual General Meeting. Featuring The Annual Sr Shirley Sedawie Oration on: **"The Problem of the Apostle Paul's 'Conversion' and Jewish-Christian Dialogue"**. This will be delivered by The Revd Canon Associate Professor Robert (Bob) Derrenbacker, Dean of the Theological School at Trinity College, Melbourne, and is also the Frank Woods Lecturer in New Testament at the College. This is a free event with kosher afternoon tea but registration essential. **Date and time: Sunday, 17 August from 2:00-4:00 PM**

Venue: 88 Albert St, East Melbourne

Register via their facebook book page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1226522619228681/>

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) Victoria aims to: Educate Christians and Jews to appreciate each other's distinctive beliefs, practices and commonalities. Promote the study of and research into historical, political, economic, social, religious and racial causes of conflicts between people of different creeds and colour. Promote education in fundamental ethical teachings, for the benefit of the community, common to Christianity and Judaism, that relate to respect and understanding between people of different creeds.

SIMONE WEIL LECTURE: PROF STAN GRANT ON: WHEN WORDS FAIL US: RECLAIMING A LANGUAGE OF LOVE

The 2025 Simone Weil Lecture on Human Value will be delivered by Prof Stan Grant FASSA, one of Australia's most distinguished journalists and public intellectuals. A proud Wiradjuri man, his distinguished career in journalism spans more than three decades across Australian and international media, earning him three Walkley Awards, a Peabody Award and a DuPont Award. With a PhD in theology, Prof Grant has also held significant academic appointments at Griffith University and Charles Sturt University. His critically acclaimed books—including *The Tears of Strangers*, *Talking to My Country*, *Australia Day*, and *On Identity*—have shaped national conversations about race, reconciliation and national identity. This is the second lecture in a two-lecture series inspired by Weil's essay *Human Personality* (1943) and her call to look beyond the usual language of politics and reach for a higher language of the soul.

Date and time: Wednesday 20 August 2025 from 6.00pm-8.00pm. Catering and refreshments will be served from 6.00 p.m.. Lecture to start at 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Christ Lecture Theatre, ACU, Building 404.G.12, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy. **Register now on:** <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/faculties-directorates-and-staff/faculty-of-theology-and-philosophy/school-of-philosophy/simone-weil-lecture/registration-melbourne>

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, come to my aid!

Second Reading: Hebrews 12: 1-4

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 12: 49-53

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 18 August - SUNDAY 24 August 2025

MONDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
THURSDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	9.00am MASS in the Parish House, Elwood
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 13: 22-30

COLLECTIONS: Last two weekends

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$32.00	Total	\$172.05
Loose cash	\$196.10		
Total	\$228.10		
Average for 30 weeks	\$396.12	Average for 30 weeks	\$232.80

PARISH SERVICE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

You can contribute to the Service and Support Program in a number of ways. Options include; direct debit, credit card, collections at mass, via Tithe.ly - click this link - [tithe.ly https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524](https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524) or download the tithe.ly app, scanning the new QR code and via our Tap n Go machines at mass. To find out more about our Service and Support program you can visit our website <https://www.shscparish.org.au/support-us> or contact Jane at the office.

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.

In addition to the second collection, the parish transfers \$4500 to the Presbytery account each quarter to cover the percentage of direct debit donations earmarked to support Fr John.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Daniel Carolle (Cameroon), Charles, Brian, Jane & Muthuka (Kenya)

1st Anniversaries: Gino Nardella, Elizabeth Hawes, Reg Robertson, Gerry Walker, Annemarie Fisher, Juan Ignacio Tolosa Correa.

4th Anniversary: Frank Alfonso 16.8.21

Anniversaries: Pat Ferry, Neil Ashton, Steve Turba, Ben Donoghue, Kate Rockell, Cecila Araos, Kathleen Dennis, Bridget Phelan, Genevieve Morcom 23.8, Maria Borgia 13.8.2019, Tim O'Driscoll, Terence Kennedy 23.4.22, Peggy Newman, Gregory Bajien, John Bolger, Adele Foldesi, Greta Fisher, Alecia Barker, Stanley Mendis, Rob King, Garry (Gaz) Stewart, Doug Heighway, Daniel Voyles, Andrew Foletta, Anne Speedie, Maggie McKewan, Ralene Finlay, Steven Benstead, Tina Sylvester 2.8, Des George, Peggy Keane, Nick Cincotta, Ted Leale, John McEvoy, Chris Li Donni, Marie Rosengrave, Emma Johnson, Paul Cumming, Mary Schneider, Patricia Davies, James Hughes, Oliver Moore, Maree Hurley, Patricia Davies, Antonio Amarto, Muriel Hyndman, Muriel Lysiuk, Jeremy Warwarick, Gerard Green, baby Felix, Ray Alsaker, James Foley, Yvonne Gorman, Maria Czajkowski, Fr Michael Sheehy Arthur Carbo 12.8, Jan Altman, Cynthia Griffin, Marion Flanagan, Shane Brennan, Leo Flanagan, Margaret Papworth 16.08.80, Danny Martinov 28.8.11, Peter Burgess 30.8.10, Clare Carmody 1.8.09, Noreen O Connor 14.8.09, Tom King 17.8.09, May Pearce 24.8.11, Lyn Von Oudtshoorn 1.8.09, Daniel Cassar 17.8.05, Shirley Evans 11.8.08, Perc Marten 12.8.97, Cherry Wood- Wallis 21.8.08, Monica Bourke 14.8.00, Therese Johnson 23.8.98, Sheleagh Davidson 3.8.11, Shane Walsh 7.8.11, Robert Callaghan 8.8.1, Rinaldo Cova 9.8.14

Birthday Anniversary: Bernard Alfonso 20.8

Sick: Lol Patten (UK), Jackie Pyster, Ramon Lopez, Colin Meanwell, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Patrick McCaffrey, Sue McLennan, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Ned Connors, Jean Cropley and David Cropley, Rose Fonti, Pat Ficcaro, Lyn Crossly, Nichole Garnaut, Tony Cogo, Paul Hamilton, Rosanna Scutti, Elaine Dillon, Arraya, Peter Contino, Joaquin Do Santos, David Hawe.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

23 / 24 August: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Volunteers needed

Set up: Volunteer needed

9am Mass:

M: Roger Vail, Ada Nardella

C / L: Alecia Rathbone, Lydia St. Ange

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom & friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter

C / L: Volunteers needed

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Melanie Williams