

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 17 / 18 FEBRUARY 2024 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



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:
Karen Englebretsen
kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org

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.

A Reflection on Lent by Sr Katherine Stone MGL

[In Pieta, Lenten Program 2024, Catholic Archdiocese of Wollongong.]

In the history of Israel and even the church, the wilderness (or desert) has traditionally been a place an encounter with God. Moses, the people of Israel, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus himself - for millennia men and women of prayer have taken themselves into the desert in order to be rid of all distraction and encounter the living God. Each Lent we, too, follow the Holy Spirit into our own experience of "wilderness", not to prove to God or ourselves that we can go 40 whole days without coffee or chocolate or alcohol, but to encounter the living God. The things we give up help us to create the wilderness experience. Without them, we have less to distract us from prayer, and thus from encounter with God. Well that's the idea anyway. In my experience, it's much easier to rid ourselves of chocolate than to rid ourselves of the desire for chocolate. And so, in the wilderness, we are prey to temptation, which is ultimately trying to get us to settle for less than what we had set out for: a simple fix of chocolate, rather than allowing my physical desire to point me to the deeper reality of my inner, spiritual desire for God.

Alongside this, we also discovered the wild beasts. They're actually living in all of us all of the time, but they tend to behave in a more civilised manner when we feed them with regular coffee and take the edge of their appetites with alcohol or Netflix. But without those distractions, we see more of our inner wild beasts in their natural ferocity: our laziness, impatience, temper. How is it in all of this chaos that we have any hope of meaningful encounter with God? On the face of it, doesn't seem like Jesus had an encounter with God in the wilderness either. Looking more closely, however, we see that "the angels looked after him". The only other time that we hear of angels ministering to Jesus was in a similarly bleak place - his agony and Gethsemane. In the places of his deepest struggles and weakness, Jesus encountered the *compassion of God*.

Perhaps for us, too, it is only when we let go of our distractions and face our weaknesses and struggles that we can experience *God's compassion*. This might be in the form of "angels" that God sends to look after us: the person who allowed us to enter the heavy traffic, the one who got our washing in before it rained, the listening ear that was present to our struggles, the word of wisdom that gave us hope to hold onto.

Perhaps our daily focus this Lent could be on naming the "angels" - the tangible experiences of *God's compassionate love and mercy* for us during this wilderness experience. Rather than giving all of our attention to our temptations and the wild beasts inside, let's choose to recognise where we have encountered God's saving compassion.

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 in our parish.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding

EVOLVING CATHOLICISM AND THE SYNOD

Catholicism is experiencing a change of era like no other. A revitalised narrative is needed to offer a fresh vision to the faithful still in the pews and rekindle what embers remain among those no longer engaged. The announcement of the Synod was widely welcomed with many Catholics working long hours to provide submissions that expressed their 'joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties.' We now look to the Synod to offer genuine renewal. Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform and Garratt Publishing present *The Synod on Synodality - Evolving Catholicism and the Synod* convocation which will focus on the state of play since the first Assembly and the lead up to the second Assembly in October 2024.

Leading the discussion will be Francis Sullivan and Kevin Liston. We hope you can join us as we build this new way of being Church. **Event details:**

When: Thursday 22 February 2024

Time: 7:00pm **Where:** Via Zoom **Cost:** FREE To register or make enquiries, visit: www.garrattpublishing.com.au

COME AWAY TO A QUIET PLACE AND REST AWHILE (MARK 6:30)

"There is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face". (Pope Francis *Laudato Si* n.233) Join us for 1.5 hours of quiet time in a bush setting in the Bush Hut in Studley Park Kew for a guided reflection and gentle, personal time for prayer, to sit and/or walk in nature or just sit inside or outside and look out at nature, to experience a sense of the sacred.

When: on the fourth Monday of the month: 26 February, 25 March, 22 April, 27 May, 24 June, 22 July, 26 August, 23 September, 28 October and 25 from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Where: Jesuit Social Services Bush Hut, 110 Studley Park Road, Kew VIC

Price: \$20

For further information or to book: <https://jsa.org.au/retreat/quiet-time-in-the-bush-kew-vic/>

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Jesus, the spirit hurried you from the Jordan river to the desert and then, in Galilee, to preach the coming of the Kingdom.

May the spirits turn our hearts, too,

to hear your call to us in turn

to draw you to the people whom we meet

by the silence of a peaceful heart,

by the gentle hands of friendship,

by the faithfulness of presence,

by the courage to stick by the despise,

and by the match between our words and lives.

May we follow you along the winding road

that curls through joy and sadness,

through delight and disappointment and through death with

you to life with you forever. Amen.

[Source: Andy Hamilton SJ in *Lenten Program Year B* Garrett Publishing 2023]

IN SUPPORT OF THE BEAUTY OF MUSIC AND THE WORK OF BASP

Bring friends and family to enjoy harp and piano in a fundraising concert featuring our own 'resident' harpist at St Columba church, Katia Mesatrovic and Sacred Heart pianist, Paul Healy; two people of immense musical talent. This will be a prelude for Katia who is soon to travel to play in the semi-finals (and hopefully finals) of the World Harpist Concert in Europe. Entrance to the event will be by donation, all of which will be donated to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers' Project (BASP). So come along and bring your family and friends to appreciate and support this wonderful music, and the work of BASP in caring for one of the most marginalised groups in our society. **Event details:**

Where: St Columba Church

When: Sunday, 3 March from 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. (Doors

SHM WELCOME TO COUNTRY AND SMOKING CEREMONY

Aunty Janet will perform a

Welcome to Country ,

followed by a Smoking

Ceremony and afternoon tea

from Mabu Mabu. **Wednesday**

21 February, 2.30pm-3.30pm at

87 Grey Street St Kilda. ALL ARE WELCOME. Please note this event will be live-streamed and there will be video cameras present.



CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Project Compassion boxes or envelopes are available at the back of church. Lent is a time to consider our impact on the world and what we can do to help. Your donations support Caritas Australia's community development and emergency relief programs around the world.

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER BEGINS THIS WEEK: 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.**

Over the past few weeks, we have been talking at the Masses and in the newsletter about the work of the Discernment Group (DG) on our 'Roadmap' - the structural plan which guides us into the type of parish we would like to maintain **and** grow. The Archdiocese has its own plan how parishes need to evolve in this era of change and this will impact us, for example, we may have to share personnel (priest, pastoral worker and office manager) with another parish. However, our parish renewal is more than simply reacting to the Archdiocese plans because we have taken the opportunity to explore what we have and what we love and importantly, what we could be like and want to be like. Starting this week and for the next four weeks, the DG turns to those of us in the pews and invites everyone to respond to a set of speculative questions around the areas of parish service and imagine what could be possible. The idea of this is to stimulate some new thinking around how things could be. We are working towards a parish Visioning workshop, planned for 18 May, Pentecost Eve.

How will this work in the Masses during Lent?

At homily time, Fr John will give a small introduction to the theme, this week: Faith Formation and Liturgy, and how the Gospel relates to it. One of the DG committee members will then give a brief introduction and explain how the next 8-10 will work and invite people to read the questions, chat to others in small groups of two - four people and write your thoughts on the post-it pads provided in the pews. 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

We have listed all the questions for the five weeks and you are welcome to provide some thoughts on any of them at any time via email. Know that this process is not expected to extend the duration of the Masses. Visitors are encouraged to also participate; all thoughts are welcome.

We are on a journey, a pilgrimage together into a new way of being church in a time of change. We seek to have ownership over that process and vision. We hope all will embrace the opportunity to be part of this experience.

'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?

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER BEGINS THIS WEEK: WALKING TOGETHER TO NEW LIFE (CONT.)

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

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. 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?

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are a handful of Columban Calendars 2024 still available for sale at \$10/copy. Please see Anne Dexter in the kitchenette at Sacred Heart if you wish to purchase a copy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW MUMS

Caring Mums is a free, confidential, non-denominational service that is welcoming of all new mothers in Port Phillip and surrounding council areas. Run by the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA), Caring Mums provides emotional support and reassurance during a time of change for all mothers. All Caring Mums volunteers are trained to provide ongoing support for mothers from all kinds of diverse backgrounds, including those seeking asylum or those who may be facing physical or mental health issues. NCJWA is hosting a volunteer information evening on Tuesday 6 February. To register interest, contact caringmums.admin@ncjwavic.org.au

Training commences from 21 February running every Wednesday for five weeks. For more information about the program and volunteering opportunities, visit the NCJWA's Caring Mums page on: www.nejwavic.org.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 9: 8-15

Responsorial Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth,
to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 19 February 2024 - SUNDAY 25 February 2024

MONDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
THURSDAY	11.00am Communion Service 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 9: 2-10

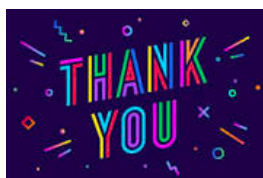
COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$35	Total \$267.45
Loose cash	\$386.25	
Total	\$421.25	
Average for 7 weeks	\$462.06	Average for 7 weeks \$249.95

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 or EFT giving. 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: Ruth Vail (Roger's mother), Frank Housen, Fanny Korn (Irma's mother)

1st Anniversaries: Robin Deakin, Carl (Paul) Rydell, Kathleen Dennis, Steve Williams, Maurice Sinclair, Dick O'Brien

2nd Anniversaries: Bill Richards, Iolanda Iarussi,

Anniversaries: Beatrice Tarquinio, Virgilio Tarquinio, Silvana Tarquinio, Oscar Fullinfa 21.2.2021, Neil Anderson, John O'Connor, Gwen Barry, Howard Shelton 7.2.01, Florence Clarke, Jasmine Luke, Pauline Condon, Silvi Chand, Patricia Priest, Lola Scully, Michael Grigovich Val Belle, Paolo, Audrey Donovan, Barbara Zaia, Stuart Weir, Rodney Bayliss, John Ryan, Bridget Vaughan, Felix O'Donoghue, Mary Dillon, Annie Oldroyd, Tim Pressor, Mary Babington, Joe Andrews, Velia Teseo, Neme Mario Contino 7.2.16, Joseph Molnar, Mario Martinov, Lena Kovacevic, Penny Tamplin, Patricia McCrohan, Antonio Marussi, Harry Clarke, Patricia Fleming 1.2, Mary Cuddihy, Terzita Taranto 3.2, Edith O Keeffe 11.2, Gregory Murphy 10.2, John Boland, Daphne Duttolph, Adrian Keatley 8.2, Leo Flanagan, David Jellis 16.2, Patricia Poole 17.2.12, Jane Mary Boland 5.2.1983, Miroslav Ulehla 14.2.1983 Terry Ryan, Harry Foster 4.2.11, Kevin Healy 14.2.11, Henry Loader 5.2.11, Peg Whitehill 22.2.11, Leo Miller 13.2.11, Ziggy Didl, Sean Monaghan, Kevin L Estrange, Elizabeth Bourke 9.2.04, Alphonsus O Connor 2.2.74, Eileen Madigan 1.2.56, Fr Gordon Gebbie 7.2.01, Lorant Stary Feb 1979, William Kearney 21.2.07, Elizabeth Bourke 9.2.04, David Jellis 16.2.12, William George Papworth 8.2.92, Marian Flanagan, Shane Brennan, Velia Teseo 12.2

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, Lol Patten (UK). **We periodically start our sick list again. If you have someone you would like on the sick list please contact Jane at the office.**

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

24 / 25 February 2024: Second Sunday of Lent

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, Raymond Bolger

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: Michael & Lulu

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter

C / L: Oswald / Kunal, Toni Vatta

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Team