

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 2 / 3 SEPTEMBER 2023 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

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
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:
Karen Englebrechtsen
kenglebrechtsen@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 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.

Let Justice and Peace Flow

We welcome the Season of Creation, an annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. The ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The Season "Celebration" begins 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. This year we will unite around the theme "Let Justice and Peace Flow" with the symbol of 'A Mighty River'. As the people of God, we are invited to work together on behalf of all Creation to form a mighty river of peace and justice.

"We live in very turbulent and troubling times as we continue to struggle for world peace and the reconciliation and unity of all creation. We are surrounded by war, violence, climate challenges and unjust systems that continue to dehumanise and oppress people around the globe. Christians are urged to join with God in the ever-flowing river for justice and peace in the world." - Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, General Secretary, World Council of Churches.

"This Season of Creation will be an opportunity to pray, reflect and act together as the People of God for our common home. Like tributaries joining forces to become a mighty river, the ecumenical family will come together on a synodal path of care for our common home through justice and peace." - Sister Alessandra Smerilli, Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The world humans have known, enjoyed and celebrated is changing rapidly beyond repair. Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The hope of keeping average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius is fading. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate. Industrialisation, colonisation and the extraction and consumption of resources have created great wealth, unequally distributed. We are presently more aware than ever of the link between fossil fuels, and violence and war.

Our prayers, sermons and liturgies must call for justice not only for humans but for all Creation. Justice, allied with peace, calls us to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions. Righteousness demands that we live in peace, not conflict with our human neighbours, and building right relationships with all of Creation. Our individual actions during the Season of Creation are important. We must also recognise that, for a mighty movement of justice, individual actions are not enough. Justice also includes paying historic debts. At a global level, nations with power and wealth have a duty to deal justly and honestly with communities that suffer most from the climate and ecological crises.

As an ecumenical family, we can engage in these actions and contribute to ensure that the web of life is preserved and cared for. Through prayer, practical advocacy and sustainable actions, this 2023 Season of Creation can prophetically renew our ecumenical unity and care for our common home. If you wish to take a more active role, visit the resources page on the Season of Creation website, www.seasonofcreation.org to see the range of advocacy campaigns.

May we journey together in communion as the people of God to let justice and peace flow!

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 to Corey Tanner who is being initiated into our Catholic community at 6.00pm Mass this weekend. We also pray for Corey and his fiancée Angela, one of our school teachers, whom are to be married in a few weeks.

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.

IT'S HAPPENING NEXT WEDNESDAY!

Our inaugural coffee Morning will take place **this Wednesday, 6 September at 11.00 a.m. in the Parish House, 2 Normandy Road**. Coffee, conversation, meeting new people, catching up with familiar faces are on offer. Please join us for an hour to build relationship, take on activities or simply chat. Members of the Legion of Mary are happy to collect people where possible. Please see Christine after Mass if you need a lift.

FUNERAL NOTICE

Many know of Mary-Grace Levakis, who resided in our Sacred Heart Community for a number of years. Fr John often read out her cheery Christmas greetings from her hand-made cards to him during one of his homilies. Sadly, Mary-Grace unexpectedly died last Monday. Her family wish her funeral to be at Sacred Heart, as it was from our Mission and parish community that Mary-Grace received care and love. Her funeral is planned for Tuesday, 12 September at 2.00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. All are welcome.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Blessed are you, Creator of all
to you be praise and glory forever
as your dawn renews the face of the Earth
bringing light and life to all creation
bring hope to your people.
May we rejoice in this day you have made
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to work for justice
for all of creation,
that the world may rejoice together and give you praise.
(Adapted from Lancelot Andrewes, 1626)

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

In the Catholic Church, Child Protection Week is highlighted through Safeguarding Sunday, which falls this year on 10 September. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.

FR JOHN'S ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr John is heading off on his very well deserved annual leave on Monday 4 September 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.

COME, ENJOY AND SUPPORT OUR PARISH MUSIC EVENT

We have one week to go to our fundraising music event in support of two scholarships for disadvantaged students in Timor-Leste. The Parish has agreed to support two scholarships for students in the remote area of Lospalos for three years. Students will leave their homes with hope in their hearts that going to trade school in Dili will make a vast difference to their futures. Various parish musicians have donated their time and their musical gifts to entertain us, while supporting strangers in another land. We invite you to come and do the same on **Sunday, 10 September from 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.** at a cost of \$15/adult, \$5/children under 12. Please sign up at the back of the church, indicating if you can donate to the afternoon tea, need a lift or can provide one.

CELEBRATING FATHERS AND FATHER FIGURES

This Sunday we give special thanks and blessings for all fathers and father figures. We thank them for their strength, for their perseverance, and love to raise their children. We ask that God, bless them with wisdom, discernment and strength. We remember especially all the fathers who may not be with their children this weekend.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK (4-9 SEPTEMBER)

Child Protection Week is a national campaign held each year to raise awareness of child-abuse prevention in our communities. In 2023, the overarching message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme 'Where we start matters':

- Where we start our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us and the opportunities presented to us makes a significant difference to our life outcomes.
- Where we start as a Catholic community in offering children and their families support and assistance makes a significant difference to life outcomes.
- Where we start as decision-makers in addressing large, complex problems such as child abuse and neglect also has a significant impact on personal, social and economic outcomes.

Child Protection Week is a good time for us to think about how we, as adults, can address some of these issues that affect children and to consider how we can change things to make a difference.

Of course where we start isn't where we finish.

The aim of Child Protection Week is to bring together partners to focus on addressing the significant harms being experienced by children in Australia. By working collectively to change the trajectory of these children and families, we can reduce the number of children who may come in contact with the child protection system. The time to act is now.

You can use this theme in ways that are most relevant to those you work with.

For instance this could include focusing on:

- Supporting parents to access services so that all families have the opportunity to give every child a great **start**.
- Supporting organisations to be safe and child-focused so they can give every child a great **start**.
- Supporting communities and making sure that every neighbourhood has what it needs to give every child a great **start**.

The Community Jigsaw - a framework for strong, supportive, child-inclusive communities.

The idea to use a Community Jigsaw during National Child Protection Week came from a 9-year-old girl who pointed out that "A community is like a puzzle, you need to have all the bits to make it work."

When all the pieces are in place, a community is strong and supportive of children. The more pieces that are removed, the less supportive the community is for children.

In some cases, so many pieces are missing that the jigsaw falls apart. At this point, communities have become dysfunctional places from children's perspective.

There are some children's activity booklets at the back of church also. For more information please visit: <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-theme/>



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
3 - 9 September 2023

NAPCAN

PARISH SAFEGUARDING WEEKEND

Each year around Child Protection Week and Safeguarding Sunday, our parish celebrates its Safeguarding Weekend.

Our Parish has always taken the safeguarding of our children, young people and vulnerable adults extremely seriously and to be more than just administrative compliance. We live out the call to be a haven for all and ask you all to join with us this weekend to make some practical commitments to this.

At all masses this weekend Fr John will ask you to read the synopsis of our Parish Code of Conduct and to sign the Declaration (last page). The Code clearly specifies the intention and practice that each and everyone of us needs to take to care for and protect all in our community. Full copies are available at the back of church and on our website.

We join together to honour the call to protect those most vulnerable and commit ourselves as a loving faith community through this humble dedication.

Additionally we will hold a 40 minute group session **after 9.00am Mass this Sunday 3 September** on the **Archdiocese's mandatory Safeguarding Essentials training module**. This must be completed by all volunteers every three years and is one component that could be audited by the Archdiocese and the Commission for Children and Young People. More importantly it demonstrates our Parish's commitment to supporting the safety of all who are vulnerable and are willingness to meet all identified requirements.

Fr John is fundamentally responsible for all parish audit and compliance requirements so we ask you to show your support for him as well.

We ask that anyone who hasn't completed the training to please come to 9.00am Mass and stay, or come along afterwards (10.00am), for the training session.

A delicious morning tea will be served while you watch the presentation.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact one of the Safeguarding Committee.

FROM JESUIT IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

As we approach this **Season of Creation** (1 September to 4 October) we extend an invitation for you to pause and deeply connect with the sacred interplay of all God's creations through six weekly complimentary contemplations to help heal and sustain your relationship with Earth, and with God in Earth. Contemplations to help us work together on behalf of all Creation.

Each week you will receive a contemplation to your inbox which will focus on a different dimension of Nature... water... rock... soil... plants... and animal life. You can take short audio reflections out into Nature... and you can share them with your friends and colleagues.

Register now to receive your complimentary contemplation in your inbox each week during the *Season of Creation*. For further information or to register, go to the website:

www.jisa.org.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-9

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading: Romans 12: 1-2

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-27

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 4 September - SUNDAY 10 September 2023

MONDAY	11.00am Community Service at Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
THURSDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	9.00am Communion Service in 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: Matthew: 18: 15-20

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$82.00	Total	\$311.20
Loose cash	\$379.10		
Total	\$461.10		
Average for 34 weeks	\$348.34	Average for 34 weeks	\$234.57

Breakdown of service & support: Jan - June 2023

Thanksgiving Income	\$22925
Presbytery offerings (CC & DD)	\$9000

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 giving.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Diana Monestrati, Trevor Pickett, Rosa Reyesreyes, Mary-Grace Levakis (SHC)

1st Anniversaries: Neil McKean, Daphne Omar, Mark Steele, Luke Peiper, Brent Daly (friend to Karen and Brigid, tragically killed this week), 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 9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au

CHANGE IN PARISH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

The parish has changed its donation software system to a more secure and safe platform. As such, the description on your Bank statement for Direct Debits and Credit Cards may be different. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact Jane in the office.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

9 / 10 Sept: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Meg Taylor, Bronwyn Illott

Set up: Meg Taylor

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Lydia St Ange, Tony Lopes

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: The Brazilians

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Stefan Fothe