

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 MARCH 2024 THIRD 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
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.

Setting Aside our Water Jars by Pope Francis

Today's Gospel presents Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman in Sicar, near an old well where the woman went to draw water daily. That day, she found Jesus seated, "weary as he was with his journey" (Jn 4:6). He immediately says to her: "Give me a drink" (v. 7). In this way he overcomes the barriers of hostility that existed between Jews and Samaritans and breaks the mould of prejudice against women. This simple request from Jesus is the start of a frank dialogue, through which he enters with great delicacy into the interior world of a person to whom, according to social norms, he should not have spoken. But Jesus does! Jesus is not afraid. When Jesus sees a person he goes ahead, because he loves. He loves us all. He never hesitates before a person out of prejudice. Jesus sets her own situation before her, not by judging her but by making her feel worthy, acknowledged, and thus arousing in her the desire to go beyond the daily routine.

Jesus' thirst was not so much for water, but for the encounter with a parched soul. Jesus needed to encounter the Samaritan woman in order to open her heart: he asks for a drink so as to bring to light her own thirst. The woman is moved by this encounter: she asks Jesus several profound questions that we all carry within but often ignore. We, too, have many questions to ask, but we don't have the courage to ask Jesus! Lent is the opportune time to look within ourselves, to understand our truest spiritual needs, and to ask the Lord's help in prayer. The example of the Samaritan woman invites us to exclaim: "Jesus, give me a drink that will quench my thirst forever".

The Gospel says that the disciples marvelled that their Master was speaking to this woman. But the Lord is greater than prejudice, which is why he was not afraid to address the Samaritan woman: mercy is greater than prejudice. We must learn this well! Mercy is greater than prejudice, and Jesus is so very merciful, very! The outcome of that encounter by the well was the woman's transformation: "the woman left her water jar" (v. 28), with which she had come to draw water, and ran to the city to tell people about her extraordinary experience. "I found a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" She was excited. She had gone to draw water from the well, but she found another kind of water, the living water of mercy from which gushes forth eternal life. She found the water she had always sought! She runs to the village, that village which had judged her, condemned her and rejected her, and she announces that she has met the Messiah: the one who has changed her life. Because every encounter with Jesus changes our lives, always. It is a step forward, a step closer to God. And thus every encounter with Jesus changes our life. It is always, always this way.

In this Gospel passage we likewise find the impetus to "leave behind our water jar", the symbol of everything that is seemingly important, but loses all its value before the "love of God". We all have one, or more than one! I ask you, and myself: "What is your interior water jar, the one that weighs you down, that distances you from God?". Let us set it aside a little and with our hearts; let us hear the voice of Jesus offering us another kind of water, another water that brings us close to the Lord. We are called to rediscover the importance and the sense of our Christian life, initiated in Baptism and, like the Samaritan woman, to witness to our others. A witness of what? Joy! To witness to the joy of the encounter with Jesus; for, as I said, every encounter with Jesus changes our life, and every encounter with Jesus also fills us with joy, the joy that comes from within. And the Lord is like this. And so we must tell of the marvellous things the Lord can do in our hearts when we have the courage to set aside our own water jar.

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.

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.

LAST CALL FOR SUPPORT

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. The wonderful Sr Brigid Arthur from BASP will speak after the concert, so don't miss out on the opportunity to hear her as well. **St Columba Church, THIS Sunday, 3 March from 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.** (Doors open at 1.30 p.m.).

SACRED HEART MISSION

The Mission is now working on their new Strategic Plan, Strategy 2030. As part of this, they would like to hear from people about the work they do. They particularly want to ensure that their services reflect who they are and who they want to be as the organisation grows into the future. If you would like to give a response, please **please visit their website: www.sacredheartmission.org** and complete the short, anonymous survey by Wednesday, 6 March.

MORNING CUPPA: 11.00AM WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

Come along to the Parish House **THIS Wednesday 6 March at 11.00am** and mingle, meet or catch-up and with other parishioners over a cuppa. Enjoy this hour of connection and friendship. If you require a lift, please let Sr Brigid, Christine or a member of the Legion of Mary know.

PRAYER FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

We remember the woman at the well –
her questions, her truth, her witness.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, so like her
we may ask candidly,
reveal ourselves deeply, and
share your Good News freely.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
so we may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.

[Source: Lisa Ann Moss Deqrenia]

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.

CHANGE TO THE READINGS

This week and for the next two weeks, we move back into the Year A readings. This is the usual practice when we have people in our parish, known as the Elect, who are on the journey of the Rite of Christian Initiation, and who will be baptised at Easter. For the next three weeks, they will undertake rituals in the Mass, known as scrutinies. Nick Wagner of TeamRCIA explains:

"Just as the scrutinies themselves are meant to be a series of rites spanning over an extended period of time, so too are these three Gospel readings meant to be "digested" little by little with time in between each set of readings. This is because the readings in their assigned sequence reflect the very purpose of the Scrutiny Rites... Through them, "the elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin, from which the whole world and every person longs to be delivered..." (RCIA, 143).

In the story of the woman at the well, the Samaritan woman hears Jesus then goes and tells the villagers what she has heard, causing them to seek him out for themselves. The reading ends with the villagers saying to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world" (John 4:42). Was this not the starting point of every elect? They heard a word, a word that they discovered over time to be Christ. Upon discovering who was speaking to them, they no longer believed because of hearsay, obligation, or pressure, but because they heard Christ's voice for themselves."

Please pray for Amy and Stella who will enter our faith through Baptism at Easter, and for Helen, Patricia and Luigi who will complete their Catholic initiation through Confirmation.

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE WEEK THREE: 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.

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 two questions on 'Welcome, hospitality and belonging'. 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: 'Leadership and Governance'. 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. 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?

PALM SUNDAY WALK FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Please consider walking in solidarity with asylum seekers and those in the community urging change. The route and the time has changed this year—in response to the Free Palestine protest which is at the State Library at midday also on Palm Sunday. The Palm Sunday walk for asylum seekers and refugees is at 10.00 in the morning beginning and ending in Parliament Gardens (corner of Spring and Albert Streets). There will be a symbolic ritual to begin (everyone can join) followed by some talks and music and a walk around nearby streets, finishing back at the gardens. Anyone willing to help by leaving posters in places you frequent or acting as marshals or money collectors on the day please contact Brigid (barthur@basp.org.au)

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.

ST COLUMBA'S

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday 24 March

Children's Flea Mart & Fair.

Also, check out the second issue of the newsletter:

<https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/JKdqGGM/issue-2/page/cover>



INVITE TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Launch of the HerStory map commemorating women in the City of Port Phillip. Please join us for the launch of

'HerStory', an illustrated map showing the places where inspiring women have been commemorated in the City of Port Phillip and their stories. Event details - **Friday 8 March, 9.30 am to 10.30 am**, St Kilda Town Hall, 99A Carlisle Street, St Kilda. Numbers for the event will be limited and RSVPs are essential. To book your place please use this TryBooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPGSW>

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://jisa.org.au/retreat/quiet-time-in-the-bush-kew-vic/>

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7

Responsorial Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 3 March 2024 - SUNDAY 10 March 2024

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

THURSDAY 11.00am COMMUNION SERVICE
at Sacred Heart Church (Sr Trish)

FRIDAY 9.00am COMMUNION SERVICE
at the Parish House (Christine)

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)

Presider: Fr Erick Niyiragira

Gospel: John: 9: 1-41

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$32.00	Total	\$324.00
Loose cash	\$308.90		
Total	\$340.90		
Average for 9 weeks	\$465.05	Average for 9 weeks	\$254.12

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: Adelina Ranieri

1st Anniversaries: Lorraine Donovan,

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, Lol Patten (UK), Peter Nicholson.

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

PARISH MESSAGES FOR TERRY KEAN

There are a number of cards at the back of church for anyone who would like to write a message of support to Fr Terry. We will deliver them next week.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

9 / 10 March 2024: Fourth Sunday of Lent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Bronwyn Illott, Volunteer needed

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Lydia St Ange, Tony Lopes

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: Raymond

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Team