

# 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 11 / 12 December 2021 Third Sunday of Advent



### **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](http://www.stcolumbasprimary.org)

### **Sacred Heart Mission**

87 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182  
9537 1166;  
[www.sacredheartmission.org](http://www.sacredheartmission.org)

### **PARISH HOUSE**

2 Normandy Road, Elwood 3184  
03 9531 6120; [shsc@shscparish.org.au](mailto:shsc@shscparish.org.au)  
[www.shscparish.org.au](http://www.shscparish.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Petrus  
[john@shscparish.org.au](mailto:john@shscparish.org.au)

**Pastoral Associate:** Christine Mitchell  
[christine@shscparish.org.au](mailto:christine@shscparish.org.au)

**Parish Administrator:** Jane Hearnese  
[jane@shscparish.org.au](mailto:jane@shscparish.org.au)

### **SHM Pastoral Care Worker**

### **St Columba Principal:**

Daniella Maddalena  
[dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au)

**Deputy Principal:** Bern Bradley  
[bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au)

**REC:** Stu Andreau-Mill  
[sam@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sam@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:** Jacquie  
Robillard [svdpeskw@gmail.com](mailto:svdpeskw@gmail.com)

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

### **A Reflection on the Gospel by Pope Francis on Gaudete Sunday, Third Sunday in Advent**

[Source: Faith Circles, produced by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, [faithcircles.dow.org.au](http://faithcircles.dow.org.au)]

On this third Sunday of Advent, the liturgy invites us to joy. Listen carefully: to joy. The prophet Zephaniah addresses these words to a small group of the people of Israel: "Sing aloud, O Daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!". Shout with joy, rejoice, exult: this is this Sunday's invitation. The inhabitants of the Holy City are called to rejoice because the Lord has taken away his judgments against them. God has forgiven, he did not wish to punish! As a result the people no longer have any reason for sadness. There is no longer reason for desolation, but rather, everything leads to joyful gratitude toward God who always wishes to deliver and save those he loves. And the Lord's love for his people is endless, tantamount to the tenderness of a father for his children, of a groom for his bride, as Zephaniah again says: "he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing". This is – so it is called – the Sunday of joy: the third Sunday of Advent, before Christmas.

This appeal by the prophet is particularly appropriate during the Season in which we are preparing ourselves for Christmas, because it can be applied to Jesus, the Emmanuel, the God-with-us: his presence is the wellspring of joy. Indeed, Zephaniah proclaims: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst", and a little later he repeats: "The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory". This message finds its full meaning in the moment of the Annunciation to Mary, narrated by the evangelist Luke. The words addressed to the Virgin by the Angel Gabriel are like an echo of those of the prophet. What does the Archangel Gabriel say? "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you! (Lk 1:28). He tells Our Lady to "Rejoice". In an isolated hamlet of Galilee, in the heart of a young woman unknown to the world, God kindles the spark of happiness for the entire world. And today, the same announcement is addressed to the Church, called to receive the Gospel so that it may become flesh, concrete life. He says to the Church, to all of us: "Rejoice, little Christian community, poor and humble but beautiful in my eyes because you ardently desire my Kingdom, you hunger and thirst for justice, you patiently weave the fabric of peace, you do not pursue the powerful of the moment but remain faithfully beside the poor. And thus you fear nothing but your heart is in joy". If we live like this, in the presence of the Lord, our heart will always be in joy – when there is 'high-level', full joy, and the humble everyday joy, which is peace. Peace is the smallest joy, but it is joy.

Saint Paul, too, exhorts us today to have no anxiety, to have no despair about anything, but rather, in every circumstance, to make our requests, our needs, our worries known to God "by prayer and supplication" (Phil 4:6). The awareness that we can always turn to the Lord in our difficulties, and that he never rejects our invocations, is a great reason for joy. No worry, no fear will ever be able to take away this serenity which comes not from human things, from human comforts, no: the serenity that comes from God, from knowing that God lovingly guides our lives, and he always does so. Even in the midst of problems and suffering, this certainty fosters hope and courage.

However, in order to receive the Lord's invitation to joy, it is necessary to be people willing to call ourselves into question. What does this mean? Just like those who, after listening to the preaching of John the Baptist, ask him: You preach this, but we, "What then shall we do". What should I do? This question is the first step for the conversion that we are called to carry out during this Season of Advent. Let each of us ask ourselves: what should I do? A very small thing, but "what should I do?". And may the Virgin Mary, who is our mother, help us to open our heart to the God-who-comes, so that he may shower our whole life with joy.

## 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. We warmly welcome Fr John back to masses this weekend. Thank you very much to everyone who has offered support to him over the last week.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. May we acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri tribes 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. We encourage you to take the time to have a look at them and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact one of the Safeguarding Committee.

## SACRAMENTS 2021

Congratulations to the twenty children who received their Sacrament of Confirmation this week/weekend. Thank you also for your patience and understanding in overcoming the cancellations and uncertainty surrounding your journey this year. Your gifts of the spirit were well utilised.

We welcome and congratulate two children this weekend who are celebrating their First Eucharist.

Thank you very much to Christine Mitchell, Stu Andreau-Mill and all the teachers and parents who have supported the children during these special times.

Please continue to keep our children in your thoughts and prayers.

## MASKS FOR SALE

We will continue to sell masks after Mass at \$10/mask, of which half of the proceeds go to the parish. Our thanks to Adrian Croyley's mum who continues to provide us with stylish and masks, which contribute to the fight against Covid-19 virus.

## EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sacred Heart Mission Christmas Liturgy:** Friday, 17 December at 10.30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church

**Communal Reconciliation:** Monday, 20 December, 7.00 p.m. at St Columba Church

**Christmas Masses:**

**Christmas Eve:**

- Friday, 24 December: Family Mass, 6.00 p.m. at St Columba (Carols at 5.30 p.m.) **Cap of 135** people.
- Friday, 24 December: Evening Mass, 11.00 p.m. at Sacred Heart (Carols at 10.30 p.m.)

**Christmas Day**

- Saturday, 25 December, 9 a.m. Mass at St Columba
- Saturday, 25 December, 11.00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart

**Feast of the Holy Family,** Sunday 26 December, 10.00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church (note that this is the only Mass for Sunday in our parish.)

**New Year's Day Mass,** Saturday, 1 January 2022 at 10.00 a.m. Sacred Heart Church

Saturday, 1 January 2022 – Saturday vigil Mass, 6.00 p.m. at St Columba, Epiphany of the Lord.

Sunday, 2 January 2022 – usual Masses, Epiphany of the Lord.

**Please remember that all our masses and liturgies are subject to Covid protocols:**

- All aged 12 years and two months must be fully vaccinated.
- People have to show proof at the door.
- Physical distancing is required.
- Mask recommended
- Hand sanitising also required, which we provide.

## **MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Sign up sheets are available at the back of church for everyone who would like to volunteer at one or more of our Christmas masses. Please sign up or email Jane or Christine.*

## SACRED HEART MISSION CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

We warmly invite you all to join the Christmas celebration on **Friday 17th December at 10.30am celebrated at Sacred Heart Church.**

The theme of the celebration this year is joy. We invite you to take a moment to reflect on what brings you joy and what has sustained you throughout the year. When entering the Church, you will receive a box and note to write your joy on. During the service you will have the opportunity to share your joy while placing your box under the tree, no physical gift is required. Afterwards an extended invitation to share in a light snack hosted by Business Services. We look forward to celebrating the Joy of the season with you all.

**Covid19 protocols will be in place**



## DONATE A MEAL AND IGNITE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS



For Peter, a meal at Sacred Heart Mission's Dining Hall was the first step to turning his life around. This festive season, your support of the Dining Hall will give people the chance to connect, gain access to critical support, and importantly, break the cycle of homelessness, for good. Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Peter came to study in Australia in a time when his home country struggled with racial segregation and political instability. Peter was granted a Commonwealth Scholarship to study economics at Swinburne University where he graduated with a degree in Economics, with Honors. When Peter's marriage sadly broke down, his mental health declined and - at 43 years old - he found himself without a home. While staying at a temporary accommodation in Balaclava, Peter discovered our Dining Hall and this was the spark he needed. "It's the most brilliant thing I ever did. Good meals, friendly people. It was a safe place." - Peter After regular visits to the Dining Hall, and continued interactions with our experienced staff, Peter had the opportunity to move into Sacred Heart Community, our residential aged care service. Here, Peter found a home for life and a welcoming community. "I would say [Sacred Heart Community] is a healing place," Peter says. To donate and support Sacred Heart Mission please visit <https://www.sacredheartmission.org/donate>

## ELWOOD ST KILDA WEST VINNIES CONFERENCE

Thank you very much to our wonderful Vinnies Conference for all their hard work and dedication during another tricky year. They have continued to provide practical and personal support to people requiring assistance in the local area. A big thank you to President, Jacque Robilliard for all of her hard work coordinating efforts during Covid19. Our conference is also supported by the Gardenvale Conference and their involvement is greatly appreciated. A special thank you to the donations from our local schools; St Columba, Star of the Sea College, St Joan of Arc and St James. A very special thank you to everyone who has donated to, packed and/or distributed the Christmas Hampers. These are always beautifully presented and gratefully received.



## FESTIVE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

You are warmly invited to a concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne: Festive Music for Christmas, **Wednesday 15 December**, 7.00pm. Cathedral Brass, with Anthony Halliday, organ. Brett Kelly, conductor. \$25 - tickets online or at the door. Children under 15 are admitted free of charge. Online tickets: [www.trybooking.com/BVJPD](http://www.trybooking.com/BVJPD)

## ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday, our wonderful school held their last assembly for the year and bade a special farewell to the Grade Sixers.



In a beautiful tradition, the Grade Five children introduced and spoke about a Grade Six child. Each Grade Six child then spoke about their memories of St Columba and gave thanks to the special people they have encountered. A number of special awards were also presented to the Grade Six children including the Dame Jean McNamara award presented by The Honourable Josh Burns. Congratulations to Bianca Tan who received the award this year for her achievements. Congratulations to Bianca and all the Grade Six children on their wonderful year. We wish them all the very best for their secondary school journeys.



We wish all of the wonderful St Columba staff, students and families a very safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Congratulations on surviving and thriving during this year. All the very best to the staff, children and families leaving our "Little School with the Big Heart". A very special congratulations and all the very best to four of our wonderful teachers who are expecting new babies early next year, three of whom will be their first child. A very special time for them and their partners.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 3: 14-18

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Cry out with joy and gladness:

for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4: 4-7

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 3: 10-18

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 13 December - SUNDAY 19 December**

**MONDAY** 2pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community  
(Restricted access at this time)

**THURSDAY** 11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

**FRIDAY** 9am MASS at St Columba Church  
10.30am Sacred Heart Mission Christmas  
Celebration at Sacred Heart Church

**SATURDAY** 6pm MASS at St Columba Church

**SUNDAY** 9am MASS at St Columba Church  
11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church  
(this mass is also live streamed)  
Gospel: Luke 1: 39-44

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

**All Recently Deceased:** Ethan Carmichael

**1st Anniversary:** Ondrej Soukup, Roger Graham, Maurice Kay, Karl Roberts, Jason Curran

**6th Anniversary:** Therese Mitchell 6.12.2015

**Anniversaries:** Ernie O'Keeffe 3.12.2019, Dorothy Corcoran, Raphael Ruske, Mrs Amad, Bob Collins Anthony Ellul, Pamela Pimento, Merril LeesEva Bebjewsky, Norman Garland, Naser Azari, Lucas Santos Fraga, Robin Wheatley, Colin King, Leslie Korosztos, Barry Scanlan, Bill Waucope, Rolando Chan, Bridie Spierings, Bartolo Canestra, Maria Terzita Canestra, Angelo Marcon 5.12.69, Mark Samuel-King, Peter Cescato, Royce Hagen, Stuart & Beryl Melville 5.12, Stephen Phillips, Domenico Cerasuolo, Millie Walker, Esther Dempsey 19.12, Julie Lyons-Vague, Rita Briglia, Carole Bilton 15.12, Rachel West, Helena Szeffler 17.12, Graham Bilton 29.12, Mak Czermak 2010, Maria Cafarella 26.12.11, Augusto Strangis 2.12.01, Bob Alexander, Agnes Castellano 8.12.10, Darryl Shand 16.12.10, Frank Ruberto 26.12.10, Charlotte Cooper 12.12.73, Clare O'Connor 29.12.05, Maria Basile, Mara Dale, Jackie Everett, Sandra Aerche, Gary Munari, Dorothy McEwan, Kolja and Peter Kovacevic, Pashko and Lena Djelovic, Michele Pescatore, Maria Pescatore, Nicola & Maria Panella, Paolo & Maria Duca, Nunziata Panettieri, Denise McAlorum 24.12.03, Gavin Curran 23.12.11

**Sick:** Vasili Miller, Baby Lewis, Liz Heritage, Leanne Flynn, Colin Nettlebeck, Ruth French, Monique Belcourt, Jackie Pyster, Ghislaine O'Malley, Sarah O'Brien, Michael Ratliff, Peter Dwyer, Patricia Mizzi, David Rankin, Mary Throssell (Perth, W.A.), Carl Riddell, Pat Ficcaro.

### COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

#### THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Envelopes \$133.80

Loose cash \$163.10

Total \$296.90

#### PRESBYTERY COLLECTION

Envelopes \$206.90



## SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Due to the amazing support and generosity of our parishioners - those close and further afield - we are still within budget despite the significant lockdowns. Additionally, there were donations of approx \$13,500 made into the Presbytery account for Fr John which is wonderful and incredibly beneficial.

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**All ministry volunteers must be double vaccinated**  
**18 / 19 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Brigid Arthur, Becca Beights

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Lou Bevilacqua, Maria Kovacevic

(currently only one volunteer needed at mass)

C / L: Lina Tesoriero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Volunteer needed

### Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Daniel O'Connor

C / L: Nancye Edwards / Caroline Price, Anna Griffiths

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Liturgy Team