

# 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 DECEMBER 2023 FIRST 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 Ministry Leader:** Christine Mitchell  
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**Office Manager:** Jane Hearnese  
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**SHM Pastoral Care Worker:**  
Karen Englebretsen  
[kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org](mailto:kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org)

**St Columba Principal / REC:**  
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)

**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](mailto:domtess1@gmail.com)

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

### **Advent: Hope in Vigilant Waiting**

In the season of Advent, we await the coming of Christ on all the levels which we experience time: in the past as a baby born in humble circumstances; in the present: as grace in our lives and in the future at the end of time.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we light the Prophets candle, symbolising hope. Traditionally this was in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ, representing the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. We start reading from the Gospel of Mark, who this week calls us to 'Stay awake, be ready'.

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of hope in vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate and to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary, but it does not stay there. On the contrary, we are invited to let these light flows through our lives, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, we are invited to not only celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. As we wait for the Lord, the Word of love, not only do we watch but we are called to act in the name of God, through the heart of Jesus. Advent calls us to commit to living in the present with a sense of responsibility and vigilance.

Stay Awake and be ready.

Jesuit priest, Andrew Cameron-Mowat ([www.thinkingfaith.org/articles](http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles)) states that: "The prophetic voice of Isaiah speaks directly to us with surprising and ever-contemporary force. Isaiah reminds us that we must be in right relationship with God, particularly in times of distress... Isaiah was speaking at a time when the people were not following the ways of the Covenant. His words are also contemporary... "We are experiencing some much uncertainty: war, climate crisis, intolerance and persecution, economic uncertainty and in all of this, "Isaiah's words continue to encourage us with their promise of hope. 'Console my people, console them' says your God', (40:1) proclaims the Prophet.' The scriptures for the Second Sunday in Advent echo this theme of reassurance in difficult times. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (Psalm 84)."

Pope Francis encourages us with his words of hope in uncertain times: "Life is often a desert; it is difficult to walk, but if we trust in God, it can become beautiful and wide as a highway. Never lose hope; continue to believe, always, in spite of everything... Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable."

"As we move further into Advent the voice of Isaiah continues to call to us, with his vision of a promise yet to be fulfilled, his words of comfort and hope yet to be realised fully. For Christians it is Christ who "brings good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to those in prison." (Isaiah 61:1-2) The kingdom we long for needs each one of us to hear this good news, to have our own hearts healed. We need truly to hear the voice of truth and to proclaim it. As Christ heals us, so he also sends us out to complete the mission he gave to his disciples. The child born in Bethlehem enters a world still very much in need of its saviour.

Our Emmanuel is to be the fulfilment of the hopes and dreams of generations. Isaiah prophesied that "the maiden is with child" to emphasise that no matter how terrible and fearful the situation, God would not abandon the people. As we continue to hope and pray for the glory of the Kingdom of Christ, we dream with the prophet during Advent for the grace of lasting peace and unfailing love."

Stay awake, watch, act so we are ready.

## 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.

## 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.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS CONCERT

**Sacred Heart Church: Monday 11 December 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

We are bringing our Parish and wider community together for a special Christmas concert led by our combined Parish and Community Choir. We are inviting our School, Mission and St Vinnies community along with our neighbouring Churches and the wider community, to join in this celebration of community and Christmas. This will be a free event and refreshments will be provided; however, we ask people to bring non-perishable food items to donate to Vinnies to help them to provide food for families in need all year round.

### Volunteers needed

The social committee is hoping to harness some of our wonderful parishioners as volunteers on the night. There is a sign up sheet at the back of church where you can indicate if you can bring something for supper, help with set up or clean up, serve supper, welcome people, escort people from SHC aged care or help with transport. Given this is a one off event and that the social committee will be overseeing all activities, you do not require a WWCC except if you will be helping to escort the aged care residents. We thank everyone for their support of this process which helps to keep everyone safe.

## 2024 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The iconic Columban Art Calendars are available for purchase from Anne at the piety stall at Sacred Heart or from Christine at St Columba. At only \$10 they are a beautiful gift for family and friends.

## THE ADVENT CREDO

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss

This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction.

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever.

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councillor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world.

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers.

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history.

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ – the life of the world.

*[Source: The Rev. Allan Boesak, published in "Gathered for Life: Official Report, VI Assembly, World Council of Churches", ed. David Gill (Geneva: WCC Publications, 1983), 228-229.]*

## CHRISTMAS MORNING CUPPA

This coming Wednesday, 6 December at 11.00 a.m., Sr Brigid will be hosting our monthly morning cuppa at the parish house in Elwood. This will have a definite Christmas flavour and will be the last one for 2023. So, come along and spend an hour chatting, connecting and making friends over a cuppa and something yummy to eat!



## ADVENT BOOKS

Copies of the Diocese of Wollongong's, *The Sign*, which offers scripture reflections during Advent and Christmas, are available for purchase from Anne at Sacred Heart or Christine at St Columba for \$5.

## CHRISTMAS MASS DATES

Saturday, 23 December: fourth week of Advent

\* St Columba @ 6.00 p.m.

Sunday, 24 December: fourth week of Advent

\* Sacred Heart @ 11.00 a.m.

(There WILL BE NO 9.00 a.m. Mass)

**Sunday, 24 December: Christmas Eve Family Mass**

\* St Columba: Carols at 5.30 p.m.; Mass at 6.00 p.m.

\* Sacred Heart: Carols at 10.30 p.m.; Mass at 11.00 p.m.

**Monday, 25 December: Christmas Day**

\* St Columba: 9.00 a.m.

\* Sacred Heart: 11.00 a.m.



## Reconciliation for Christmas

### First Rite:

Saturday, 16 December at 9.00 a.m., St Columba

Saturday, 16 December at 10.00 a.m., Sacred Heart

### Communal Reconciliation:

Monday, 18 December at 7.00 p.m. St Columba Church

## PARISH CHRISTMAS BBQ

Our wonderful Brazilian BBQers are getting their sizzle on in preparation for our Christmas BBQ. Please join us on **Sunday 10 December at 12.30pm** at the Parish House pergola for a chance to catch up with old and new friends.

Meat and vegetarian options supplied as well as drinks. Parishioners are asked to bring along a salad or dessert to share. We can arrange a lift for those who need it so please indicate that too. There are sign up sheets at the back of church or you can RSVP via our website:

<https://www.shscparish.org.au/event-details/parish-bbq-1>

## VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023 – WE NEED YOUR HELP

In 2023, our Vinnies Conference visited over 250 families and individuals in Elwood and St Kilda. The most requested assistance was for food, clothing, and furniture.

This year, our Conference will pack and deliver 80 Christmas hampers to many of those we have visited.

So how can you help?

There are three ways you can help:

**Donate hamper items** – We wish to pack in each hamper; tinned ham, mince tarts, chocolate biscuits, lollies, canned salmon, tinned fruit, tea, jelly, iced fruit cake, & pudding.

**Donate funds** – Don't have the time? Make a donation and our volunteers will purchase hamper items on your behalf. All monetary donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

**Donate time** – Help us pack hampers on Saturday, 9 December at 10am at St Columba's Church. Join us to deliver hampers too. We will be finished by 12 midday. Thank you for your ongoing support of our work – we couldn't do it without you! If you wish to get involved, please speak to Laura Alfonso, Alecia Rathbone, Helen Freris or email Dom Tesoriero at [dtco@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dtco@bigpond.net.au)

## NATIONAL HOMELESS COLLECTIVE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year we have 300 children on our list who would really love something special this Christmas. This is our biggest Christmas drive yet! We are supporting the Umoona Aboriginal Community in Coober Pedy South Australia as well as children experiencing homelessness across all of Australia. If you are unable to personally provide a gift or would prefer to make a tax deductible donation so we can purchase a gift on your behalf, please contact us on: [info@nhcollective.org.au](mailto:info@nhcollective.org.au) to find out how you can do this. We are specifically after gifts of the following: footballs, basketballs, cricket sets, skateboards (large and small), baby dolls and accessories, barbie dolls, toys for children under 1 and between 1-2; kids musical instruments, Play Doh, gifts suitable for teenagers, donations of wrapping paper and Christmas tags.

We will be having drop off days on the following dates at our warehouse: 6/55 Parer Road Airport West VIC 3042 on the following days: 2, 3, December from 11.00 – 2.00 p.m.; 9, 11 December from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Or you can post gifts to us at the above address. Please donate gifts UNWRAPPED. We need to be able to see what the gift is so we know when we have enough of one type of gift and what others we still need to collect. Please understand we cannot accept second hand or used gifts.

## CREATION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE: COP 28

The annual United Nations Climate Change Conference will run from 30 November to 12 December in Dubai. All Christians are asked to pray for wisdom, courage and co-operation for global leaders as they gather to set ambitious targets so that strong, decisive action can be taken on climate change.

## ADVENT BLESSING FROM JESUIT AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

Advent Blessings From Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality: During Advent, the Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia are offering an online blessing a day. Advent, the 28 days before Christmas, is all about hope, as we await the feast of God becoming human and living among us. Hope can take a real battering amid the stresses of broken life, violence between nations, and being disconnected from others, we can feel hope draining out of us.

The Jesuits are offering a happy gift daily for healing and building of hope for the 28 days of Advent.

To register for these free daily blessings, visit the website: <https://jisa.org.au>

## BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2024 (BOTW)

We have ordered copies of Break Open the Word 2024 and they are available for purchase. BOTW is a great resource for the liturgical year, particularly for those who volunteer as Lectors. We ask for \$15 to help with the cost. Please let Jane or Christine know if you'd like to have a copy.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, make us turn to you,  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 13: 33-37

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 4 December - SUNDAY 10 December 2023**

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

**THURSDAY** 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

**FRIDAY** 9.00am MASS at 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: Mark 1: 1-8

## MASSIVE MURRAY PADDLE FUNDRAISING FOR SHM

For a 3 years prior to Covid a team from / connected to St Columba Primary School have competed in the annual Massive Murray Paddle, a 415km, 5 day race on the Murray. This year saw 2 teams return for the challenge.



**The Mad Hungarian** (Andy, the BASC owner/operator) and her husband **Neil** completed the entire race and were the fastest boat on the water, finishing second overall in a handicap finish.

**The Y-Nots** were a relay team of 7 ex St Columba mothers/friends with a few new faces and they put in another incredible effort. Fundraising efforts saw them make a total of \$5070.00. This has taken their achievements to \$30,000 raised for Sacred Heart Mission over 4 Massive Murray Paddles. Congratulations and a huge thank you to this amazing group of people.



A great video is available on YouTube if you'd like to see more.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9a7EzdfnV8A>

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

**All Recently Deceased:** Gerard McCarthy (Fr John's cousin)

**1st Anniversaries:** Graeme Corners, Mary Conney, Sean Deville, Bernadette Jennings.

**Anniversaries:** Ethan Carmichael, Stephen Keegan Ondrej Soukup, Roger Graham, Maurice Kay, Karl Roberts, Jason Curran, Ernie O'Keeffe 3.12.2019, Dorothy Corcoran, Raphael Ruske, Mrs Amad, Bob Collins Anthony Ellul, Merrill Lees, Pamela Pimento, Merrill Lees, Eva Bebjewsky, Thérèse Mitchell 6.12.2015, Norman Garland, Naser Azari, Lucas Santos Fraga, Robin Wheatley, 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, D. 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, Maria Duca, Nicola Duca, Nicola & Maria Panella, Paolo & Maria Duca, Nunziata Panettieri, Denise McAlorum 24.12.03, Gavin Curran 23.12.11

**Sick:** All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell. Luke Dennis, Michael Meagher, Richard Davis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright (Sydney), MaryAnne Culhan, Chail and her husband Callum, Norma Childers (Texas - Becca's grandma), Patrick McCaffey.

**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](mailto:jane@shscparish.org.au)**

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**9 / 10 December: Second Sunday of Advent**

**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Ilott

C / L: Meg Taylor, Bronwyn Ilott

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:** Liturgy Team