

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 27 March 2022 Fourth Sunday of 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 Associate: Christine Mitchell
christine@shscparish.org.au

Parish Administrator: Jane Hearnese
jane@shscparish.org.au

SHM Pastoral Care Worker:

Karen Englebretsen
kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org

St Columba Principal:

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: Jacquie
Robillard svdpeskw@gmail.com

Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary

Please contact the parish office.

Reflection on the Gospel - an Extract from "The Prodigal Son - A Lenten Story"

by Deacon Greg Lambert in Catholic Stand <https://www.catholicstand.com/the-prodigal-son-a-lenten-story/>

If only one piece of Scripture survived in a post-apocalyptic world, the parable of the Prodigal Son would suffice for the propagation of the Gospel. The three main characters, father, son and elder brother portray God's love and forgiveness in a unique and compelling way. The two great commandments of loving God and loving our neighbour are presented in a fashion that is multilayered and rich in content and context.

The Father

To be wealthy in ancient Palestine, one would have to own land and livestock. Having sons would be integral to managing the holdings in addition to ensuring an equitable transfer of assets at the appropriate time. The time, traditionally, would be as death was imminent. For a son to ask a father for a share of his inheritance ahead of time would defy tradition and propriety. The father would have been completely within his rights to refuse the request and put the subject to rest. Instead, the son's request is granted. At this point in the narrative, the father's reasons for acquiescing are unknown. Whether out of weakness or sympathy, the die was cast and the story continues. Fasting from the exercise of power and the immediate solution to a serious problem could have easily been at play here.

The Prodigal Son

Who among us has not let money "burn a hole in our pockets"? Even if some of us remain frugal and moderate in our lives, we certainly know of the prodigal behaviour of others. When we hear of someone squandering money, time or talent in a flagrant way, we can find false consolation by measuring our sins against theirs. Even though the wayward son had dissipated his inheritance and was forced to fast as a result, the benefit of doing without eventually led him to repentance.

The Elder Brother

Of all the sins committed among these three, the sin of the elder brother ultimately carries the most weight. The father forgave, and the prodigal son asked for and received his forgiveness. The elder brother remained in his bitterness and lack of forgiveness, and as a result absented himself from the feast that was given celebrating his brother's return. In spite of his being invited and welcomed to take his place at the table, he chose self-exclusion. If we view the feast as a comparison to the Eschatological Banquet, and the elder brother's self-exclusion, we can see that fasting from bitterness would have been just what was needed for reconciliation in the family. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the state of Hell as "definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed" (CCC § 1033). The elder brother, at least as far as the parable takes us, chose to exclude himself from the rest of the community. I would like to think that, eventually, the elder brother came to his senses and joined the festivities. To do so, he would have had to fast from his bitterness to make room for forgiveness and mercy.

Forty Days of Grace

Let us pray for all of the blessings that God has placed in our forty days of Lent. Some are directly on our path while others are hidden from direct view; still others are "blessings in disguise". We can use the examples of the repentance of the Prodigal Son, the boundless mercy of his father and the challenge to fast from bitterness offered to the elder brother, to guide us on our journey toward Easter.

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 very special welcome to two local families whose three children are being baptised this weekend at St Columba. We pray blessings for **Harry, Scarlett and Thomas** and for **Vivienne, Genevieve and Gwendolen** as they grow in faith and love of their families.

A very warm welcome to our **Gr 3 - 6 school community** who join us at 6pm Mass. Thank you to the children, families and staff for their support and involvement.

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.

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS

We are pleased that we can recommence hospitality at our churches but we still need to operate under COVID safety precautions.

Due to the risks of COVID-19, food, drinks, crockery, utensils and vessels (such as spoons and cups) or other communal equipment should not be shared by attendees.

Victorian Government 21 1 March 2022

We will have supper after the Easter Vigil at St Columba and after 11am Mass on Easter Sunday at Sacred Heart. Tea / coffee and all food will be provided in individual serves.

We are looking for two volunteers to work with Anne at Sacred Heart on Easter Sunday. Please see Anne or contact the office if you are able to help.

FUNERAL FOR MATILDA FOSTER

Next **Tuesday, 29 March at 10.00 a.m.**, we will be farewelling long-term resident and Legionary from the Legion of Mary at St Columba Church. Those who have attended the 9.00 a.m. Mass for a long time will remember Mathilda being dropped off for Mass at the front door with her wheelie and making her way up the front until the time where she could no longer do this and went into care. The Legion of Mary continued to visit or call her up until her last days. We thank them for their care and comfort, along with other community visitors who visit the house-bound or those in care. We witness the presence of Jesus in their compassionate outreach to those who otherwise would be isolated or separated from their community.

OUR LENTEN PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, let us fast from judging others,
But feast on patience.

Let us fast from apparent difference,
But feast on unity for all life.

Let us fast on words that pollute,
But feast on words that affirm.

Let us fast on complaining,
But feast on appreciation.

Let us fast on bitterness and anger,
But feast on forgiveness and mercy.

Let us fast from discouragement,
But feast on hope.

Let us fast from suspicion,
But feast on trust.

Let us fast from idle gossip,
But feast on purposeful silence.

Let us fast from problems that overwhelm
But feast on prayer that strengthens.

Amen.

AN EARLY REMINDER

Next weekend, Sunday 3 April, Daylight Savings will end. We will celebrate that by sleeping an extra hour on Sunday. Don't forget to **turn back** your clocks by an hour when you go to sleep on Saturday night, 2 April.

PALM SUNDAY WALK FOR JUSTICE & FREEDOM FOR REFUGEES

Currently, there are still just under 1,200 refugees and people seeking asylum indefinitely and arbitrarily detained in Australian onshore immigration facilities.

In advocating for a more just and humane processing system in Australia, the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) would like to invite teachers, students, principals, parents, parishioners, priests and individuals from Catholic schools, churches and communities across Victoria to join us as we march together on Palm Sunday at the Walk for Justice & Freedom for Refugees. The Palm Sunday Walk brings all people together to advocate for one key thing: justice and freedom for refugees in Australia. The key messages for this year's walk are: *End the cruelty; freedom; safe and secure futures.*

Date: Palm Sunday, 10 April **Time:** 2.00 p.m. (music from 1:30pm, with speeches starting at 2:00pm). **Location:** State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Carlton. For further information, email: info@capsa.org.au or call 0409 252 673.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/> or by calling 1800 024 413.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS & TRIDUUM

MONDAY 11 APRIL

Communal Reconciliation, 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church

TUESDAY 12 APRIL

SHM Easter Liturgy, 10.30am Sacred Heart Church

HOLY THURSDAY 14 APRIL

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

7.00pm St Columba Church

GOOD FRIDAY 15 APRIL

Ecumenical Service

9.30am Holy Trinity Anglican Church

175 Chapel Street, Balaclava
and

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

3.00pm Sacred Heart Church

EASTER VIGIL 16 APRIL

7.00pm St Columba Church

Please meet at 6.45pm in the Parish House car park for the lighting ceremony

EASTER SUNDAY 17 APRIL

9.00am St Columba Church

11.00am Sacred Heart Church

CONSECRATING UKRAINE & RUSSIA TO OUR LADY'S INTERCESSION

On Friday 25 March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Pope Francis, with bishops around the world, consecrated Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This act of consecration seeks to place Ukraine and Russia, and their peoples, under the protection of Mary, and seeks God's peace through Mary's intercession. Archbishop Comensoli who held a Mass for this consecration at 7.00 a.m. on Friday morning has asked all parishes to do this prayer, either within Mass or at home. He said that, 'The people of both Ukraine and Russia desperately need our spiritual work of mercy, and our union with them in prayer. May conversion of hearts and minds be foremost in our prayer, along with prayer for the safety and protection of the people in those cities of Ukraine being targeted.'

We have inserted this Act of Consecration for those wishing to make the prayer at home or on a daily basis.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS TO GASWORKS SHOW

Kindly supported by RISE Fund (Australian Government), we are pleased to offer **up to 25 free tickets** to you for the performance, **The Chimerical**. The all-ages and wheel-chair friendly performance is scheduled with sessions from 11 to 14 May. More information: <https://gasworks.org.au/whatson/chimerical>. The limited sponsored seats (Full price ~\$32) are first-come first-served. Please email Jane at the office with your name, date of performance and number of tickets ASAP.

EASTER TRIDUUM VOLUNTEERS

Our wonderful period of Easter Triduum is fast approaching and we are asking help from our wonderful volunteers again. We are looking for volunteers for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil. There are separate sheets at the back of church for each mass. Please record your name and email / phone number if you can help out at one or more. We warmly welcome new volunteers also, training and support will be provided. THANK YOU!

Sunday 3 April 2022

ELWOOD Children's MARKET
24 Glen Huntly Rd, Elwood

EASTER EGG HUNT
Join our free Easter Egg Hunt and meet the bunny!

Come shopping
We sell 2nd hand toys, books, clothes, gifts, food, & great coffee

from 10 am - 1 pm

ST COLUMBA'S PRIMARY

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTIN

Three years ago, Martin and his then pregnant wife, Veronica arrived in our parish as Martin began his Phd in cardiac research at Monash University and the Baker Institute. Originally joining the Sacred Heart community, where we baptised their daughter, Chimamanda on Christmas day, Martin began attending the 6.00 p.m. Mass and became a Eucharist minister and also took on the role of setting-up for Mass, until baby duties and other commitments prevented this continuing. Veronica joined the St Columba playgroup with Chimamanda and both continued to be part of our worshipping community where they could. As you can see from the picture Martin, or should we say, Dr Ezeani has now completed his Phd, contributing to the medical knowledge in this country from which many will benefit. His talents have been recognised by Stanford University who have offered him a post-doctoral position, and sadly for us, the Ezeani family will be leaving us in a couple of months. We wish Martin our congratulations on his degree and pray for them as they will soon begin a new life in America.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12

Responsorial Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 28 March - SUNDAY 3 April 2022

MONDAY 2.00pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community (restricted access due to Covid)

TUESDAY 10.00am Funeral Mass for Matilda Foster at St Columba Church

THURSDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9.00am MASS at St Columba Church

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: John 8: 8-11

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Envelopes \$97.00

Loose cash \$228.65

Total \$325.65

Average for 12 weeks \$472.77

PRESBYTERY COLLECTION

Envelopes \$222.40

Average for 12 weeks \$260.58



PARISH SERVICE AND SUPPORT

You can contribute to the Church (1st) and/or Presbytery (2nd) collection through Tithe.ly - [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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Matilda Foster

1st Anniversary: David Griffin, Thomas Szabo

Anniversaries: 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 13.3.10, 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: Di Lopez, Michael Cash, Carole Patten, 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.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

All ministry volunteers must be double vaccinated
2 / 3 April: 5th Sunday of Lent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Joan Davies, Rica Garcia

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Peter Bowes

C / L: Tony Lopes, Volunteer needed

Set up: Christine and Trevor

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes

C / L: Helen Freris, Jane Sims / Daniel O'Connor

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Lent - Liturgy Team - Ancita