

# 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 3 April 2022 Fifth 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](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:**  
Karen Englebretsen  
[kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org](mailto:kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org)

**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)

**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.

### **Reflection on the Gospel by Pope Francis- Mercy in Action**

Produced by the Diocese of Wollongong; Faith Circles [faithcircles.dow.org.au](http://faithcircles.dow.org.au)

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the liturgy presents us the episode of the adulterous woman. In it, there are two contrasting attitudes: that of the scribes and the Pharisees on the one hand, and that of Jesus on the other. The former want to condemn the woman because they feel they are the guardians of the Law and of its faithful implementation. Jesus, on the other hand, wants to save her because he personifies God's mercy which redeems by forgiving and renews by reconciling.

Let us thus look at the event. While Jesus is teaching in the Temple, the scribes and the Pharisees bring him a woman who has been caught in adultery. They place her in the middle and ask Jesus if they should stone her as the Law of Moses prescribes. The Evangelist explains that they asked the question in order "to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him". One might think that this was their purpose: behold the iniquity of these people – a 'no' to the stoning would have been a pretext to accuse Jesus of disobeying the Law; a 'yes' instead, to report him to the Roman Authority which had reserved such sentences to itself and did not permit lynching by the people. And Jesus must respond.

Jesus' interrogators are confined to narrow legalism and want to oblige the Son of God to conform to their perspective of judgment and condemnation. However, he did not come into the world to judge and condemn, but rather to save and offer people a new life. And how does Jesus react to this test? First of all, he remains silent for some time and then he bends down to write on the ground with his finger, almost as if to remind them that the only Legislator and Judge is God who had inscribed the Law on stone. And then he says: "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her". In this way, Jesus appeals to the conscience of those men: they felt they were the 'champions of justice', but he reminds them of their own condition as sinners, due to which they cannot claim the right to life or death over one of their fellow human beings. At that point, one after the other, beginning with the eldest – that is, those who were more fully aware of their own failings – they all went away, and desisted from stoning the woman. This episode also invites each of us to be aware that we are sinners, and to let fall from our hands the stones of denigration, of condemnation, of gossip, which at times we would like to cast at others. When we speak ill of others, we are throwing stones, we are like these people.

And in the end only Jesus and the woman are left there in the middle: "misery with mercy", as Saint Augustine says. Jesus is the only one without fault, the only one who could throw a stone at her, but he does not do so, because God "does not want the death of the wicked but that the wicked convert and live" (cf. Ez 33:11). And Jesus sends the woman on her way with these wonderful words: "Go and do not sin again". And thus Jesus opens a new path to her, created by mercy, a path that requires her commitment not to sin again. It is an invitation that applies to each one of us. When Jesus forgives us, he always opens a new path on which to go forward. In this Lenten Season, we are called to recognize ourselves as sinners and to ask God for forgiveness. And, in its turn, while forgiveness reconciles us and gives us peace, it lets us start again, renewed. Every true conversion is oriented toward a new future, a new life, a beautiful life, a life free from sin, a generous life. Let us not be afraid to ask Jesus for forgiveness because he opens the door to this new life for us. May the Virgin Mary help us to bear witness to all of the merciful love of God, who through Jesus, forgives us and renders our lives new, by always offering us new possibilities.

## 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 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.

## NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF THE CROSS AND PASSION:

Thank you for your warm welcome. We appreciate the opportunity to share in your parish community life. Presently we are participating in a Congregation assembly/Chapter by zoom, which is taking place by night until April 10th.

We have been having regular international meetings over the last two years via zoom in preparation which has helped us connect across continents. Our theme on this journey is 'walking together into the future with hope.'

We are a very small group of women with a strong desire to be Passionists for our time, grateful for signs of life, hope and new beginnings.. We appreciate your prayers on this journey which we hope will be fruitful.

*Bridget & Karen*

## 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.

## OUR LENTEN PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Only in love can I find you, my God.

In love the gates of my soul spring open,  
allowing me to breathe a new air of freedom  
and forget my own petty self.

In love my whole being streams forth out of the  
rigid confines of narrowness and anxious self-assertion,  
which make me a prisoner of my own poverty emptiness.

In love all the powers of my soul flow out toward you,  
wanting never more to return,  
but to lose themselves completely in you,  
since by your love you are the inmost center of my heart,  
closer to me than I am to myself."

— *Karl Rahner*

## 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!

## 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](mailto:info@capsa.org.au) or call 0409 252 673.

## COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

If you were wishing to have individual reconciliation but did not get the chance on Saturday, there is the opportunity before Easter to have Communal Reconciliation on **Monday, 11 April at Sacred Heart at 7.00 p.m.**

## CHRISM MASS

Each year during Holy Week, the Archbishop consecrates a new set of oils for every Parish in the Archdiocese that will be used over the year. At this Mass the People of God join with priests as the Archbishop consecrates the oils used in the mission of our church. We honour the oils of:

- Chrism - used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the ordination of priests;
- Catechumen - used in Baptism and the RCIA for strength at the start of one's faith journey;
- Healing - for healing, renewal and peace.

The laity join with priests as they renew their priestly promises, and the laity rededicate their Baptismal call. The oils come back into the parish to be used for the Lord's healing presence through the heart of Jesus, and the action of the life-giving gift of the Holy Spirit.

Fr John would like members of our parish to join in at this Chrism Mass on **Tuesday, 12 April @ 7.30 p.m., St Patrick's Cathedral**. If you would like to go along, please email or call Jane in the office to be on the list.

## NEWS FROM THE VATICAN

New Apostolic Constitution: *Praedicate evangelium* ("Preach the Gospel")

News this week from the Vatican concerns the reforming and reshaping of the curia so as to bring it more in line to fulfil its missionary and evangelical objectives. For those who are wondering,

"The curia comprises the administrative institutions of the Holy See and the central body through which the affairs of the Church are conducted. It acts in the Pope's name and with his authority." Some of the changes include.

1. The distinction between pontifical councils and congregations have been removed. All bodies are now referred to as 'dicasteries', a generic term for religious offices.
2. The Constitution emphasises the importance of local bishop's conferences, and stresses that the purpose of the curia is to work collaboratively (or synodally) with local churches instead of over them. They are fundamentally instruments of service.
3. All appointments will be for five years maximum, unless someone is particularly competent at their job.
4. Appointees need to be suitably qualified for their positions.
5. Historically, the laity have not been permitted leadership positions in the curial offices. This now changes.
6. The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors will be incorporated into the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (formerly the CDF).

This Commission will still operate independently, despite being incorporated into the above Dicastery. The head of the Commission, Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, stated that, "For the first time, Pope Francis has made safeguarding and the protection of minors a fundamental part of the structure of the Church's central government."

## CONGRATULATIONS ADRIAN

Huge congratulations to our multi talented parishioner Adrian Cropley and his company, Cropley Communications, for winning a Bronze Quill Award for 2021. Adrian was a winner in the Audio / Visual Category for his production of our weekly 'Virtual Mass'. We are so fortunate to have Adrian and our other wonderful live-streaming team to help those near and far who can't attend mass in person.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PLENARY COUNCIL

As the Lenten season continues, we prepare as a community of missionary disciples for Easter. A time of death, waiting and resurrection. A time when our humanity is conquered by our shared divinity. A time when through Christ, we reconcile with God, and with one another.

Since its inception, the journey of the Plenary Council has been an act of faith -- a belief that, through our common baptism we can bridge difference, overcome barriers, find ways to reconcile and heal, and nurture seedlings of hope. The past four weeks has been a time of prayer and conversation for the 281 commissioned Members of the Plenary Council, who were asked to discern the draft proposals leading the Church to become more missionary and more Christ-like.

In the coming month, their feedback will be received by the Drafting Committee and formulated into a nearly-final draft which will be the program for the second general assembly to be held in Sydney in July. The program and the finalised propositions for the Church in Australia which the Assembly will discern together will be published in early June.

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Preparation of children for sacraments will soon begin in the Parish. Anyone knowing of families who would like to be part of this program, please ask them to contact Christine on: [Christine@shscparish.org.au](mailto:Christine@shscparish.org.au) These include the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

## HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS

We are pleased that we can recommence hospitality at our churches but we still need to operate under COVID safety precautions. Please see Anne at Sacred Heart if you can help her on Easter Sunday.

## RCIA

As we progress to Holy Week, please remember our candidate Damian in your prayers, who will receive full initiation into the Catholic Church through Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Damian has been accompanied by the RCIA team over the last few months and has been attending the 6.00 p.m. Mass. We pray that he continues to encounter God through the life-giving of heart of Jesus and he may feel welcomed into our community.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Isaiah 43: 16-21

**Responsorial Psalm:**

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 3: 8-14

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel:** John: 8: 8-11

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 4 April - SUNDAY 10 April 2022**

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

**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: Luke 19: 28-40

## EASTER TRIDUUM

**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

**COLLECTIONS: Last weekend's will be published next week  
as our wonderful money counter is away on holidays.**

## PARISH SERVICE AND SUPPORT

You can contribute to the Church (1st) and/or Presbytery (2nd) collection through [Tithe.ly](https://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](https://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:** Patricia Gardner, Ron Mitchell

**1st Anniversary:** Mark Kennedy, Michael Mongan, Marco D'Ambrosio.

**4th Anniversary:** Fr Ernie Smith 28.3.18

**Anniversaries:** Pierina Bevilacqua 5.4.20, Ray Monagle 5.4.20, Virgilio and Beatrice Tarquinio, Margaret Cooper, Elena Torrejano, Mary Shea, Tom Wood, Assunta Vinicio, Irma Semezyszym, Chris Gilligan, Elsie O'Shaunessy, Angelo Mastrangelo, Angela Portelli, Sr Ann Manning, Paolina Gurró-Isgró & Filippa Isgró, Joseph McHugh, 15.4.1979 Siobhan Green, Gayle DeAraugo, Leon La Gruta, Sr Rose Murphy, Gus Carpenter, Nic Borgia, Fr Maurice Lou Heriot, Ben & Shannon McAuliffe's twin baby girls, Fr Desmond Byrne, Doreen Jewell, Helen Haddad, Neville Gittany, Sally Marks 29.4.13 Marie Fisher 28.4, Merve Beard, Mavis Wylie 6.4, David Nightingale, Michael Laraghy, Jurek Bebejewski, Tony Fonti 24.4.09, Graeme Geebung, Stephanie Skukan, Bert Briglia, Luke Domsek; John Philips 9.4.11, Jimmy Dalton 7.4.10, David O'Donoghue 2010, Nunziata Panettieri, Geoffrey Cooper 19.4.95, John Joseph Doolan 18.4.00, Honor Josephine Courtney 16.4.75, Kevin Donal Courtney 19.4.74, Michele Pescatore, Maria Duca, Anthony Haddad, John Haddad, Allan Amad, Vicky Amad, Debly Amad.

**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**

**9 / 10 April: PALM SUNDAY**

**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Meg Taylor, Bronwyn Illott

Set up: Meg Taylor

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Chest, Frances Pititto

C / L: Tony Lopes, Volunteer needed

Set up: Christine and Trevor

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Christina Sicilianot

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

**Prayer of the Faithful: Lent** - Liturgy Team - Melanie

