

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 30 / 31 AUGUST 2025 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 Petrulis
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

St Columba Principal / REC:

Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Natalie Cromie
ncromie@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Safeguarding Committee:

Fr John Petrulis, 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.

Social Justice Sunday 2025

On this Social Justice Sunday, Australia's Bishops invite us to be Signs of Hope to People Living on the Edge. While the Social Justice Statement focuses on people who are homeless with mental health, we know from the work of our Sacred Heart Mission, St Vincent de Paul and the Bridgine Asylum Seekers that homelessness can come occur through many circumstances. We have taken a story from the report about an older woman who suddenly found herself overwhelmed by life's circumstances.

Carol's Story, aged 67 [Not her real name]

"Carol remembers the plans she shared with her late husband. They were supposed to retire together and plant a veggie patch filled with cherry tomatoes, carrots and their favourite flowers. Sadly, her life took an unexpected turn when her beloved husband, Tom, passed away.

After his death, Carol struggled to afford the mortgage on her own. The death of her husband left Carol with no options; she was evicted from her home and became homeless. Carol put her name down on the list for public housing, something she never imagined she would have to do. Without a place to stay she sought work as a hospital cleaner to make ends meet and managed to find a small room above a local pub. With only a single bed, drawer and a coffee table, the small room was a huge contrast to the warm and loving home she once shared with her late husband.

One week at the pub quickly turned into months and what was meant to be a short-term solution was starting to feel permanent. Each night as she tried to sleep through the loud sounds from the pub downstairs, she felt lost, completely alone and was losing hope. Thankfully, Mission Australia connected with Carol and provided her with the help she needed. They helped her with everyday tasks like managing overdue bills and guided Carol through the complex and overwhelming housing system to ensure she was placed on a priority list. Most importantly, they listened to Carol and supported her through a difficult and lonely period of her life.

Many older people like Carol are at risk of homelessness. One in seven people living in homelessness in Australia is over 55. Older people can find themselves homeless because of financial instability as in Carol's case. It can also be triggered by elder abuse, disability or illness."

One of the late Pope Francis's favourite phrases was "the culture of encounter". We are called to be attentive to those around us, especially those who suffer in any way. God has always been the friend and champion of those on the edges of society, and our challenge as Christians is to do likewise, no matter our discomfort or fear. In fact, the humble solidarity of Jesus and his followers is the how the gospel comes alive in our time.

On this Social Justice Sunday, we are encouraged to be pilgrims who provide hope to those on the edges of society. As Pope Francis said in a homily on the 23 September 2016, it is, "Not just seeing, but looking; not just hearing, but listening; not just passing people by, but stopping with them; not just saying 'what a shame, poor people!', but allowing yourself to be moved with compassion; "and then to draw near, to touch and to say: 'Do not weep' and to give at least a drop of life".

Reflection:

- If I was dwelling in that Carol's situation, what would I be feeling? Where would I go?
- Reading Carol's story, what does this awaken in my heart?
- How can I respond? Encounter? Volunteer? Pray?
- How can I contribute to a world of greater dignity and equality?
- Will I make this an intentional commitment from here onwards.

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. Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding Committee if you have any concerns or ideas.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

In keeping with our commitment to keeping our community safe and providing a safe environment for all, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults, we will celebrate our annual Safeguarding Weekend next weekend, 6 / 7 September. During August we will focus on and promote a number of safeguarding initiatives.

Our Safeguarding Weekend will focus on the deeper meaning of 'Safeguarding' as we continue to strengthen the culture of care in our community. Our parish holds the values of dignity, commitment to justice and care for the vulnerable at its heart.

We also need to continue our support for the important regulatory and compliance components of Safeguarding, areas that are PLDT and Safeguarding Committee primarily manage for us.

Safeguarding Essentials online training module for clergy, parish staff and volunteers is a mandatory 30-60 minute online training module for all clergy, parish staff and volunteers within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. This accessible and engaging online resource provides clergy, parish staff and volunteers with foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm. Volunteers are required to complete the training every 3 years.

Further details about *Safeguarding Essentials* will be provided next week, including options for completing it at home or in a small group after a weekend mass or at the parish house.

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER

O God, source of life
Your created earth as our home
And us in your image, out of love.
Set our hearts astir with that same love,
That we might build a culture of encounter
And systems that justly serve
Those living on the margins of our society.
Jesus, our brother,
You noticed those living on the edge,
Listened, healed and served them, out of love.
Move us from our embarrassment or discomfort
By those who show us your suffering face.
Instead, may we be taught by them,
Offer our loving friendship
And share your good news together.
Holy Spirit, Source of all Hope,
You inspire our relationships
With transforming power, out of love.
Deepen our vision and enlarge our hearts
So that the fear and isolation
of those living on the edge
may be countered by love's warmth and certainty,
that we might walk together as pilgrims of hope.
Amen.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE WALK POSTPONED

Due to the weather forecast for Saturday we have made the decision to postpone the walk. Thank you to everyone for their understanding. We hope to reschedule the pilgrimage for a Saturday in November.

FIRST EUCHARIST CHILDREN

Please keep in your prayers the parish and school children who will make their First Eucharist on Sunday, 31 August at the 9.00 a.m. Mass. As we wrapped up our weeks of preparation, the children were very excited to be making this sacrament. May they continue to hold the awesomeness of Jesus in their hearts, minds and on their lips. Bless them.



CARITAS AUSTRALIA: GAZA PLEDGE

By 9 September, changes to registration processes for international NGOs threaten to drastically reduce the already insufficient flow of food, water, and medicine into Gaza. While Caritas Australia's locally embedded partners remain unaffected, Caritas Australia has launched a pledge to acknowledge the devastating impact of any further reduction in aid to Gaza.

To learn more and sign the pledge: caritas.org.au/gaza.

Support through signing and sharing the pledge - **closes this Sunday 31 August 2025.**

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2025 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available at the back of the churches. You can also make a gift online at:

www.melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

FREE WEBINAR: THE AGE OF AUTHENTICITY: A NEW PATH TO RENEWAL

In a culture where personal authenticity is often seen as the highest good, how can the Church speak meaningfully to hearts shaped by secularism? Join **Bishop Mark Edwards** and **Sr Kathryn Kingsley, MGL** for a timely and thought-provoking conversation exploring *The Age of Authenticity* through the lens of Charles Taylor's influential work *A Secular Age*. Together, they'll unpack how Taylor's insights help us understand the cultural forces shaping belief today and what this means for the Church's mission of renewal. Across Australia, New Zealand, and other Western contexts, the Church is navigating a cultural moment where traditional expressions of faith no longer resonate as they once did. Understanding the "Age of Authenticity" helps us meet people where they are, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, while offering a path back to a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

This session will offer both rich theological insight and practical reflection, equipping leaders and parish teams with a deeper understanding of today's cultural landscape—and fresh inspiration for mission in a secular age.

Date: Thursday, 18 September from 6.00 - 7.00 p.m.

To register, visit: events@divinerenovation.org

SPIRITUALITY ON THE SOFA

Presented by Catalyst for Renewal, Spirituality on the Sofa will host a free webinar: "Truth: Misinformation, Disinformation and Malinformation", with Josephite Sister, Dr Susan Connelly RSJ and Dr Michael Walker, President of Christian Life Community Australia (CLC), the Ignatian lay community, and Social Justice Facilitator in the Justice and Peace Office, Archdiocese of Sydney. This webinar is part of their 2025 Spirituality on the Sofa theme: *Conscience*. **Details:**

Date: Wednesday, 3 September from 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. via zoom.

To join: Your browser may ask for permission to open Zoom. If so, click "Open Link".

Wait a few seconds: Zoom should start without you needing to click again. Then if prompted, click on "Join with computer audio" or you can cut and paste the following into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82048350522?pwd=zhfqOtf4tbFBCDICXYHePzZFgHh3>

or start Zoom and enter the following:

Meeting ID: 820 4835 0522 Passcode: 384209

SEASON OF CREATION 2025 - STAR CONTEMPLATIONS

On 1 September - 4 October, the church celebrates the Season of Creation. Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia invite all to join them online for this Season in a five-week journey of quiet reflection and gentle inspiration, drawn from the wonder and mystery of the night sky. Each week, you'll receive a short video contemplation, featuring a star-filled image and thoughtful guidance - created to invite stillness, nourish reflection and open space for meaning. These contemplations are not about answers, but invitations - to be present, to wonder and to connect more deeply with creation and the wider universe. The series begins on Thursday 4 September and continues weekly until Thursday 2 October. There is no cost to take part - simply register to receive each video directly to your inbox. If you'd like, you're welcome to make a small contribution in support of the ministry. For further information or to register, email: info@jisa.org.au or register online at: www.jisa.org.au

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The latest edition of the school newsletter is available online. <https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/5ZzPnq5/issue-8/page/cover>

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM STELLA MARIS

In July, we marked Sea Sunday, celebrating the vital mission of Stella Maris. We were blessed to once again hear from our parishioner, Christina Sciliano, who shared an insightful presentation on the incredible work Stella Maris carries out in caring for seafarers - the mariners who spend long months away from home. Christina spoke about the immense challenges these workers face and the comfort, welcome and support that Stella Maris offers them. We are deeply grateful for the generous financial contributions from our parish community, which will help sustain this important ministry. We have received a letter of thanks from the Melbourne President, Paul Kucera, who writes:

"Stella Maris Melbourne has received a donation of \$1,250 from collections at your parishes for Sea Sunday following talks from our member Christina Sciliano. We wish to sincerely thank you [Fr John] and your parishioners for the generosity and continuing support given to Stella Maris. Stella Maris in Melbourne continues to service seafarers by offering hospitality. All donations are used to maintain the facilities at our Centre as well as the buses used to transport the seafarers to and from their ships. The Centre boasts a comfortable 'home-away-from-home' atmosphere where seafarers can relax away from the confines of their vessels. Please pass on our gratitude to your parishioners and ask them to continue to pray for this important missionary work of the Church."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To our two parish pianists: Paul and Jeferson who both had their birthdays on Wednesday, 27 August. May their stars continue to shine and their music continue to enrich our liturgies.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Sirach 3: 17-20, 28-29

Responsorial Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;

learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 1 September - SUNDAY 7 September 2025

MONDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
THURSDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	9.00am MASS in the Parish House
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 14: 25-33

COLLECTIONS: Last two weekends

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$7.00	Total	\$174.75
Loose cash	\$392.90		
Total	\$399.90		
Average for 33 weeks	\$395.17	Average for 33 weeks	\$229.15

PARISH SERVICE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

You can contribute to the Service and Support Program in a number of ways. Options include; direct debit, credit card, collections at mass, via Tithe.ly - click this link - [tithe.ly https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524](https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524) or download the tithe.ly app, scanning the new QR code and via our Tap n Go machines at mass. To find out more about our Service and Support program you can visit our website <https://www.shscparish.org.au/support-us> or contact Jane at the office.

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.

In addition to the second collection, the parish transfers \$4500 to the Presbytery account each quarter to cover the percentage of direct debit donations earmarked to support Fr John.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Kees Klep, Beth Houlihan, Paul Fisher, Enrico Pescatore

1st Anniversaries: Gino Nardella, Elizabeth Hawes, Reg Robertson, Gerry Walker, Annemarie Fisher, Juan Ignacio Tolosa Correa.

4th Anniversary: Frank Alfonso 16.8.21

Anniversaries: Pat Ferry, Neil Ashton, Steve Turba, Ben Donoghue, Kate Rockell, Cecila Araos, Kathleen Dennis, Bridget Phelan, Genevieve Morcom 23.8, Maria Borgia 13.8.2019, Tim O'Driscoll, Terence Kennedy 23.4.22, Peggy Newman, Gregory Bajien, John Bolger, Adele Foldesi, Greta Fisher, Alecia Barker, Stanley Mendis, Rob King, Garry (Gaz) Stewart, Doug Heighway, Daniel Voyles, Andrew Foletta, Anne Speedie, Maggie McKewan, Ralene Finlay, Steven Benstead, Tina Sylvester 2.8, Des George, Peggy Keane, Nick Cincotta, Ted Leale, John McEvoy, Chris Li Donni, Marie Rosengrave, Emma Johnson, Paul Cumming, Mary Schneider, Patricia Davies, James Hughes, Oliver Moore, Maree Hurley, Patricia Davies, Antonio Amarto, Muriel Hyndman, Muriel Lysiuk, Jeremy Warwarick, Gerard Green, baby Felix, Ray Alsaker, James Foley, Yvonne Gorman, Maria Czajkowski, Fr Michael Sheehy Arthur Carbo 12.8, Jan Altman, Cynthia Griffin, Marion Flanagan, Shane Brennan, Leo Flanagan, Margaret Papworth 16.08.80, Danny Martinov 28.8.11, Peter Burgess 30.8.10, Clare Carmody 1.8.09, Noreen O Connor 14.8.09, Tom King 17.8.09, May Pearce 24.8.11, Lyn Von Oudtshoorn 1.8.09, Daniel Cassar 17.8.05, Shirley Evans 11.8.08, Perc Marten 12.8.97, Cherry Wood- Wallis 21.8.08, Monica Bourke 14.8.00, Therese Johnson 23.8.98, Sheleagh Davidson 3.8.11, Shane Walsh 7.8.11, Robert Callaghan 8.8.1, Rinaldo Cova 9.8.14

Sick: Lol Patten (UK), Jackie Pyster, Ramon Lopez, Colin Meanwell, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Patrick McCaffrey, Sue McLennan, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Ned Connors, Jean Cropley and David Cropley, Rose Fonti, Pat Ficcaro, Lyn Crossly, Nichole Garnaut, Tony Cogo, Paul Hamilton, Rosanna Scutti, Elaine Dillon, Arraya, Peter Contino, Joaquin Do Santos, David Hawe, Alva Pickett, Karen Driscoll, Bernadette Callose, Tim Wilson.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

6 / 7 September Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Joan Davies, Rica Garcia

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Kate Bebejewski, Tony Lopes

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom & friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes

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

Set up: Cecilia Mwangi

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy team