

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 8 / 9 NOVEMBER 2025 DEDICATION OF THE LATERN BASILICA



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 Ministry Leader: Christine Mitchell
christine@shscparish.org.au

Office Manager: Jane Hearn
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 Petrus, Christine Mitchell,
Daniella Maddalena, Jane Hearn

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.

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

In John's Gospel, we encounter a powerful moment when Jesus enters the temple and finds it filled not with prayer but with profit. The sacred space meant for communion with God has become a marketplace. In response, Jesus drives out the merchants and money changers, overturning tables and declaring, *"Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"*

This dramatic scene can feel jarring. We're used to thinking of Jesus as gentle and compassionate, but here we see His righteous anger. Yet this is not uncontrolled fury—it is a passionate defence of what is holy. Jesus is not simply reacting to noise or clutter; he is confronting a deeper distortion: the loss of reverence, the replacement of worship with transaction.

The temple was meant to be a place where heaven touched earth, where people came to encounter the living God. However, over time its purpose had been diluted. In cleansing the temple, Jesus is calling people back to the heart of worship—back to a relationship with God that is sincere, humble and free from distraction. Jesus clears the space, not out of anger alone, but out of love—for the temple, for true worship and for the people who had lost sight of both.

Today, this dramatic moment is paired with the *Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*, the oldest church in the West and the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome. More than a celebration of bricks and mortar, this feast reminds us that the Church is not just a building—it is the Body of Christ, and we are its living stones.

The readings from Ezekiel and Paul deepen this message. Ezekiel's vision of water flowing from the temple, bringing life to everything it touches, is a powerful image of God's grace. The temple is not static—it is a source of healing, fruitfulness and renewal. Likewise, Paul reminds us that *You are God's building... God's temple... and God's Spirit dwells in you.* The foundation is Christ himself and we are called to build our lives upon him with care and integrity.

These readings converge in a profound truth: the true temple is not just a sacred place—it is a sacred people. Like the temple in Jerusalem, our hearts can become cluttered. Jesus' zeal for the temple is also his zeal for us. He longs to clear away what clutters our inner life—resentment, fear, pride—and make space for grace. This cleansing is not a one-time event, but a lifelong journey inward, a continuous entering into the "King's room," as St. Teresa of Avila describes in *The Interior Castle*. We may find ourselves distracted, burdened or spiritually dry. Jesus' cleansing of the temple becomes a personal invitation: to let Him enter, overturn what does not belong and restore us to right relationship.

When challenged by the authorities, Jesus speaks of the temple of His body: *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* His words point forward to His death and resurrection, revealing that the true dwelling place of God is not a building, but the person of Christ. Through Him, each of us becomes a living temple—a place where God's Spirit longs to dwell.

In today's world, where negativity and uncertainty often dominate, this passage offers a pastoral message of hope and renewal. Jesus doesn't just cleanse the temple—he restores its purpose. He does the same for us. When we invite him into the messiness of our lives, may we allow Him to enter, overturn what needs to go and rebuild us as temples of His presence. Like the Lateran Basilica, let us stand as signs of God's enduring presence where our hearts are places of prayer, peace, praise, compassion and mercy—living temples where Christ is truly at home.

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 special welcome to the children who are preparing for their Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

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.

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.

STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER(S) TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT TO MASS

We have a parishioner, Katrina, who is a regular at our 11.00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Katrina is at a stage where she cannot make the walk or take public transport from her home in Balaclava to Sacred Heart Church. Are there any people who are willing to drive her to Mass and take her home again on a regular or irregular basis? If we can get two or three or four people, then it can be once a month commitment. If you can help, please email Christine on: christine@shscparish.org.au

FUNERAL NOTICES

The funeral for **Jean Cropley**, Adrian's mother, will be held on Monday 10 November at 10.30 a.m. (rosary at 10.00 a.m.) at the Club House, Avington Community, 50 Salt Water Promenade, Point Cook.

Fr Barry Moran's funeral will be on Tuesday 11 November at 10.30am at St Mary's Church, East St Kilda.

CHRISTMAS HARP CONCERT BY KATIA MESTROVIC

Katia is presenting a Christmas Harp Concert in St Columba Church on Tuesday 16 December at 6.00pm. You are warmly invited and we encourage you to come along and experience Katia's beautiful playing. **Cost:** \$25 per person with Under 11 year olds FREE. Scan the QR code on the posters at the back of church or visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1488478?qr=true&qr=true>

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving Jesus,
Enter the temple of my heart today.
Turn over the tables of distraction,
scatter the clutter of worry, pride and fear.
Help me to see where I've traded reverence for routine,
where I've let noise drown out Your voice.
Restore in me a spirit of worship,
a heart that listens, a soul that longs for You.
Let Your living water flow through me,
healing what is dry, renewing what is weary,
bringing life to every corner of my soul.
May Your zeal for holiness become my own.
May Your love cleanse me, renew me and dwell within me.
And may I become, day by day,
a living temple of Your grace where love, truth, mercy,
compassion and peace abide. Amen.

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATTER BASILICA

In the city of Rome, there are four major basilicas. The first three are Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, and the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. The fourth is the Archbasilica Cathedral of the Most Holy Saviour and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran, also called Saint John Lateran, or the Lateran Basilica for short. Of the four major basilicas, the oldest and "most important" is Saint John Lateran, the dedication of which is remembered today. Though the pope now lives next to Saint Peter's Basilica, Saint John Lateran is the official cathedral of Rome. That means Saint John Lateran is not only the mother church of the Archdiocese of Rome but also the mother church of the entire world.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE MONTH

In remembering, we honour. In grieving, we love. And in Christ, we hope. At every Mass during November, you are invited to write the names of your loved, deceased ones on a silver 'teardrop', found at the back of the churches. Once you have done this, place them in the basket provided. This will be taken up with the Offertory Gifts and later pinned onto a special cloth. We will also have on display our Memorial Books for the past few years - at Sacred Heart, they are found in the Memorial Area and at St Columba, they are on tables at the back of the Church. Feel free to leaf through them.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Copies of **Break Open the Word** are now available. This is a great liturgical resource, especially for Readers of the Word. Please see Christine or contact Jane at the office. We ask for \$15 to partly cover costs.

The **2026 Columban Art Calendar** is also available. It is a beautiful calendar perfect for home or a Christmas gift. Cost is \$10 each. Please see Anne at Sacred Heart Church or Christine at St Columba.

PHILIPPINES TYPHOON APPEAL

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan Foundation has launched an urgent emergency appeal following the destruction caused by Typhoon Tino, which has severely impacted communities on the island of Negros in the Philippines. While Australian media coverage has focused largely on the impact of the Category 4 Typhoon Kalmaegi (locally known as Typhoon Tino) in Cebu, the neighbouring island of Negros – where long-standing Good Samaritan ministries are located – has also suffered extensive damage. In Boulevard homes have been destroyed, and large sections of the community have been washed away. Families are displaced and many are now seeking makeshift shelter, with limited access to food, clean water, and essential supplies. Inland communities have also been affected, including the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Kinder School. The foundation has established an emergency relief appeal to provide assistance, including shelter materials, meals, and assistance to rebuild homes. “Your contribution will help families already living with vulnerability rebuild their communities.” Sonya Mears, executive director of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Foundation, said.

Donations: <https://good-samaritans.raiselysite.com> (Please select Philippines Emergency Appeal in the donation form’s drop down menu).

TWO OFFERINGS FROM THE JESUIT AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY AUSTRALIA FOR ADVENT 2025

Advent will begin on the weekend of 29/30 November. It is a season of waiting: waiting for God’s action in the world; waiting for steadfast love and peace. Waiting for a birth. This Advent the Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia offer two ways of more intentional participation in the season of Advent by taking some time to pray – stilling your body, opening your heart and nourishing your soul.

1. Online: five waiting prayers for each week beginning Sunday 30 November, delivered directly to your inbox. There is no cost to participate, although you may make a financial gift to the ministry which is optional. Simply register to receive your Advent Prayers on: <https://book.venue.life/pch/register/five-waiting-prayers>
2. Waiting in Wonder: Advent Journey through Scripture, Art and Poetry (In-person) Four contemplative evenings exploring the profound mystery of Advent. Through guided reflection on Scripture, sacred art and poetry, journey through the weeks leading to Christmas, deepening our awareness of God’s presence, and preparing our hearts to receive Christ anew.

Details: Each session is from 6.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. **Where:** Campion Centre, 99 Studley Park Rd, Kew, ENTER VIA HODGSON ST. **Price:** \$80 for all four sessions, including reflection materials, facilitation, take-home resources, and refreshments. **BOOK BY 24 NOVEMBER**

<https://book.venue.lifehttps://book.venue.life/pch/register/waiting-in-wonder-advent-journey-through-scripture-art-and-poetry-kew-vic>

For further information, contact: info@jisa.org.au

‘TRUTH BE TOLD’: RESPONDING TO YOORROOK AS A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

With Treaty legislation having just been passed by Parliament, Victoria is listening to the calls from our First Peoples to take substantive action for justice. Church leadership in Australia has been clear in support for truth-telling and treaty processes through endorsing the Uluru Statement From the Heart. Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) is partnering with the Australian Catholic University to present a forum to consider the Yoorrook Justice Commission, Australia’s first formal truth-telling process, and what its findings mean for our sector and the wider Catholic community. Join us to learn about:

- Why truth-telling and treaty matter
- Yoorrook’s work and findings
- Personal insights from those involved in the truth-telling processes
- How Catholic organisations can respond to Yoorrook’s recommendations and how these relate to Reconciliation Action Plans

Event Details: Wednesday 12 November, from 11.30am – 2.30pm at Greg Craven Centre, Level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata Building, 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy **AND Online**

Register to attend (either in person or online): <https://www.trybooking.com/DGWXR>. See the flyer at the back of church for more details.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE: WALKING WITH PURPOSE NEW DATE: NEXT SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER

LAST WEEKEND TO SIGN UP!

A pilgrimage doesn’t always require distant travel or ancient shrines—it can be a local, prayerful journey that opens our eyes and hearts to the presence of Christ in the margins. A short, local pilgrimage with a social justice focus offers parishioners an opportunity to walk in solidarity with the vulnerable and reflect deeply on the Gospel call to justice, compassion and action. So, on Saturday, **15 November from 9.00 a.m. – noon**, our parish will undertake our local pilgrimage under the theme of: *Go out to the world* (Matthew 16:15) Going out into the world is not just a suggestion but a calling for every believer. The scriptures remind us that we are to embody our faith, share God’s love and actively engage with those around us. Whether through words or actions, we are encouraged to be vessels of kindness, compassion and hope in our communities and beyond.

We will begin at 9.00 a.m. travelling to five stations, as follows:

1. St Columba Church
2. Point Ormond
3. St Kilda Marina
4. St Kilda Botanic Gardens
5. Sacred Heart Church

We will finish at 11.30 p.m. with lunch provided.

If you wish to be part of this pilgrimage, **please register on the sheets at the back of our churches.** We understand that some people cannot walk, and they are invited to drive (or be driven) from one station to another. Please indicate if you require a lift to each station.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12

Responsorial Psalm:

The waters of the river gladden the city of God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord,
that my name may remain in it for all time.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 2: 13-22

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 10 November - SUNDAY 16 November 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 21: 5-19

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$37.00	Total	\$357.00
Loose cash	\$186.65		
Total	\$223.65		
Average for 41 weeks	\$289.20	Average for 41 weeks	\$252.96

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:

"When we pray, God opens our eyes, renews and changes our hearts, heals our wounds, and gives us the grace we need"

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Richard Ahern, Jeannie Grant, Teodor Florea, Will Whelan, David Hawe.

1st Anniversaries: Tony Wright 6.11, Giovanna Morgan, Patricia Larkins

3rd Anniversary: John Ensabella

Anniversaries: Sebastian Maximillian Johann Fitzgerald, Nicholay Solochen Ko, Daniel Planke, Diane Cist, Ron McColl, Ross Hargreaves, Bernadette Jennings, Elaine Barker, Anne Hennessy, Immaculate Maio, Bruna Skerl, Mary Fisher, Therese Mannix, Stephen Bolger, Jason Knowles and Jason Currie, Bill Hill, Manny Cassar, Patricia Featherstone, Max Jackson, Malcolm Gerber, Cassie Bricknell, Molly McKay, Tram Champion, Josef Bogner, Nicholas Dobrotwir 3.11, Eric Mousey, Dick Martin, Els Hendricks, Maria Ulehla 7.11, Betty Rogers, Bob Hunter, Denis McCarthy, Maria Rosa Contino, Giuseppina Barnao, Brian Solis, Eric Walter Peters 4.11.2015, Kathleen Redman, Sean Atkinson, Charlie Noble 16.11, Monsignor James Murray, Christopher Gamble Moloney, Sydney Pyster, Domenico Cerasuolo 23.11.03, Ian Stewart 24.11, Gordon Hill 6.11, George Thomson, 5.11, Rachael DeSilva, Luta Skorwider, John Brown 16.11, Carl Hofler 17.11, Sofia Czarnowaj 27.11, Norman Pittari 2.11.52, Bartalo Canestri, Maria Rosa Contino 3.11, Kathleen Sullivan 11.11.01, Margaret Upfold 24.11.05, Alberto Dos Santos, Clara Santini-Maron 5.11.07, Sheila Keogh 26.11.00, Denis Halden 24.11.93, Michael Sylvester Ryan, Guiseppina Ranieri, Gabrielle Ranieri, Giuseppe Lo Piccolo, Concetta Lo Piccolo, Nunziata Panettieri, Francesco Panettieri, Rosario Russo, Antonio Russo, Sonia Battaglia 15.11.09, Amelia, Emma & Aida Carretta, Herbert Summers, Tom Wilczewski, Ella Blumeris, Aileen Palmer, Pasko Lena, Nikola Lena Saindra

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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

15 / 16 November: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Caroline Price, Volunteer needed

Set up: Legion of Mary / Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Lou Bevilacqua, Maria Kovacevic

C / L: Lina Tesoriero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom & friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Cecilia Mwangi

C / L: Nancy Edwards, Anna Griffiths

Set up: Anzel & Chella

Prayer of the Faithful: Daniel O'Connor