



The Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart and St Columba

**Our Parish is a Christian community
which welcomes all to walk together in a
spirit of compassion, justice and hope.**

Parish Newsletter 27/28 September 2025 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**An Extract from a Reflection on Luke (16:19-31) by
Michael K. Marsh, *Interrupting the Silence***

Lazarus Is Knocking

... Today's gospel is about how we live today. Jesus is telling us that how we live today has consequences for tomorrow, not just for ourselves but for others too. Jesus is asking us, regardless of our income, to face the poverty in ourselves and the world.

Lazarus doesn't just represent poverty in the world, he also represents the rich man's impoverishment. I suspect that's one reason why we set gates between the rich and poor. We don't want to look in the eyes of Lazarus and see ourselves. If we did, if we ever truly saw impoverishment in the world and in ourselves, it would ask something of us.

Our choices matter. Our priorities set a direction for where we are headed. Our values and actions shape what is becoming of us. Isn't that what we see in the rich man in today's gospel?

Jesus is warning us that today's gates become tomorrow's chasms. At some point the gates we use to shut out parts of ourselves or exclude another become the chasm that confines and isolates us.

... Maybe the rich man isn't as well off as he dresses and eats or looks and acts. Maybe you and I aren't either. What if the rich man would have opened his gate to Lazarus? What if we did?

What if we open the gates of compassion and concern for others, generosity and sharing, healing and wholeness, forgiveness and reconciliation, justice and peace, vulnerability and love? What would that take? And what would it mean for your life?

I suspect it would change the way we pray, how we care for one another, the depth of our relationships, the significance of our lives, and what we hope for the future.

Look at your life and world. What are the closed gates in your life today? What gates are separating you from yourself or another? What is impoverishing you today? It might be fear, anger, resentment, jealousy, indifference, guilt, grief, old wounds, loneliness, cynicism, prejudice, or a thousand other things.

What gates do you need to open today in order to experience true wealth and abundance, to discover your true identity and worth, to live with true meaning and significance?

Take a moment and listen. Listen deeply. Do you hear it? Our gates are being rattled. Every day our gates are being rattled. Lazarus is knocking, rattling your gate and my gate. Lazarus is knocking.

Did I tell you what the name Lazarus means? It means "God has helped."

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Prayer for the Week

Merciful God,
soften our hearts to the plight of those like Lazarus, who lie at the gates of comfort and wealth, longing for dignity and care.
Enflame our hearts with your Spirit so that we do not live with hearts of indifference but in love that crosses thresholds and lifts the lowly. May we be stirred to compassion, to share our blessings, and to recognise the sacred worth in every soul.
Let your truth awaken us so that we may walk in mercy and justice, reflecting your kingdom here and now. Amen.

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. While Fr John is on holidays, we welcome and thank **Fr Martin Fleming and Fr Erick Niyiragira** who are our presiders over the weekend.

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.

Prayer is Life Podcast

Join Redemptorist Priest David Hore CSsR from Majellan Family Media and explore the essence of prayer and its role in our lives. In short, insightful episodes guided by Father David we embark on a journey of spiritual discovery as we delve into the profound world of prayer. Grounded in theology and the Redemptorist mission, seekers of all backgrounds gain practical insights into prayer's significance in our lives. Whether you're a devout believer, a spiritual explorer, or simply curious about prayer, these

podcasts are for you. Discover how prayer is more than words – it is life.

You can access the episodes of the podcast by visiting www.CathEvents.org.au

Breath of Grace:

Pray with Mary this October

This October, the Month of the Holy Rosary, Jesuit Ignatian Spirituality Australia (JISA) invite all to join them for *Breath of Grace* — a 31-day journey of prayer with Mary. Each day, from 1–31 October, you will be guided in a simple yet profound way of praying the beloved words of the *Hail Mary* — one word each day, in rhythm with your breath. This gentle practice opens the heart to grace, stillness and the quiet presence of Mary. Together, may these thirty-one moments of prayer open us more deeply to the tender love and guidance of Mary. For further information or to register, visit the website: www.jesuit.org.au

Parish Spring Festival:

Spring bursts alive with vibrant colours and joyful sounds.

You are warmly invited to join our parish community as we come together in a spirit of joy to celebrate the gifts of life, faith and fellowship. Let us embrace this season of renewal through community, culture and art.

When: Sunday, 12 October 2025

Where: Sacred Heart Church

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

During the afternoon we will enjoy a community exchange of seeds or small plants, while celebrating the wonderful talents within our parish of poetry, art, crafts, music and more. See insert in today's newsletter. We also welcome your participation in practical ways. If you are able to share your talents, bring a plate to share (nut free), or require assistance with transport, please add your name to the sheets at the back of the church or contact the Parish Office.

Let us come together to be inspired, uplifted and renewed in this vibrant celebration of faith, creativity and community.

Entrance by gold coin donation.



Season of Creation Reflection:

Infinite Lullaby

by Sr. Regina Kusnir, SC

Rhythmic tides never tire
 With far reaching waters
 Enticing us to rest in the beyond
 Calming the cacophony of life.
 Horizons out of sight
 Shores in constant recreation
 Lapping sound of eons of ages
 Speaking to the heart a love song.
 Oceans ripe with life unseen
 Sustaining life for generations
 Transporting your people to
 Destinations known and newly discovered.
 Cleansing waters
 Refreshing playground
 Cooling splendour
 Drawing us into the infinite lullaby
 Of the Love of Life itself.
 God of the sparkling, unending waters
 Gift us with the wisdom to
 propel this gift forward.
 Lullabying Your love for those yet to be.
 [Source: *Spreading Seeds of Peace and Hope for Creation*, an eco-spirituality resource from the 2025 Feast of St Francis Program, Catholic Climate Covenant: Together for our Common Home.]

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Bishops more than ten years ago. Run over three days, the Festival provides young people from all across Australia with the opportunity to come together to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia.

The Festival will bring together thousands of young people (Year 9 – 25 years of age) from all across Australia and include opportunities for engagement with other young people, school and youth groups, Bishops, musicians and speakers.

Each day will include the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities including prayer, Mass, workshops, talks, live concerts, games, justice issues and an interactive expo.

For the full program and to register, visit www.acyf.org.au.

Date: 30 November - 2 December

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf.

Art Exhibition:

TRIENNIAL 2025 THRIVE

This exhibition celebrates almost 50 artworks by 13 resident artists from Sacred Heart Mission's client services. Artists in Sacred Heart Mission programs have lived experience of homelessness, mental health challenges and trauma. Art acknowledges, validates, processes and transforms the artist and their experience. Engagement in the therapeutic arts and creative arts therapies with a qualified creative arts therapist have been well established as an evidence-based support for mental health. In cultivating a therapeutic arts practice and an artist identity, away from diagnoses and stigma, there is space to connect with inner strength, resilience and growth. Come and view the wonderful work on display.

Venue: Artful Yoga Gallery Space,
 1 Vale Street, St Kilda.

Opening hours:

- Monday to Friday: 9am – 3pm
- Sundays: 12pm – 3pm

Exhibition ends on 30 September

LITURGY OF THE WORD THIS WEEK

First Reading: Amos 6:1, 4-7

Psalm: Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Gospel Acclamation Verse:

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday, 29 September – Sunday, 5 October

Monday: 11.00am

Mass: Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey Street, St Kilda

Thursday: 11.00:

Mass: Sacred Heart Church

Friday:

Communion Service, Parish House

Saturday: 6.00pm **Mass:** St Columba Church

Sunday:

9.00: **Mass:** St Columba Church

11.00: **Mass:** Sacred Heart Church (streamed).

Gospel: Luke 17:5-9.



Parish Service and Support Program

Options for contributing include: direct debit, credit card, collections at mass, via Tithe.ly - click this link - [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524)

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.

Further information: 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.

[At this time, Jane is unwell, and the

Collections will appear upon her return.]

ROSTERS: 4/5 October: Daylight Savings

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass: M: Emer Di Muzio C/L: Joan Davies and Rica Garcia

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am: M: **Volunteer** required.

C / L: Kate Bebejewska and Tony Lopes

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom and Friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes 11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes; Set up: Cecilia Mwangi

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

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Group.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased: Melchisina Fratangelo, Jen McCulloch, Michael Grellet, Paul Allah and Keith Marshall.

3rd Anniversaries: Bernard Alfonso 28.9.22, Gianpaolo Marcon 28.09.22.

Anniversaries: Noreen Dempsey, Norma Tyler Diana Monestrati, Trevor Pickett, Mary-Grace Levakis, Fr Brian Gleeson, Miralda Lopez, Sr Anne Boyd CSB, Egons Polis, Maria Benvenuti, Adrian Feehan, Ray McKenna, Todd Hurley, Neil McKean, Daphne Omar, Mark Steele, Luke Peiper, Brent Daly, Simone Rodgers, Norma Tyley, Paul Roberts, Steven Perry, Donald Kaye, Sabina Parrella, Sasha Bak, Patricia Pulbook, Peter Hayes, Sadika Dulic, John Hunt, Nancy Bright, Margaret Szubanski, Beatrice Tarquinio, (Leslie) Anthony Jones, Kosara Molner, Michael O'Connor, Monica Clifford, Colleen Edwards, Lydia Ulehla 24.9.14 John Hart, Geoff Lee, Darryl Carmichael Annetta Tesoriero, Irene Moore, Marica Cvitanovic, Victor Hunt 26.9, Graeme Johnson, John Duffy Peter Courtney 19.9.11, Ivy D'Lima 12.9.11, Nevil Ryan, Joan Jayne 17.9.11, Rosario Patane, Gabriele Ramen 21.9, Edmund George 30.9.06, Kevin Sullivan 27.9.87

Sick: Lol Patten (UK), Jackie Pyster, Ramon Lopez, Colin Meanwell, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), 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, Elaine Dillon, Arraya, Peter Contino, Joaquin Dos Santos, David Hawe, Alva Pickett, Karen Driscoll, Tim Wilson.