

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 20 / 21 APRIL 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 Hearnese
jane@shscparish.org.au

SHM Pastoral Care Worker:
Karen Englebretsen
kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org

St Columba Principal / REC:
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: Dominic Tesoriero
domtess1@gmail.com

Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary
Please contact the parish office.

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel

[Extracts from Fr Brian Maher and Pope Francis]

"Sheep are not only dependent creatures; singularly unintelligent, prone to wandering and unable to find their way to a shepherd even when he is in sight." This was written by an animal behaviourist about thirty years ago. Luckily sheep cannot read because if they did, they would probably have risen-up in righteous anger at this grossly unfair depiction of their intelligence. More modern research shows sheep to be quite intelligent animals, capable of recognising each other and capable of recognising human faces for up to two years. They have a highly organised social structure with a real and accepted hierarchy. The idea that sheep follow blindly after the one who is in front is far from true. Rather the sheep in front is the trusted leader who can determine the way to grass and water in open, inhospitable ground.

... In biblical times sheep were hugely important to the survival and economy of semi-nomadic people. The shepherd who was responsible for protecting and leading the flocks from one pasture to the next was a respected member of society. Interestingly, the three men we consider to be the founders of the 'Chosen People of Israel': Abraham, Moses and David were shepherds before they heard God's call to them... All three of them were taken from their flocks of sheep and entrusted with leading God's people.

By the time of Jesus, sheep had become less important to a mostly crop-growing people. Indeed, flocks of sheep were considered something of a nuisance, often trampling and eating the young crops. Shepherds had now also lost the respect their job once had. They were considered 'sinners' and ranked with other rejected groups like tax collectors. And yet, it was shepherds who were first told of the birth of Jesus. This was not accidental. Jesus, born in poverty and destined to bring the Kingdom of God into the world, first announced his birth to others who were 'poor' (shepherds) and then to Kings who welcomed him as a King (the 'wise men' or the Magi).

In the Old Testament the 'good' shepherd has certain qualities that set him apart. Firstly, he cares for every one of the sheep entrusted to him. If one is lost, he searches for it and does not rest until he finds it. His commitment to his sheep is absolute and unchanging. Coming from this quality of 'care' we find that the 'good' shepherd protects his sheep. When they face danger of any kind the shepherd protects them, even going so far as to risk his own life to do so. Finally, we learn that the 'good' shepherd leads his sheep with care and thoughtfulness, sometimes carrying lambs who are tired or weak. Today, our image of a shepherd is likely to be a person walking behind the flock, driving them ahead of him, often with the help of a dog. In biblical times it was quite the reverse. The shepherd walked in front of his sheep, watching for wild animals and also knowing the way to grass and water. Sheep wandered in vast, open areas of semi-desert, with few physical features or trails to follow.

In the figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we contemplate the Providence of God, attentiveness and care for each one of us. He does not leave us on our own! The result of this contemplation of Jesus the true and good Shepherd, is the exclamation of poignant astonishment that we find in the Second Reading of the day's Liturgy: "See what love the Father has given us..." (1 Jn 3:1). It is truly a surprising and mysterious love, for by giving us Jesus as the Shepherd who gives his life for us, the Father has given us all of the greatest and most precious that He could give us. It is the purest and most sublime love, for it is not motivated by necessity, is not conditioned on accounting, is not attracted by a self-interested desire for exchange. Before this love of God, we feel immense joy and we open ourselves to recognising how much we have freely received.

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 **baby Lorenzo** who is baptised this weekend at Sacred Heart. We pray blessings for him as he grows in love and the faith of his family.

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.

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.

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fr John was a special surprise guest as the Grade 4s ventured out for an outdoors for a reading session.

How lucky are our children to have such beautiful surrounds to use as an outdoor classroom.

The latest edition of the school newsletter is available online. Please have a look at the great array of information included.

<https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/JKdPP4M/issue-4/page/cover>



OUR PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Good Shepherd,

Teach us to follow you:

to care for all that are close to us,
to protect those who are threatened,
to welcome those who are rejected,
to forgive those who are burdened by guilt,
to heal those who are broken and sick,
to share with those who have little or nothing,
to take the time to really know one another
and love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd,

Teach us to follow you:

to spread compassion to those who are far away,
to speak for those who are voiceless,
to defend those who are oppressed and abused,
to work for justice for those who are exploited,
to make peace for those who suffer violence,
to take the time to recognise our connectedness,
and to love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd,

Teach us to follow you:

and to be faithful to the calling you gave us:
to be shepherds in your name.

[John van de Laar, © 2009 Sacredise on his Sacredise.com website]

ELWOOD ANZAC DAY SERVICE

The Friends of the Elwood RSL invite all to the local commemoration of ANZAC Day, this **Thursday, 25 April on the Elwood foreshore, in front of the Elwood Sailing Club from**

8.30 a.m. A student from St Columba school will open the proceedings with a prayer. There will also be speakers from the community, from the military and Elwood College school captains. This will be followed by the laying of wreaths, and people can bring these along on the day.

After Roll Call and *The Last Post*, the proceedings will end with all singing the National Anthem before a piper plays *Amazing Grace*.

Let us remember in prayer those who fell in battle, those left behind in grief and with shattered lives, then, and now across the world in places of conflict and war. As people of faith, let us always hold the words of St Francis in our hearts:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*



FEEDBACK FROM BISHOP IRELAND ON HIS VISIT

Our regional Bishop, Tony Ireland spent three days with us last year. This is usual practice for regional bishops, they nominate a group of parishes that they visit each year to touch base and find out a little more about each parish. After his visit, Bishop Tony sent us a report with five recommendations, which we have included as an insert in this newsletter.

WE CONTINUE TO WALK TOGETHER

The Discernment Group are now sifting through the post-it note responses to the five sets of questions put to the people during the five weeks of Lent in preparation for the Parish Workshop on **Saturday, 18 May**. We encourage all parishioners to attend this day as we work towards a parish vision of what we can be as a new way of being church.



In the words of Fr John: "We have an ongoing call of walking together in new and challenging times as a church to be a clear sign of the Risen Christ. The resurrection isn't an idea, it's a movement of God's spirit in us, calling us to be together in these uncertain and troubled times in our world. The call for us is to give and not retreat and be a real grounded sign of care and hope for one another, and in service for those in our world at this time. Each one of us has something to offer that movement of God's Spirit. I invite you to set aside some time to work with others on Saturday, 18 May so as to contribute that movement of God's spirit within you to the wider parish". Our Discernment Team will meet in early May and then release details on the logistics of that day. It is likely to begin mid-morning and run for a few hours into the early afternoon. Lunch will be provided for the day. Details to follow soon.

THE PRAYER OF THE FIVE SENSES; AN ONLINE IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY SET OF EXERCISES

The Prayer of the Five Senses is a simple prayer method, easily learnt, deeply grounded and effective in developing an intimate relationship with Jesus, the Creator and Spirit. It draws directly on our memories and feelings - so our life story, with all its ups and downs, our scarred and precious body, is truly honoured and integrated in a new way. We are refreshed. This is both liberating and enjoyable because it makes us more human and feel whole. Lifestyle and daily demands can separate us from our bodies and even feelings, leaving us living in our heads, often removed from nature. The Prayer of the Senses reconnects body and soul, feelings and intellect, Creator, creature, and creation. Experience these five new online spiritual Ignatian exercises where each session revels in a different sense:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| SIGHT | Sunday 5 May |
| TOUCH | Monday 6 May |
| SCENT | Tuesday 7 May |
| HEARING | Wednesday 8 May |
| TASTE | Thursday 9 May |

Choice of time: Daily 10.00-12.00 pm **or** 6.30-8.30 pm AEST
 Price: \$150 AUD for the Full Five Days OR \$40 AUD per day.
 And a reduced-price option for those with limited means. For further information, visit: www.jisa.org.au

SAVE THE DATE: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION.

A Cultural Celebration: International Dinner, Saturday 25 May 7.00pm in St Columba's Hall, Elwood.

A night of celebration of our multicultural community. There will be food, music and dancing highlighting the different cultures in our community. Come along and join in the festivities. This is a joint fundraiser by the parish and the school and will be our contribution to Dine with Heart which supports Sacred Heart Mission.

The social committee is asking people in the parish to help with providing dishes related to some of the cultures within our parish. There isn't room to represent every culture so they have settled on Italian, Brazilian, Asian (to capture Indian, Chinese and Vietnamese in our community), Lebanese and Indigenous. Each cultural group will be represented by a station dotted around the perimeter of the hall where people can go to collect food.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for people to cook a dish/s related to one of the listed cultures and bring them on the day where they can be reheated / finished off for service. We also need general helpers who can be given jobs such as set up, decorating the tables and room, washing up, packing up etc. Finally and importantly we need helpers to organise music and entertainment. If anyone in the parish plays cultural music or knows someone who does, we'd love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be the cultures represented in the food stations, it could be Irish, Eastern European or another culture in our parish.

If you are able to help with any of these areas please email Jane in the parish office, jane@shscparish.org.au or speak to Jeferson or Marita at St Columba or Adrian or Toni at Sacred Heart after mass.

COMPLINE SERVICE AND RECONCILIATION

Compline is a peaceful evening ritual, with hymns sung by the Newman College Choir. It offers a serene way to wind down the mind, body and spirit before sleep. With soothing prayers, calming music, and moments of reflection, it provides a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Gain a deeper sense of inner peace, and make Compline your monthly sanctuary! Reconciliation will also be offered. Everyone is welcome. Details:

Date and Time: Thursday, 2 May from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Venue: Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville.

Contact: newman.unimelb.edu.au or tel. 9347 5577

INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. There is an information session on **Saturday, 4 May from 10.00 a.m.-11.45 a.m.** at the Catholic Leadership Centre, 278 Victoria Parade. For further details, contact: vocations@cam.org.au Or tel. 99265733.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts: 4: 8-12

Responsorial Psalm:

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10: 11-18

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 22 April - SUNDAY 28 April 2024

MONDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community
101 Grey Street, St Kilda West

THURSDAY ANZAC DAY - No 11.00am Mass

FRIDAY 9.00am MASS at 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: John 15: 1-8

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

| Church Account Collection | Presbytery Account Collection |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Envelopes \$34.00 | Total \$285.50 |
| Loose cash \$454.00 | |
| Total \$488.00 | |
| Average for 15 weeks \$436.29 | Average for 15 weeks \$255.59 |

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Fr John and the parish team are so grateful for the wonderful support that continues to be given to him and the parish.

You can contribute to the collections through Tithe.ly - click this link - [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, direct debit or credit card payments. THANK YOU!

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."



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Brent Pearce

1st Anniversaries: Judy Vaitkunas 10.04, Victor Julio Hernandez, Elsa Aurora Contreras Buitrago, Peter Orchard, Nicoletta Pagnoni, Neil Kiely, John Courtney, Josef Kania

Anniversaries: Margherite & Clement Ahern, Patricia Gardner, Ron Mitchell, Joanne Steele Virgilio Tarquinio, Graeme Jajurdran, Kevin Durkin, Neville (Nabeh) Gittany 7.4.14, Mark Kennedy, Michael Mongan, Marco D'Ambrosio, 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: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell. Colin Meanwell, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright (Sydney), Chail and her husband Callum, Norma Childers (Texas - Becca's grandma), Patrick McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue McLennan, Liz Hawes, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Sophia.

We periodically start our sick list again. If you have someone you would like on the sick list please contact Jane at the office. 9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

27 / 28 April 2024: Fifth Sunday of Easter

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Joan Davies, Caroline Price

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Roger Vail, Ada Nardella

C / L: Alecia Rathbone, Volunteer needed

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier & Priscilla No

Hospitality Roster: Michael & Lulu

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter

C / L: Adrian Cropley / Carlo Marcon, Toni Vatta

Set up: Anzel & Chella

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Committee