



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 13/14 September 2025 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Reflection on the Gospel (3:13-17) *Not to Condemn but to Save*

It is rare for us to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on a Sunday. This feast commemorates the dedication, in 335, of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built on the site of the Crucifixion by the Emperor Constantine.

There is a very clear relationship between the first reading (Numbers 21:4-9) and the Gospel. The people in the first reading are healed by looking at a bronze serpent lifted up in their midst by Moses.

Jesus says in the Gospel that he, too, must be lifted up so that all who believe may have life. The second reading is the beautiful hymn from the letter to the Philippians (2:6-11). It is about God who willingly gives up his divinity in Christ to become one of us, accepting death on the cross to show the depth of God's love.

The cross is a symbol full of contradictions: an instrument of cruelty and torture, and yet the means of saving love; an instrument of shame and death, yet the way of restoring true dignity and life; an instrument of hatred and contempt, yet the strongest symbol of Love.

The symbol of the cross also carries the mixed realities of human life: moments of crucifixion and resurrection, moments of sorrow and joy, moments of suffering and healing, moments of hatred and reconciliation.

We use the Cross continually in our Christian tradition. We use it to mark the beginning and end of prayer and the Eucharist. It marks the beginning and end of our Christian journey in Baptism and the Funeral Rites.

So, we use the Cross in moments of joy and gladness and sorrow and distress. The Cross draws us into moments of deep awareness of the mystery of God's love for us. It reminds us that suffering and death are not the end of our story, that life and healing can come out of darkness and pain, that God in Christ remains faithful to us even to death and beyond.

Today we rejoice in a God who loves us that much and pray that we may be a continuing source of love, life and healing for one another.

[Source: *Celebrating at Home*, Carmelites Australia and Timor-Leste,
www.carmelities.org.au]

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.

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 JD Tan and Fr Martin Fleming** who are our presiders over the weekend.

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.

Vatican II: Keeping the Windows Open—60th Anniversary Symposium

The Catholic Theological College and Yarra Theological Union will come together for a symposium to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the close of Vatican II. Australian and international experts will reflect on the key themes of Vatican II that continue to shape the Church today. This is an in-person event only, and numbers are strictly limited.

Bookings close 17 September 2025.

Date: Wednesday 24 September

Time: 9.30a.m. - 4.15 p.m.

Venue: Catholic Theological College
278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

Cost: \$70.00, includes lunch

To book, go to: humanitix.com/VaticanII
See flyers at the back of our churches.

Prayer for the Week

God of love,
we live in a world where darkness and despair so often weigh heavily,
yet we give thanks that your light shines brighter than any shadow.
You did not send your Son to condemn,
but to save—to bring hope, healing and life for all.

In Him we see that no one is beyond the reach of Your grace, and that Your mercy is greater than our failures.

We hold before you those who feel hopeless, unworthy or forgotten.
Strengthen us to live as people of light—bringing hope where there is despair, reconciliation where there is division, and love where there is fear.

Father, we place our trust in the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

May His example inspire us,
His Spirit guide us, and His love flow through us, so that others may come to know the everlasting welcome of Your Kingdom.

Amen.

The Age of Authenticity: The Path to Renewal (a free webinar)

Join Bishop Mark Edwards and Sr Kathryn Kingsley, MGL as they explore how Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age* sheds light on faith, culture, and the Church's mission in today's world, offering both challenges and opportunities for renewal. Details:

Thursday, 18 September 2025, 6:00–7:00

Bookings: <https://divinerenovation.org/>

Sacramental Preparation

The parish will be undertaking a sacramental preparation program for older children (from grade 3 onwards), starting in the second week of term four. We begin with Baptism. Interested parents are asked to contact Christine, Parish Pastoral Ministry Leader on her email: christine@shscparish.org.au



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

**Reflection: Let the Earth Breathe — A
Lamentation and a Call**
by Daniella Flanagan

We stand at the trembling edge of history,
Where forests burn faster than prayers rise.
Where rivers run dry,
and nations go to war over water.
Where families flee fire, flood, and famine—
Not by choice, but by the collapse of what
once sustained them.

This Earth is holy—
Even now, bruised and breathless.
It bears the scars of greed and silence,
Yet still it turns, still it offers beauty—
A defiant, aching hope.

We hear the cry of the youth who strike,
The wisdom of Indigenous protectors
long ignored,
The sorrow of the dispossessed whose lands
are poisoned
And futures stolen by smoke, soot and steel.

This Season of Creation is not just a
celebration—
It is a call to repentance, resistance
and renewal.
A Pilgrimage of Hope means stepping forward
When it would be easier to look away.

Like St. Francis, we must kneel again—
Not just in reverence, but in repair.
To make peace with creation is to dismantle
systems of harm,
To share the harvest, restore the waters,
And re-root our lives in humility and justice.

Let us sow seeds that outlast crisis:
Seeds of reparation,
seeds of fierce compassion,
Seeds of solidarity across borders
and barriers.

The God who made all things good
Now waits for us to be good again—
To one another.
To creation.
To the generations yet to come.
Amen.

[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.]

Save the Date: Parish Spring Festival

We're delighted to invite you to our Parish
Spring Festival – a joyful afternoon celebrating
growth, creativity and community spirit.

When: Sunday, 12 October 2025

Where: Sacred Heart Church

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Community Exchange

Bring along seeds, plants or small items to
place at the altar. At the end, enjoy the
opportunity to exchange and take something
new home with you – a beautiful way to share
in the season of renewal.



Share your talents

We are looking to discover and celebrate the
wonderful gifts within our parish – from
heartfelt poems to inspiring artworks,
handmade crafts and stunning photography.
Come and share your talents with us – or
invite someone you know who would love to
do so!

Come along, be inspired, and share in this
vibrant celebration of faith, creativity and
community.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm: Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation Verse: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Gospel: John 3:13-17

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday, 15 – Sunday, 21 September

Monday: 11.00am **Mass:** Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey Street, St Kilda

Thursday: 11.00: **Mass:** Sacred Heart Church

Fri: 9.00: **Communion Service:** Parish House

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

Sunday:

9.00: **Mass:** St Columba Church

11.00: **Mass:** Sacred Heart Church

(live streamed).

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13



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://](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: 20/21 September:

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass: M: **Volunteer** C/L: Caroline Price and **volunteer needed.**

Set up: Legion of Mary/Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am: M: Lou Bevilacqua and Maria Kovacevic

C / L: Lina and Dom Tesoriero

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom and Friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes 11am Mass:

M: Cecilia Mwangi; Set up: Chella and Anzel

C / L: Nancye Edwards and Anna Griffiths

Prayer of the Faithful: Daniel O'Connor

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased: Bernadette Callose

3rd Anniversaries: Bernard Alfonso 28.9.22, Gianpaolo Marcon 28.09,

Anniversaries: Noreen Dempsey, Norma Tyler, Diana Monestrati, Trevor Pickett, Rosa Reyes, 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), 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, Tim Wilson.