

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 17 / 18 MAY 2025 FIFTH 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 Petrulis

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 Petrulis, 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.

Gospel Reflection [Source: an extract from Rev Dr Steve Griffiths, <https://www.standrewsenfield.com/>]

At the very heart of the Christian faith is the fact that Jesus died on the cross; not some empty, meaningless, failing type of death, but a death that won a significant victory over the power of sin and death so that we could live in a beautiful relationship with God. But, of course, that death was immensely sacrificial. Jesus had to give up everything so that we could live; to give up his birthright, his power, his majesty, his glory, his own life... There was no limit to Jesus' sacrifice - because there was no limit to his love for us. In truth, Jesus didn't just make sacrifices for us. He became a sacrifice for us... And so the fact that we love God and love others is a response to that...

Jesus didn't die for us because we deserved it. He didn't die for us because we had somehow earned God's grace and love. There is nothing that we have ever done that has made us deserving of a relationship with God. Instead, as the Bible tells us, he died for us even when we were far off and lost from God. The fact that we constantly make a mess of our lives is not any reason for God to withdraw his love from us. Jesus didn't set conditions on his love. He never said that we need to do something first in order for him to love us. He never waited until we had proved ourselves worthy of love. Jesus' love was absolutely unconditional. And that's just as well - because we can never do anything worthy to earn his love.

Some people seem to have an unreasonable expectation of church - that it should be full of holy people, almost perfect and with lives completely sorted...[but] the church is full of ordinary people - frail, broken, vulnerable and just as susceptible to messing up our lives as everyone else... ordinary people trying their best to live life in the truth and knowledge of God... And because Jesus loves us unconditionally, despite our weaknesses and failings, so we are called to love others unconditionally too.

... In this day and age... one of the most beautiful and precious gifts we have to offer is gentleness. We need gentle people. We need gentle Christians. This is becoming such a harsh and judgemental society; where we immediately think the worst of everyone, where we are quick to judge, where we blame those on Benefits for being too lazy, where we accuse migrants and refugees of taking our jobs and homes, and those in authority for being too selfish, where the motorist in front goes too slow, and the next-door neighbour too noisy, and the young people on the streets too violent and anti-social. Society is slipping back into a harshness and a judgmentalism that is sad and aggressive. But we are called to a different way of living. We are called to gentleness and non-judgmentalism and a showing of unconditional love to all those we know, even the weak and vulnerable; and those who make a mess of their own lives. After all, that is what God has done for us: he is gentle with us, isn't he? God doesn't bear a grudge or give us a hard time for messing up so regularly, and we should follow in his footsteps by treating others with the same gentleness and patience and kindness as God has shown to us... So, this new commandment to love means sacrificial love and unconditional love.

... In reality, love is intensely practical. The hospice nurse caring for the dying patient. The mother clearing up her child's sick in the middle of the night. The Foodbank staff listening to a client and providing for their needs. The parents who sacrifice their own dreams for the sake of their children. These are examples of love - love that is intensely practical... And Jesus' death on the cross was intensely practical. It wasn't a glorious chapter in his life; he was alone, he was in pain, he had to grit his teeth and just get on with it. That is practical love in action. And we too are called to practical love: to meet the needs of others in pragmatic ways that speak of love and care and compassion. We can't walk by on the other side of the road. We are to meet needs wherever and whenever we can.

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 **Griffin & Tyson** who are baptised this weekend St Columba. We pray blessings for them as they grow in love and the faith of their family.

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.

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.

YOORROOK JUSTICE WALK FOR TRUTH

Taking place from **Sunday 25 May to Wednesday 18 June**, the Walk will begin at Portland, where colonisation began, and finish at Parliament, where we can transform the future.

We invite everyone to join Yoorrook Deputy Chair Commissioner Travis Lovett on the Public Walk Sections of this powerful 400-kilometre journey.

Public Walk Sections range from 1.5kms to 26kms, and people can join for as little or as much as they like. There is more detailed information about each Public Walk Section, along with Terms and Conditions and Frequently Asked Questions, at <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/events/walkfortruth/>

Key dates for the Melbourne legs are:

Tuesday 17 June: Footscray to the Shrine of Remembrance

Wednesday 18 June: Shrine of Remembrance to Parliament

SPACE 2B ART AUCTION: BID FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Join us for the **Solidarity Art Exhibition Auction**. This is Space2b's most important fundraiser of 2025.

All income generated from this auction will directly support Space2b's life-changing programs.

Your bids directly support creative opportunities, connection and employment for newly arrived migrants and refugees. Thirty artworks by 25 culturally diverse and established local artists will be on exhibition for viewing from 10 - 30 May at Space2b Artspace, 144 Chapel St, St Kilda.

To bid, visit: <https://space2b.com.au/>

Space2b Social Design is an art and design social enterprise. It has been established to support people seeking asylum,

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of love,

You have given us a new commandment, to love one another as you have loved us.

We pray that this love, a love that is not just a feeling but a tangible action,

will be reflected in our lives, our interactions with others, and our service to one another and to your creation.

Help us to be a beacon of your love,

a light that shines brightly in the world,

inspiring others to embrace the love you have shown us.

May we be instruments of your peace, your justice, your hope and your unwavering love,

not just words, but actions that speak volumes.

We ask that we may recognise the impact of Jesus' love, and emulate it in all that we do. Amen.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR DINE WITH HEART: SOUP A SWEET LUNCH

Dine with Heart- Soup a Sweet lunch Sunday 25 May 12.30pm, Parish Centre, St Columba Primary School

Please join us at our annual Dine with Heart Soup a Sweet lunch. In this annual event, we gather as a parish to enjoy a nourishing bowl of soup and a tempting dessert with tea or coffee. Apart from a wonderful social event, this is an important activity in our social calendar as it enables us to raise money for the Sacred Heart Mission Dining Hall. Half our proceeds from the day will go to Sacred Heart Dine with Heart fundraising and the other half will go to the upkeep of our parish. We hope you can join us this.

Please complete the sign up sheet at the back of church if you would like to and feel free to bring along family and friends.

\$10 for soup and \$5 for dessert.

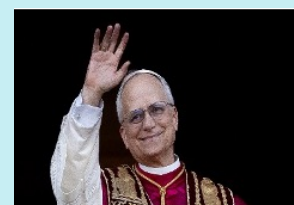
Payment will be taken on the day by cash or card.

SORRY DAY LUNCH

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation invite you to commemorate **National Sorry Day on 26 May**. This is a free event is being held in the St Kilda Town Hall (as they have outgrown the South Melbourne Community Centre) and is open to all interested people. It's a good opportunity to mix with members of the First Nations community as well as people from a range of local organisations, schools and more. Bookings are essential [Sorry Day Lunch Tickets, St Kilda Town Hall, St Kilda | TryBooking Australia](#).

INAUGURATION OF POPE LEO

This Sunday, 18 May, Pope Leo XIV will officially inaugurate his papacy with Mass in St Peter's Square. The Mass will be livestreamed on the [Vatican News YouTube channel](#) at 6pm Melbourne time.



CONFIRMATION 2025



Let us continue to hold our 18 Parish and School Confirmation candidates in prayer as they approach the conferral of their sacrament on **Saturday, 31 May at the 6.00 p.m. Mass in St Columba**. May they grow into the gifts of the Holy Spirit and shine out as lights of hope in their worlds. For regular attendees at this Mass, please note that nine pews from the front on each side will be reserved for the Confirmation families at this Mass. Bishop Tony Ireland and Fr John will be the presiders at this Mass.

A POWERFUL INVITATION FROM CATHOLIC MISSION

As part of our 2025 Propagation of the Faith Appeal - focused solely on supporting vulnerable mothers in Zambia - we would like to extend a special invitation to you and your parish community. On **Wednesday, 5 June at 7:00 PM**, we are co-hosting a public event with the Australian Catholic Medical Association at **St Peter's Parish Centre, Toorak**, titled:

"A Mother's Life Shouldn't Be Left to Chance"

Our keynote speaker is **Abraham Muma**, Health Services Coordinator at Chilonga Mission Hospital in Zambia. Abraham will share powerful frontline stories of women who walk for days - while in labour - just to give birth in overcrowded, under-resourced makeshift shelters. It's a rare opportunity to hear directly from someone living this mission. This evening is *free and open to all* - parishioners, healthcare professionals, donors, students, and anyone who feels called to respond to this urgent need. Your presence - and your voice - could help turn awareness into action, and hope into healthcare. RSVP at <https://events.humanitix.com/maternal-health-in-rural-zambia>

HIGHEST PAPAL HONOUR FOR SR MARY O'SHANNASSY SGS

After more than 30 years of service, Sr Mary has officially retired from her role as senior chaplain of the CatholicCare prison ministry team in Victoria. Sr Mary was awarded the Papal Cross of Honour—the highest honour the Pope can confer on an individual for their distinguished service to the Catholic Church.

As Victoria's longest serving prison chaplain, Sr Mary has been a regular presence at the state's 15 prisons and helped to establish a statewide chaplaincy team. Through CatholicCare Victoria's chaplaincy services, thousands of women and men, or 'residents' as Sr Mary calls them, are provided with emotional, spiritual, sacramental and pastoral support during their time in prison and as they return to society. Sr Mary still describes her ministry as a 'privilege'—a way to help people experience 'acceptance' and to see themselves as worthy of God's love.

"Whilst the dignity of people is always a top priority in our chaplaincy, it's also a great challenge. A significant number of people in prison have lacked that dignity and hence do not respect themselves or others....So it's the healing of those wounds ... It is being close to people ... meeting them where they are in the dark times of their lives and companioning them on their journey ... thus enabling each to come to respect themselves and then to be able to respect the other person," said Sr Mary. 'This is a privilege.' [Source: Melbourne Catholic]

BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT (BASP)

You are invited to take a copy of the latest BASP newsletter from the back of the church. It is crammed with informative articles on the status of matters concerning refugees and asylum seekers, as well as some personal stories, stories of generosity and hope, news events, such as the Palm Sunday March, ways of supporting BASP either financially, through material aid or advocacy. Be informed to take action. One action people are invited to do is to write to your new or re-elected MP to let them know that Australia's treatment of asylum seekers is an issue that's important to you. There are resources online with ideas about how to write a letter/email. This one is from prior to this federal election [Letter Writing | Australian Refugee Action Network ARAN](#). The contact details for the new Senators and MPs seem to be still being updated but you should be able to find them here: [Contacting Senators and Members - Parliament of Australia](#)

Two dates for your diary:

- Sunday, 1 June from 2.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m. is Music in the Chapel**, a collaboration between the Cabrini Choir and St Joseph's Music Ministry. Entry is by donation and all money goes directly to BASP. Venue: Cabrini Malvern Chapel, 183 Wattletree Road, Malvern.
- Wednesday, 11 June from 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.: Discussion Session**: "Will the recent election make any difference to the fate of asylum seekers?" Venue: Brigidine Ministries Centre, 54 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park.

As always, we invite you to continue your food donations into our BASP baskets at the back of the church. We thank you for your generosity.



Join us for our Community Fair! Explore the many ways we're making an impact and get to know the people of our diverse community. All staff, volunteers, participants and supporters are welcome.

When: Thursday, 5 June, 2-4pm

Where: Sacred Heart Central, 87 Grey St, St Kilda

What you can expect:

- Work expo – meet us and our programs
- Fun activities and contests
- Music and sausage sizzle



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 14: 21-27

Responsorial Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second Reading: Revelation 21: 1-5

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 13: 31-35

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 19 May - SUNDAY 25 May 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 at the Parish House, Elwood

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 14: 23-29

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$77.00	Total	\$302.50
Loose cash	\$330.95		
Total	\$407.95		
Average for 19 weeks	\$419.41	Average for 19 weeks	\$235.62

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: Arja Marjatta Kari 24.4 (Raija's mother), Jim Van Dort

1st Anniversaries: Damian Noseada, David Fenwick, Monica Cooper, Keith Dexter Martin, Leanne Patching, Brian Daly

Anniversaries: Harry Warren, James Morton (SHC) Josef Kania, Thomas Schell, Stevan Pejakovic, Pauline Galbraith 26.5, Wilfred Ebongo, Maria Nardella, Mary Halloran, Jenny Colman, Pauline Galbraith, Gilbert Camille, Michael Clarke, Nellie Dempsey, Dave Lewis, Christopher Watson, Frank Costa, Pamela Walsh, Darren Lester "Smithy", Patricia Jagelman, Ailsa Hansen, Iolanda Mortale 2.5, Angelo Turr, Mariese Kalka_Helen (Fr Barry's sister), Robert Bukausas Jarrod Patrick Milroy, Peter Elliot 19.5.2011, Percy Marsland 16.5.1995, Sr Delia Dempsey, Christina Coomb, Annabelle Millard, Kevin Hawke, Maurice Cooke, Eileen Semmel, Patricia Ferrairan, Sheila Hogan, Patricia Baird, Ricardo Mandusi, Julie McDonald, Don Gazzard, Albert Sasson, Alex Mandy, Ellen Woods pbvm, Gillian Shivan, Miles Green, Sam Attard, Anna Stanley, Marea Blight, Pauric McGahern, John Murray, Des Custerson, Arthur Humphrey, Adrian Freeman & Robbie Tuomey Carol Bowes 3.5.01, Elio Severino, Elaine Hellard, Marie Farrugia, Connie Dilger, Leovigildo Patolet, Nikki Jamieson, John (Giovanni) Iacona, JP Twohig, Maria & Alex Bryce, James Everard, John Rielly (Ireland), Kazia Styczynski, Patrick (Paddy) Reilly, Barry Lauritz, Wendy Kaczorowski, Lena Kovacevic, Sandra Kovacevic, Len Topp 3.5.11, Maria Micheli 4.5.11, Reg Saunders 9.5.10, Kathleen Richardson 20.5.10, Connor Lo & family, Joe Dye 15.5.97, Margaret Murphy 26.5, Maritsa Chiotelis 17.5.07, Kay Lewis 17.5.08, Eleanor Kildisas, Dennis Kingsbeer, Maria Bryce, Allan Amad, Vicky Amad, Debly Amad, Mara Antic 2.5, Gena Antic 3.5.96, Gina Teseo 9.5.78, Tony Donnelly, Giuseppi Contino, Patrick Corr, Concetta Lo Piccolo, Nunziata Panettieri, Patricia Canestra

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, Rose Fonti, Pat Ficcaro, Lyn Crossly, Nichole Garnaut, Anna-Maria Mandusi, Tony Cogo, Jillian Harrison, Paul Hamilton, Rosanna Scutti.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

24 / 25 May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Caroline Price

Set up: Karen Ramanair & Sree Chelvakumaran

9am Mass:

M: Roget Vail, Ada Nardella

C / L: Alecia Rathbone, Lydia St. Ange

Set up: Trevor, Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom & friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter

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

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Daniel O'Connor