

# 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 March 2022 Third Sunday of Lent

### **St Columba Church**

cnr Glenhantly & Normandy Rds  
Elwood 3184

### **Sacred Heart Church**

83 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182

### **St Columba Primary School**

24 Glenhantly Road Elwood 3184  
9531 6560; [www.stcolumbasprimary.org](http://www.stcolumbasprimary.org)

### **Sacred Heart Mission**

87 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182  
9537 1166; [www.sacredheartmission.org](http://www.sacredheartmission.org)

### **PARISH HOUSE**

2 Normandy Road, Elwood 3184  
03 9531 6120; [shsc@shscparish.org.au](mailto:shsc@shscparish.org.au)  
[www.shscparish.org.au](http://www.shscparish.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Petrus  
[john@shscparish.org.au](mailto:john@shscparish.org.au)

**Pastoral Associate:** Christine Mitchell  
[christine@shscparish.org.au](mailto:christine@shscparish.org.au)

**Parish Administrator:** Jane Hearnese  
[jane@shscparish.org.au](mailto:jane@shscparish.org.au)

**SHM Pastoral Care Worker:**  
Karen Englebretsen  
[kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org](mailto:kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org)

**St Columba Principal:**  
Daniella Maddalena  
[dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au)

**Deputy Principal:** Bern Bradley  
[bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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:** Jacquie  
Robillard [svdpeskw@gmail.com](mailto:svdpeskw@gmail.com)

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

### **Reflection on the Gospel by Pope Francis: Repentance**

Produced by the Diocese of Wollongong; Faith Circles [faithcircles.dow.org.au](http://faithcircles.dow.org.au)

The Gospel for this third Sunday of Lent speaks to us about God's mercy and of our conversion. Jesus recounts the parable of the barren fig tree. A man has planted a fig tree in his vineyard, and with great confidence, each summer, he goes in search of its fruits, but he finds none because that tree is barren. Spurred by this disappointment which has recurred for at least three years, the man considers cutting down the fig tree in order to plant another. So he calls the field hand who is in the vineyard and tells him of his disappointment, ordering him to cut down the tree so as not to use up the ground needlessly. But the vinedresser asks the master to be patient and asks him for one more year during which the vinedresser himself would take special and delicate care of the fig tree, so as to stimulate its productivity. This is the parable. What does this parable symbolize? What do the characters in this parable symbolize?

The master represents God the Father and the vinedresser is the image of Jesus, while the fig tree is the symbol of an indifferent and insensitive humanity. Jesus intercedes with the Father in favour of humanity – and he always does so – and implores him to wait and to give it more time so that it may bring forth the fruits of love and justice. The fig tree that the master in the parable wants to uproot represents a sterile existence that is incapable of giving, incapable of doing good. It is the symbol of one who lives for himself, sated and calm, enjoying his own comforts, incapable of turning his gaze and his heart to those beside him who find themselves in conditions of suffering, poverty and hardship. This attitude of selfishness and spiritual barrenness, is compared to the vinedresser's great love for the fig tree.

He asks the master to wait. He is patient, knows how to wait, and devotes his time and his work to it. He promises the master to take special care of that unfortunate tree. And this vinedresser's likeness manifests the mercy of God who leaves us time for conversion. We all need to convert ourselves, to take a step forward; and God's patience and mercy accompanies us in this. Despite the barrenness that marks our lives at times, God is patient and offers us the possibility to change and make progress on the path towards good. However, the deferment requested and received in expectation of the tree bearing fruit also indicates the urgency of conversion. The vinedresser tells the master: "Let it alone, sir, this year also". The possibility of conversion is not unlimited; thus, it is necessary to seize it immediately; otherwise it might be lost forever. This Lent, we can consider: what do I have to do to draw nearer to the Lord, to convert myself, to "cut out" those things that are not good? "No, no, I will wait for next Lent". But will I be alive next Lent? Today, let us each think: what must I do before this mercy of God who awaits me and who always forgives? What must I do? We can have great trust in God's mercy but without abusing it. We must not justify spiritual laziness, but increase our commitment to respond promptly to this mercy with heartfelt sincerity.

During the time of Lent, the Lord invites us to convert. Each of us must feel addressed by this call, and correct something in our lives, in our way of thinking, of behaving and of living our relationships with others. At the same time, we must imitate the patience of God who trusts in everyone's ability to "rise again" and to continue the journey. God is Father and does not extinguish the weak flame, but rather, accompanies and cares for those who are weak so that they may gain strength and bring their contribution of love to the community. May the Virgin Mary help us to live these days of preparation for Easter as a time of spiritual renewal and trusting openness to the grace of God and his mercy

## 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.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. May we acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri tribes 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.

## HARMONY WEEK

Harmony Week (21-27 March) celebrates Australia's exciting and diverse cultural reality. Harmony Week is also an opportunity to reflect on how inclusive we really are when it comes to child safeguarding. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards ask us to contemplate how the promotion of cultural safety for children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds occurs in parishes and entities.



Please support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations.**

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build better future for all.

As St Pope John Paul II said,  
"The future starts today, not tomorrow."

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting or by calling 1800 024 413.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of forgiveness, mercy and love  
we journey with Jesus during this Lenten season  
with the certain hope that you will recreate our world  
so that all people will live in peace and justice.

Call us out of the wilderness of apathy  
and help us to reach out to those who do not know hope  
or love.

Hear the longings of our hearts  
and the cries of those who yearn to live in peace and justice.  
Let Easter burst into a world waiting to be re-created.

Amen

## FLOOD APPEAL - SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The floods in Queensland and New South Wales are having a devastating effect on the people living in these regions of Australia. For those wishing to support the long-term recovery work to be undertaken by St Vincent de Paul Society in Queensland and New South Wales, financial donations can be made directly to either state through: [https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find\\_Help/Flood\\_appeal/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/Flood_appeal/) or by calling - Queensland 07 3010 1000 or New South Wales - 02 9568 0262

## SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

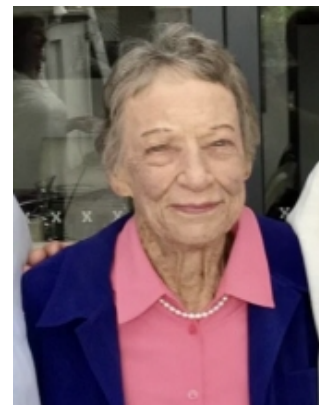
The people of Ukraine are living through a crisis that will impact the country for years to come. Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to support Caritas Ukraine and other partners in the region. The appeal will support the provision of clean water, hygiene and food kits to vulnerable families, as well as safe collection centres for families on the move, emergency accommodation and support for distressed children and families.

Please visit the Caritas website <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine> to donate or contact 1800 024 413.

## RIP PATRICIA HERKESS

Patricia (Pat) Herkess passed away peacefully at the age of 96. Pat raised two wonderful sons after her husband died at a very young age and her life was dedicated to caring for others - as a nurse and a wonderful mother and friend. She was a devoted member of our St Columba community and the Elwood Legion of Mary and will be greatly missed.

Pat's funeral will be held this **Thursday 24 March at 10.00am at St Columba Church.**



## EASTER CELEBRATIONS & TRIDUUM

### MONDAY 11 APRIL

Communal Reconciliation, 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church

### TUESDAY 12 APRIL

SHM Easter Liturgy, 10.30am Sacred Heart Church

### HOLY THURSDAY 14 APRIL

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

7.00pm St Columba Church

### GOOD FRIDAY 15 APRIL

Ecumenical Service

9.30am Holy Trinity Anglican Church

175 Chapel Street, Balaclava  
and

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

3.00pm Sacred Heart Church

### EASTER VIGIL 16 APRIL

7.00pm St Columba Church

*Please meet at 6.45pm in the Parish House car park for the lighting ceremony*

### EASTER SUNDAY 17 APRIL

9.00am St Columba Church

11.00am Sacred Heart Church

## NEWS FROM SACRED HEART MISSION

### Journeys into Meaningful Work

Homelessness is a form of social exclusion. Exclusion from participating in social activities, forming strong relationships and feeling safe and well in the community.

At Sacred Heart Mission our aim is to not only support our clients out of homelessness, but to ensure they also have the opportunity to engage fully in community life. This is exactly what our **Journey to Social Inclusion (J2SI) program** is all about.

**Workforce participation is a key component on this journey for our clients.** Our J2SI program includes a team of Workforce Participation Workers who support J2SI participants over three years to form and understand their goals about reengaging with the workforce. This may include studying or re-training, volunteering or obtaining a paid role. Understanding the clients' needs

J2SI participants generally want to work, but often find the process of finding and keeping work very challenging. This is where Workforce Participation Workers, like staff member *John Taru* come in. John has worked in traditional employment services for over 25 years and with a wide range of people who needed help finding work.

"My focus is on understanding the client's needs and collaborating with them," says John.

"My relationship with the client is primary in all that I do."

To read the complete article by Olivia Killeen, Communication and Social Policy Officer please visit <https://www.sacredheartmission.org/journeys-into-meaningful-work/>

## HOLY HOUR ON FRIDAY MORNING AT ST COLUMBA

Those wishing to participate in a Holy Hour as part of their Lenten practice are welcomed to join us each Friday at 9.30 a.m., following the 9.00 a.m. Mass, at St Columba Church, Elwood. We begin in song, make prayer, have silence and then finish with the Rosary. Booklets provided.

## LANEWAY CELEBRATIONS

Brought to you by Space2b and our amazing diverse community. **Sunday 20th March 2022, 11.30am - 2.30pm** Laneway behind Space2b, 144 Chapel St, St Kilda  
Space2b will come alive once again as we bring the community together with music, food, dance and art sure to stimulate all your senses!

Space2b is an art and design social enterprise supporting newly arrived migrants and refugees.

**Together we make a difference.**

## CONTEMPLATIVE WALK - FERNY CREEK VICTORIA

Jesuits and Ignatian Spirituality presents a time for guided reflection and silent contemplation walking and listening to God's presence within ourselves and nature. Starting from Ferny Creek Reserve in the Dandenongs, we walk two loops. In the morning via quiet country roads to the Alfred Nicholas Garden for an explore, then back to the cars at Ferny Creek for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we cross the road for a loop through Sherbrook Forest. A mix of tall forest, lush tree fern gullies, quiet streets, pine tree avenues and ornamental gardens. Total distance approx. 13km, with 250m climbing including some steep sections in the Alfred Nicholas Garden. The Walk: This is a Grade 3 walk (medium) approximately 13km.

When: Saturday, 9 April 2022 @ 9.30am - 4.00pm

Meet: 9.30am, Ferny Creek Recreational Reserve in the Dandenongs

Bring: Day pack, lunch, water, snacks to carry, sunhat, sunblock, wet weather gear. Wear shoes/boots with good tread. Cost: \$40

All are welcome, don't let cost prevent you from participating, please call 1300 EXAMEN (1300-392-636). You are also invited to contribute financially towards the ongoing work of our not-for-profit ministry, at the checkout when booking. We are grateful for your generosity, which enables us to continue sharing the transformative experiences of Ignatian spirituality. We also have a duty of care to all others attending our programs and visiting our sites. We welcome those who are in good health who have received all COVID-19 vaccinations. We must sight your Australian government issued COVID-19 vaccination certificate.

## 1ST RITE OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturday 2 April; 9.00am St Columba Church and 10.30am Sacred Heart Church**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15

**Responsorial Psalm:**

The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel:** Luke 13: 1-9

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 21 March - SUNDAY 27 March 2022**

**MONDAY** 2.00pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community (restricted access due to Covid)

**TUESDAY** 11.00am Funeral Mass for Rosario Marino at St Columba Church (10.30am Rosary)

**THURSDAY** 10.00am Funeral Mass for Patricia Herkess at St Columba Church

11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

**FRIDAY** 9.00am MASS at St Columba Church

**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 15: 1-3, 11-32

### COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

#### THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Envelopes \$74.00

Loose cash \$206.15

Total \$280.15

Average for 11 weeks \$486.14

#### PRESBYTERY COLLECTION

Envelopes \$249.00

Average for 11 weeks \$264.06



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our finance committee comprising Fr John, Paul Sherman, David Windsor and Bernadette Cheet continue to meet to support and prudently manage the parish financial situation. They will present an updated report to our PLDT at the April meeting and we will circulate a version of it for parishioners following the meeting.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

**All Recently Deceased:** Patricia Herkess 11.3, John Pratt (SHM Community)

**1st Anniversary:** David Griffin, Thomas Szabo

**Anniversaries:** David Carter, David Rickard, Caterina Pino, Michael Grigorio, John Huggett, Graziella Pesenti, James Rodrigues, Ines Picone, Wally Haire, Michael Hayward, Concettina Schiano Moriello 13.3, Maurice Thomas, John Lawler, Mary Tudor, Peter Brady, Yehia Ragheb, Brian Scanlan, Tom Schepsi, Max Hunter, Ben Tripp 16.3.14, Tony Tripp 8.3, John Muldoon, Donald Everard, Dudley Gomez, Patricia Moore, Bozo Martinov, Jean Curtis 8.3, Roza Pawloska 9.3, Arnold Krumins 11.3, Peter Wilson, David Nightingale, Tom Connelly, Jack Edwards 29.3, Kevin Mooney 19.3.04, Joseph D'Agata, Tom Rehill, John O'Shaughnessy, Patricia McHale 4.3.01, Whippy Peters 13.3.11, Ladislav Mikus 25.3.11, Matthew Beyer 15.3.08, Giuseppina Mazzella 18.3.10, Peter O Connor 5.3.51, Maria Terzita Pittari 15.3.10, Patrick Reade 13.3.10, Andrew Crook 21.3.10, Andrea 7 Raffaele Fraccalanza, Octavia Santini 8.3.98, Muriel Bowes 25.3.02, Nunziata Panettieri, Maria Tesoriero, Max Korber, Caterina Cutelle, Pat Mooney, Maria Alfonse 18.3, Denise Jacoby 18.3

**Sick:** Di Lopez, Michael Cash, Carole Patten, Vasili Miller, Baby Lewis, Liz Heritage, Leanne Flynn, Colin Nettlebeck, Ruth French, Monique Belcourt, Jackie Pyster, Ghislaine O'Malley, Sarah O'Brien, Michael Ratliff, Peter Dwyer, Patricia Mizzi, David Rankin, Mary Throssell (Perth, W.A.), Carl Riddell, Pat Ficcaro, Matilda Foster.

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**All ministry volunteers must be double vaccinated**  
**26 / 27 March: 4th Sunday of Lent**

### St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Tony O'Malley

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Volunteer needed

Set up: Karen Ramanair & Sree Chelvakumaran

9am Mass:

M: Ada Nardella

C / L: Raymond Bolger, Volunteer needed

Set up: Ada Nardella

### Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter, MaryAnne Culhane

(currently only one volunteer needed at mass)

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

Set up: Legion of Mary

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Lent - Liturgy Team - Melanie