

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 6 / 7 SEPTEMBER 2025 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 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 Petrus, 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.

Safeguarding Sunday: Creating a Culture of Care - Together We Protect

Safeguarding is sometimes seen as just an administrative requirement. In reality, it is far more than that—it is rooted in Scripture, grounded in theology and lived through practical action.

The Bible calls us to safeguarding. Proverbs 31:8 says: *“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.”* This is not an optional extra; it is a Gospel imperative. To protect and uphold the dignity of the most vulnerable is to live out the mission of Christ Himself.

Safeguarding is central to our theology. Our Creed of Care prayer reminds us that safeguarding is not just a policy but a way of being a disciple. To believe that every person is created in the image of God is to recognise their infinite worth. When we say Christ is present among us, we commit to making every encounter safe and respectful. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to act with justice, integrity, and love—even when it is hard.

Safeguarding is also practical and communal. As the Body of Christ, we gather not only to celebrate the Eucharist but to create an environment where all—children, young people, and adults—can flourish without fear of harm. This requires systems, structures and shared responsibility. As Justin Humphreys writes in *A Theology of Safeguarding*^[1]:

“The Bible gives us a clear mandate to ensure that those who are vulnerable are heard, defended, and treated appropriately, fairly, and compassionately. Our theology must be worked out in best safeguarding practice for all.”

Creating a culture of safeguarding will not happen on its own. It takes commitment from everyone—clergy, religious, and laity alike. Safeguarding is not just a policy to follow; it must become second nature, shaping how we minister, how we lead, and how we treat one another.

While we cannot guarantee that abuse will never happen again, together we can make it as difficult as possible for harm to occur. That means:

- Choosing and training the right people for every ministry role.
- Setting clear standards and codes of conduct.
- Holding each other accountable with openness and transparency.
- Providing ongoing education for everyone in our community.

What can you do today?

- Take part in parish safeguarding training when it is offered (see insert).
- Know and follow the parish safeguarding guidelines.
- Stay alert to signs of harm or unsafe behaviour and report concerns immediately.
- Ensure every activity you attend or lead is a safe, respectful space for all.
- Pray for healing for those who have been hurt and for strength to protect others.

Safeguarding is not optional. It is a core part of our mission as disciples of Christ. When each of us plays our part, the Church becomes what it is meant to be—a safe, welcoming home for all.

^[1] Humphreys J (2022) ‘A Theology of Safeguarding’, in *Exploring Theology of Safeguarding Children: A compendium of views written on behalf of the National Board*, Booklet from 2022 National Conference, The National Board for SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

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 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.

MEANING OF THE OFFICIAL SEASON OF CREATION SYMBOL



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

The 2025 Symbol is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. Titled, "Garden of Peace," it depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolising peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable. The white dove with an olive branch is a globally recognised symbol of peace. In the story of Noah, it also signifies new life after destruction.

Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden. Through this year's Season of Creation, we will reflect on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace.

OUR PRAYER THIS WEEK IS THE OFFICIAL SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER

Creator of all,
we praise you for the gift of life
and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.
We confess how estranged we have become—
from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves.

We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses
have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and
with the Earth.

Fertile fields have become barren,
forests lie desolate,
oceans and rivers are polluted.

Thriving communities have become places of suffering,
and the earth cries out.

Beloved Christ,
who spoke "Shalom" to frightened hearts,
stir us to compassionate action.

Inspire us to work for the end of conflict,
and for the full restoration of broken relationships—
with you, with the ecumenical community,
with the human family,
and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace,
through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity
with the woundedness of others,
of creation, and of the world.

Through your resurrection,
make us people of hope—
with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares
and tears transformed into joy.

May we come together as one family,
to labour for your peace—
a shalom where all your people
may dwell in safety,
and rest in quiet places.

Amen.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL FATHERS AND FATHER-FIGURES IN OUR LIVES

In the words of Pope Francis: "... a father or father-figure is not born but made. [He is one] who can share in his family's joy and pain, hand down wisdom to his children and offer them

firm guidance and love.

Remembering all fathers and father-figures in prayer at our masses this weekend.



MARKING PEACE WITH CREATION: A CREED OF CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

When we pray our Creed of Care, we affirm that every person is created in the image of God and that our community must be a place of safety, trust, and dignity. But this care cannot stop with people alone—it extends to the earth itself, our common home. Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'* that the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are one and the same. When creation suffers, so do the most vulnerable among us.

This year's Season of Creation theme, *Making Peace with Creation*, calls us to look at the ways we live, consume, and use the earth's resources. Are we building peace, or are we causing harm? Safeguarding is not only about protecting children and vulnerable people—it is about creating environments where all life can flourish. Just as we commit to safe spaces for people, we must also commit to safe spaces for God's creation.

Pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity threaten the integrity of creation. These wounds are not just ecological—they are moral. They show a disregard for the Creator's design and for future generations. When the environment is degraded, it is the poor who suffer first and most. Floods, fires and food insecurity disproportionately affect those with the least resources to adapt. If our Creed declares that "every person is unique and precious," then our choices must reflect that truth in how we care for the planet.

To make peace with creation, we need to act as stewards, not owners. The earth does not belong to us—it is entrusted to our care. Every decision, from reducing waste and conserving water to advocating for policies that protect the environment, becomes an act of faith. These choices are part of our mission as the Body of Christ: to safeguard life in all its forms.

Our Creed of Care proclaims a community where everyone can "grow and flourish without harm." Imagine extending this vision to creation itself—a world where forests, rivers, oceans, and wildlife can thrive. In doing so, we also create a safer world for people, especially those who are most vulnerable. During this Season of Creation, let us renew our commitment:

- To live simply and responsibly.
- To reduce our ecological footprint.
- To speak out against environmental harm.
- To nurture the bond between care for people and care for the earth.

Making peace with creation is not an optional extra—it is at the heart of safeguarding life. As we pray the Creed of Care, may it inspire us to act with love for both humanity and the earth. For in protecting creation, we protect each other and we honour the Creator who made all things good.

Over the next five weeks during the Season of Creation, we will have a focus on creation through the newsletter, prayer, symbol and song. We thank Janine Hellard for the time she spent creating our very own Season of Creation symbol signifying the barrenness and the flourishing of our earth.



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

LEGION OF MARY

Our wonderful Legion of Mary praesidium recently celebrated their 1000th meeting in our parish. Congratulations and thank you to the members for the tireless work.

The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organisation whose members are giving service to the church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. A unit of the Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussion.

Our praesidium meets weekly on Friday mornings at 9.30am in the parish house. New members are also welcomed and can contact the parish office for further information.

AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC COALITION FOR CHURCH REFORM (ACCCR) AND GARRATT PUBLISHING PRESENT

A Conversation with Chris Sidoti on Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel. Australian human rights lawyer Chris Sidoti, a member of the UN Human Rights Council's International Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem and Israel, has been at the centre of this work. The Commission investigates alleged crimes committed during the conflict, with genocide among its critical areas of focus.

The world is witnessing harrowing events in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel – events that raise urgent questions of justice, human rights and accountability. Fresh from the launch of the Commission's latest report in Geneva this September, Chris will share his reflections and insights at this ACCCR-Garratt Publishing event. Joining him will be Sister Susan Connelly, a passionate advocate for justice, who will respond to Chris's presentation and draw out key threads for deeper discussion.

Details: Date and time: Thursday, 25 September from 7.00 p.m. via zoom

To register, visit the website of Garratt Publishing:

www.garrattpublishing.com.au This is a free event.

THE AGE OF AUTHENTICITY: THE PATH TO RENEWAL

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. Discover how the "Age of Authenticity" offers both challenge and opportunity for renewal.

Details: **Thursday, 18 September 2025, 6:00-7:00 PM**

AEST. To book, visit: <https://divinerenovation.org/>

This is a free event.

FR JOHN ON ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr John will be on his well deserved annual leave from Monday 8 September until Wednesday 8 October. We wish him a safe and peaceful time off.

We thank you Fr JD, Fr Martin, Fr Erick, Sr Trish, Mel & Christine for supporting our masses and communion services during Fr John's leave. Please contact Christine or Jane if you need any support during this time.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Wisdom 9: 13-18

Responsorial Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 8 September - SUNDAY 14 September 2025

MONDAY	11.00am Communion Service at Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
THURSDAY	11.00am Communion Service at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	9.00am Communion Service in 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 3: 13-17

COLLECTIONS: Last two weekends

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$67.00	Total	\$373.40
Loose cash	\$442.45		
Total	\$509.45		
Average for 34 weeks	\$387.14	Average for 34 weeks	\$233.39

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](https://www.shscparish.org.au/support-us) 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:

"When we pray, God opens our eyes, renews and changes our hearts, heals our wounds, and gives us the grace we need"

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased:

1st Anniversaries: Egons Polis, Maria Benvenuti, Adrian Feehan, Ray Mckenna 30.8, Todd Hurley 31.8.

Anniversaries: Diana Monestrati, Trevor Pickett, Rosa Reyes, Mary-Grace Levakis, Fr Brian Gleeson, Miralda Lopez, Sr Anne Boyd CSB

3rd Anniversaries Bernard Alfonso 28.9.22, Gianpaolo Marcon 28.09,

4th Anniversaries: Noreen Dempsey 9.9.21, Norma Tyler

Anniversaries: 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 1.9.2002, (Leslie) Anthony Jones 14.9, Kosara Molner, Michael O'Connor 6.9, 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 7.9.12, John Duffy 11.9 Peter Courtney 19.9.11, Ivy D'Lima 12.9.11, Nevil Ryan 2.9.11, Joan Jayne 17.9.11, Rosario Patane 1.9, 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, Bernadette Callose, Tim Wilson.

If you have someone you would like on the prayer list please contact Jane at the office.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

13 / 14 September: Exhalation of the Holy Cross

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Bronwyn Illott, Volunteer needed

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Pristille No, Mizel Filho

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: The Brazilians

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy team