



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 20/21 September 2025
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Reflection - Investing in the Future

When bad things happen to us we are apt to spend a great deal of time being angry at what has taken place – especially if we feel that what has happened is unjust, unfair or unreasonable.

Today's Gospel episode is often called the 'Parable of the Unjust Steward'. But perhaps he is the one who is being treated unjustly. After all, the Master hears a rumour that the steward has been 'wasteful with his property'. Without conducting an investigation to find out if the rumour is true, the Master decides to dismiss the steward.

The steward spends only a little time trying to decide what he will do once he loses his job. Knowing he is too weak to dig and too ashamed to beg, he sets about altering the contracts of sale for his masters' debtors.

Is the steward stealing from the Master? No. In the ancient world such stewards were not directly paid by the master. Their 'wage' came from the commissions they added to bills of sale. So the steward is giving up his commission for the sake of his long-term future; to build goodwill among the debtors that they might return

the favour in the steward's coming hour of need.

For astutely investing in his future the steward is praised by the Master. Jesus uses this allusion to advise the disciples that they, too, should invest in their future through the sharing of all that they have.

The term mammon refers not only to money, but to all that a person has. The disciples, says Jesus, should be prepared to give away all that they have to the poor so that when the kingdom comes, in which the poor have the privileged places, the disciples will be welcomed into the 'tents of eternity'.

The final sayings of this Gospel presuppose that Christian life is a stewardship in which the wealth that one handles is wealth God wishes the whole world to share, not one's personal possession. Disciples must choose wisely and act decisively. When it comes to wealth, they must choose between the interests of God and their own self-interest.

If disciples do not share possessions, they will not be entrusted with the true riches of the kingdom. If they do share possessions, which are on loan from God, they will be given the treasure of heaven as their own. The disciples must give exclusive loyalty to God or succumb to the enslavement of mammon.

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

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.

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.

BASP Trivia Night

St Mary's Hampton online trivia night in support of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (basp.org.au) is back on **Friday 3 October**. We aim to provide a fun night for you and your friends and raise money for a good cause. To take part, sign up as a team host, and get your team together for a light-hearted night of trivia and conviviality!

Date: Friday 3 October

Time: 7.30pm to 9.45pm

Venue: Your Place! Invite a group of friends to your home, up to 10 people - small groups are welcome. If you prefer you can form a distributed team in several locations and use our online breakout rooms to talk over your answers. Suggested minimum donation \$30 per team member.

How: You don't need to be a tech wizard. You will need a smartphone (iPhone, Android) tablet (iPad, Android) or a computer with sound (a webcam would be nice but not essential). You'll get a link for the Zoom online chat service and use your web browser to answer the trivia questions. Check the website for more details.

Bookings: cohdig.au/trivia

Enquiries: email basptrivia@gmail.com

If you simply wish to make a donation, you can deposit directly to the BASP bank account:
BASP Trust
BSB: 083 004
Account: 56 924 6603
Please include the word 'Trivia' and your last name as your reference.

If there is anyone in our parish who would like to organise a group, please contact either Jane or Christine in the Office.

CathEvents

The Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP) and the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) are proud to partner in the creation of CathEvents—a platform dedicated to supporting leadership, faith formation and ministry across Australia and New Zealand. Discover Catholic Podcasts and events happening across Australia—retreats, pilgrimages, workshops and more. Visit www.CathEvents.org.au to find opportunities to grow in faith and community.

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,
You call us to be faithful stewards of all that you entrust to us.
Teach us to use wisely the gifts of time, talent and treasure, not for selfish gain, but for the building of Your kingdom.
When the world tempts us with wealth, power and comfort, remind us that true riches are found in love, justice and mercy.
Keep our hearts free from the chains of greed, so that we may serve you alone with undivided devotion.
Amen.



Season of Creation Reflection:

by Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, Ph.D.

When we speak of the “environment,” what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. (Laudato Si’, #139)

How easy it is for us to lose track of our many connections with our sisters and brothers across the globe – our fellow humans, animals, plants, the air, water, soils and other earth elements. There are so many ways we have become distracted from these very important relationships. Yet – deep down we know – none of us can live without drinkable water, clean air, or good soil for growing food.

Though it’s not always apparent – everything on the planet is related with everything else – the cities, the forests, the oceans, the air...EVERYTHING!

When something happens to one – it affects everyone and everything – nearby and far away – a smoking factory, a contaminated stream, a strip-mined mountain – everything and everyone around it suffers, and our most vulnerable neighbors suffer the most.

In *Laudato Si’* Pope Francis calls us to “ecological conversion” - to take time to reflect on the many ways you and I are deeply and profoundly connected to everything and everyone else. Daily - you and I need to value and treat each and every one of our fellow

creatures – in the same loving and respectful way – that God values and treats us.

Caring for God’s creation, as God cares for us will – no doubt – require each of us to change what we do to use up more than our fair share of God’s many gifts. Pope Francis calls everyone to a lifestyle rooted in *integral ecology* – a world view and a way of thinking, being, and acting that recognizes that everything is related to everything else.

Today – take five minutes – and look around you ...

- How are you connected to the world?
- What can you do today to build more positive connections?

[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! If interested, contact the Parish Office.

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD THIS WEEK

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm: Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor!

Second Reading: Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel Acclamation Verse: Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday, 22 – Sunday, 28 September

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

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

Fri: Public Holiday, no Communion Service

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

Sunday:

9.00: **Mass:** St Columba Church

11.00: **Mass:** Sacred Heart Church (live streamed).

Gospel: Luke 19-31.



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://

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: 27/28 September:

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass: M: **Volunteer** C/L: **Volunteers**

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am: M: Roger Vail and Maria Kovacevic

C / L: Alecia Rathbone and Lydia St Ange

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom and Friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes 11am Mass:

M: **Volunteer**; Set up: Legion of Mary

C / L: Adrian Cropley and Toni Vatta

Prayer of the Faithful: Silvana D'Ambrosio

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased: Jen McCulloch, Martin Green and Steven Foldi.

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 Dos Santos, David Hawe, Alva Pickett, Karen Driscoll, Tim Wilson.