

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 4 / 5 December 2021 Second Sunday of Advent



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 Associate: Christine Mitchell

christine@shscparish.org.au

Parish Administrator: Jane Hearnese

jane@shscparish.org.au

SHM Pastoral Care Worker

St Columba Principal:

Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Bern Bradley

bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

REC: Stu Andreau-Mill

sam@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

Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary

Please contact the parish office.

A Reflection by Pope Francis on Today's Gospel

[Source: Faith Circles, produced by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, faithcircles.dow.org.au]

Last Sunday, the liturgy invited us to experience the Season of Advent and of anticipation of the Lord with an attitude of vigilance and also of prayer: "be mindful" and "pray". Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are shown how to give substance to this anticipation: by undertaking a journey of conversion, how to make this anticipation concrete. As a guide on this journey, the Gospel presents the figure of John the Baptist who "went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins". To describe the Baptist's mission, the Evangelist Luke refers to the ancient prophecy of Isaiah which says: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be brought low".

To prepare the way of the Lord's coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us. What are these requirements for conversion? First of all we are called to fill the 'valleys' caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention which takes on the needs of our neighbours. To fill the valleys caused by coldness. One cannot have a relationship of love, charity and fraternity with one's neighbours if there are 'gaps' just as one cannot travel a road with many potholes. This requires a change of attitude. And all this should also be done with special attention to the neediest. Then there is the need to curtail the indifference caused by pride and arrogance. How many people, perhaps without realising it, are proud, are indifferent, lack that kindly relationship. It is necessary to overcome this by making concrete gestures of reconciliation with our brothers and sisters, asking for forgiveness for our faults. It is not easy to reconcile with another. One always thinks: "who will take the first step?". The Lord helps us in this if we are of good will. Indeed, conversion is complete if it leads us to humbly recognise our errors, our infidelity and failings.

The believer is someone who, by being close to his brothers and sisters, like John the Baptist, opens pathways in the desert, that is, he indicates perspectives of hope, even in those existential contexts that are arduous, marked by failure and defeat. We cannot give up in the face of negative situations of closure and rejection: we must not allow ourselves to succumb to the mentality of the world, because the centre of our life is Jesus and his word of light, love and solace. It is He! The Baptist invited the people of his time to conversion, with force, with vigour and with firmness. Nevertheless, he knew how to listen, he knew how to perform gestures of tenderness, gestures of forgiveness toward the multitude of men and women who went to him to confess their sins and to be baptised with the baptism of repentance.

The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant. Today too, Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day with the power of the Holy Spirit. Let each of us ask ourselves: how can I change something in my attitude, in order to prepare the way of the Lord?

May the Virgin Mary help us prepare the way of the Lord day by day, beginning with ourselves; and to scatter around us with steadfast patience, seeds of peace, justice and fraternity.

Lord, help us to anticipate, prepare and be open to your coming.

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.

There are a range of important and interesting resources on the Church noticeboards and on our website supporting and highlighting Safeguarding in our parish. We encourage you to take the time to have a look at them and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact one of the Safeguarding Committee.

CONFIRMATION 2021

Next Thursday evening, after months of postponement because of lockdown, twenty-one children from St Columba school and several others in our parish will finally be able to celebrate their last Sacrament of Initiation. Please pray for them that as they grow into life, they may always call on the gifts of the Holy Spirit in leading a life based on the way, the truth and the life into which Jesus came to proclaim and invite us.

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP NEW RESIDENTS DIRECTORY

The City of Port Phillip New Residents Directory was created for new migrants and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who live, work and study in the Port Phillip area. We spoke to several current residents who arrived in Port Phillip as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and asked them what information they wished they had known when they arrived in Port Phillip and during their first year. This directory includes what they told us.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/multicultural-and-inclusive/multicultural-community>

The directory will also be shortly available in Hindi, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Mandarin (simplified) on City of Port Phillip Multicultural Community page.

PRAYER FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Loving God,
Awaken our hearts as we keep this Advent time;
Allow us to draw near to you
And sit in your presence.
Awaken our hearts as we keep this Advent time:
That we may listen more deeply to your word in our lives
And make room of Emmanuel.
Amen.

**DONATE A MEAL THIS CHRISTMAS
AND CHANGE A LIFE**

GIVE TODAY



DONATE A MEAL AND IGNITE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

For Peter, a meal at Sacred Heart Mission's Dining Hall was the first step to turning his life around.

This festive season, your support of the Dining Hall will give people the chance to connect, gain access to critical support, and importantly, break the cycle of homelessness, for good.

Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Peter came to study in Australia in a time when his home country struggled with racial segregation and political instability.

Peter was granted a Commonwealth Scholarship to study economics at Swinburne University where he graduated with a degree in Economics, with Honors.

When Peter's marriage sadly broke down, his mental health declined and - at 43 years old - he found himself without a home. While staying at a temporary accommodation in Balaclava, Peter discovered our Dining Hall and this was the spark he needed.

"It's the most brilliant thing I ever did. Good meals, friendly people. It was a safe place." - Peter

After regular visits to the Dining Hall, and continued interactions with our experienced staff, Peter had the opportunity to move into Sacred Heart Community, our residential aged care service. Here, Peter found a home for life and a welcoming community. "I would say [Sacred Heart Community] is a healing place," Peter says.

To donate and support Sacred Heart Mission please visit <https://www.sacredheartmission.org/donate>

AN INVITATION FROM GARRATT PUBLISHING

Garratt Publishing are hosting a free zoom event with Dr Phyllis Zagano in conversation with Fr Frank Brennan SJ to celebrate the launch of her new book: *Just Catholic: The Future is Now*. Details:

When: **Thursday, 9 December at 10.30 a.m. via zoom.**

Places are strictly limited, so if you are interested, contact Garratt Publishing on: sales@garrattpublishing.com.au

Garratt is still running its excellent Advent virtual series with biblical scholars talking about the Sunday Advent readings. Parishioners who have zoomed in for the last two weeks have been well nourished by their reflections on the word.

DATES FOR CHRISTMAS

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

7.00pm Monday 20 December at St Columba Church

SACRED HEART MISSION CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

10.30am Friday 17 December at Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.30pm Carols and 6.00pm Family Mass at St Columba Church and

10.30pm Carols and 11.00pm Mass at Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS DAY: Saturday 25 December

9.00am Mass at St Columba Church

11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart Church

NO 6PM MASS

Due to Covid regulations and the need to maintain a 1.5m distance, a cap of 135 people applies to each Church and the front doors will be closed once this number is met.

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER: Feast of the Holy Family

10.00am at Sacred Heart Church

This is a 'normal' Sunday mass but due to the Christmas masses only one mass will be held on 26 December.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

We have ordered copies of the **2022 Break Open the Word**. If any Lectors or other parishioners would like a copy (\$15) please contact us on 9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au.

FESTIVE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

You are warmly invited to a concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne:

Festive Music for Christmas, **Wednesday 15 December**, 7.00pm. Cathedral Brass, with Anthony Halliday, organ. Brett Kelly, conductor.

\$25 - tickets online or at the door. Children under 15 are admitted free of charge.

Online tickets: www.trybooking.com/BVJPD

COPP CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Nothing says Port Phillip like celebrating creativity. And that's exactly what we did for this year's International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3 December.

Through our Community Stories on Film campaign, we called on people with disability, families, carers and advocates with a connection to the City of Port Phillip to contribute an original short film focusing on the theme of inclusion and belonging in Port Phillip. Our community didn't disappoint! We featured two filmmakers who went above and beyond: Heidi Everett and City of Voices. For more information please visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/celebrating-inclusion-and-belonging-in-port-phillip>

NEW ARRIVAL

Parishioners, especially those who attend the 9.00 a.m. Mass may remember Gizela who was part of our



parish and choir while she was in Australia studying her Masters in International Community Development. Upon returning to Timor-Leste, Gizela married and has now had her first child, a little girl called Fizelia Basileca Carvalho da Costa Freitas, to be known as Murak. Let us pray for God's grace on this little miracle of joy and that her parents will always guide her in faithful service of our Lord, through service of others. Congratulations!

FROM THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION

From the newsletter of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation

This month we launched a new title, *Wanhaka Yothu Yirḡani*, in Yirrkala, a small community in the Northern Territory. This is one of six non-commercial books produced with illustrations from one of our most loved titles, *No Way Yirrikipayi!* written in Dhuwaya, the home language of the students at Yirrkala school. Having books in the home language is not only an enjoyable experience but also assists with reading, comprehension, and cultural identity.

As we approach the end of the year, please help us grow our programs to reach more mob in remote Australia.

Our Festive Appeal gives you some great options:

- Give the Gift of Reading cards featuring artwork by young illustrators from Milikapiti and Bidyadanga remote Communities. Each card represents the gifting of two, five or ten culturally relevant books to kids in remote Communities
- Purchase one or both of our bilingual Festive Book Packs - a great gift idea for toddlers and young children, or
- Simply give a donation. Your donations helps us deliver our Community-led literacy programs in remote Australia.

In 2022 we acknowledge and celebrate year one of UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages. Along with our growing *Book Supply* and *Book Buzz* early literacy programs, ILF is assisting Communities across the continent, to celebrate, maintain and preserve languages by publishing 40 books in 22 First Languages! With your help we can continue to collaborate and unlock the knowledge, spirit and strength of people in remote Communities to engage in literacy in the way they wish. A heartfelt thank you to you for being an integral part of this journey.

For further information on how you can help, go to www.indigenoussliteracyfoundatio.org.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 6 December - SUNDAY 12 December

MONDAY 2pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community
(Restricted access at this time)

THURSDAY 11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9am MASS at St Columba Church
Presider: Fr Barry Moran

SATURDAY 6pm MASS at St Columba Church

SUNDAY 9am MASS at St Columba Church
11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(this mass is also live streamed)
Gospel: Luke 3: 10-18

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Envelopes \$45.00

Loose cash \$146.80

Total \$191.80

PRESBYTERY COLLECTION

Envelopes \$234.15



SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Due to the amazing support and generosity of our parishioners - those close and further afield - we are still within budget despite the significant lockdowns. Additionally, there were donations of approx \$13,500 made into the Presbytery account for Fr John which is wonderful and incredibly beneficial.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Margaret Have, Henry Polis, Christian Farrell

1st Anniversary: Ondrej Soukup, Roger Graham, Maurice Kay, Karl Roberts, Jason Curran

6th Anniversary: Therese Mitchell 6.12.2015

Anniversaries: Ernie O'Keeffe 3.12.2019, Dorothy Corcoran, Raphael Ruske, Mrs Amad, Bob Collins Anthony Ellul, Pamela Pimento, Merril LeesEva Bebjewsky, Norman Garland, Naser Azari, Lucas Santos Fraga, Robin Wheatley, Colin King, Leslie Korosztos, Barry Scanlan, Bill Waucope, Rolando Chan, Bridie Spierings, Bartolo Canestra, Maria Terzita Canestra, Angelo Marcon 5.12.69, Mark Samuel-King, Peter Cescato, Royce Hagen, Stuart & Beryl Melville 5.12, Stephen Phillips, Domenico Cerasuolo, Millie Walker, Esther Dempsey 19.12, Julie Lyons-Vague, Rita Briglia, Carole Bilton 15.12, Rachel West, Helena Szeffler 17.12, Graham Bilton 29.12, Mak Czermak 2010, Maria Cafarella 26.12.11, Augusto Strangis 2.12.01, Bob Alexander, Agnes Castellano 8.12.10, Darryl Shand 16.12.10, Frank Ruberto 26.12.10, Charlotte Cooper 12.12.73, Clare O'Connor 29.12.05, Maria Basile, Mara Dale, Jackie Everett, Sandra Aerche, Gary Munari, Dorothy McEwan, Kolja and Peter Kovacevic, Pashko and Lena Djelovic, Michele Pescatore, Maria Pescatore, Nicola & Maria Panella, Paolo & Maria Duca, Nunziata Panettieri, Denise McAlorum 24.12.03, Gavin Curran 23.12.11

Sick: 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.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

All ministry volunteers must be double vaccinated

11 / 12 December: Third Sunday of Advent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Meg Taylor, Tony O'Malley

Set up: Meg Taylor

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheer, Frances Pititto

(currently only one volunteer needed at mass)

C / L: Tony Lopes, Volunteer needed

Set up: Jeferson Almeida Souza

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalie Netyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Team