

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 31 MARCH 2024 EASTER SUNDAY

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

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 Hearnese
jane@shscparish.org.au

SHM Pastoral Care Worker:
Karen Englebretsen
kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org

St Columba Principal / REC:

Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Bern Bradley
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: Dominic Tesoriero
domtess1@gmail.com

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

Jesus is Raised from the Dead

Our Lenten journey and pilgrimage are over. Our fasting is complete; now we can feast and celebrate. We have travelled with Jesus from the harshness of the desert to the new life coming from the empty tomb. Having walked with Jesus as we carried our cross, we now share in and experience the joy and power of his resurrection.

When we look at the news on our televisions or read it our newspapers, we are all very well aware of all the hardship and pain that exists in our world today. There isn't a day that goes by were we don't read the story of a random act of terrorism or a shooting of one kind or another. There are painful scenes of war and terrorism of our televisions, most if not every evening. Even in our own country and communities there are senseless acts of violence that leave families grieving for the death of a loved one. How are we meant to celebrate Easter in such difficult circumstances?

Even at the time of Jesus there was inequality, injustice, and poverty. He would have seen it, experienced it and been very familiar with it. But it is into that world that he came with the good news of the Kingdom of God. It is into our world today that Jesus comes with the same good news. It is in and through our world today that we experience and share in his resurrection.

The trial and crucifixion of Jesus must have been such a painful and even disappointing experience for his friends, followers and family. They had placed such hope in Jesus; in his preaching, his teaching and in his miracles. Then they had to stand and watch as he was betrayed, condemned, beaten and then crucified. They stood and watched him die.

In it is in and through our ordinary daily lives and our world today that Jesus comes risen from the tomb. The resurrected Jesus comes to us as we are. But he also comes as he is; through the power of God he is resurrected and comes to us with the gift of new and everlasting life. Death has not had the final say. Where there was despair, God brings us hope. Where there was darkness, God has bright light. Where there was death, God bring us not just life, but new and everlasting life. These are the gifts that God offers each of through the resurrection of Jesus.

In world where there is often the reality of suffering, violence and injustice, we are called to be people of hope. This is not ordinary human hope. This is the hope that comes to us through the resurrection of Jesus. In the face of sadness, difficulty and pain, we are called to look to and rely on the resurrected Jesus and not just on our strength and resources.

The call, invitation and even challenge of Easter is that we experience it personally deep within ourselves. We are called to be Easter people, people of the resurrection. We are called and asked to be people who are filled with the new life and hope of the resurrected Jesus.

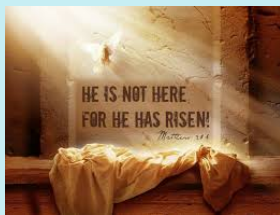
We may be tempted to give in and give up the world as it is today. However, because we now share in the powerful resurrection of Jesus, we are to live our daily lives full of Easter hope. As Pope Francis says to us, as Christians, we must never look like people who have just come back from a funeral! This Easter Sunday and for the rest of the Easter Season, may we be people who are filled with the Light, Joy, Life and Hope of the Resurrection of Jesus.

The Lord is risen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Michael Moore OMI

JOURNEYING FROM LENT TO THE RESURRECTION

Since 14 February, we began to prepare for the biggest liturgical feast in our faith calendar. We walked together through forty days of Lent in a process of both spiritual and parish renewal; we commemorated the entrance of our



Lord into Jerusalem as King and Saviour with our palms, prayers and song. By the end of the week, we opened ourselves up to the Triduum, celebrating the Mass of the Lord's Supper with a ritual of service given to us by the servant King in washing each other's feet and we processed the Blessed Sacrament by candlelight and stayed for Adoration, withdrawing into the silence. On Good Friday, we began in silence and lament, embracing that symbol of love: the Cross, and once again withdrew into the silence.

On the most Sacred Night, the Easter Vigil, we lit the new Pascal Candle and were led by it into the darkened chamber of the Church, the light of life dispelling any darkness of hearts and minds. We listened to and responded in song to our faith history from Creation in Genesis to the freeing of the Hebrew people in Exodus, the freedom that faith brings, to the prophecy of Isaiah of the promise of a new covenant to a letter by St Paul reminding us that Christ has been raised from the dead and will never die again. In turn, we too have gained everlasting life. As we stood for the Gospel, light flooded the church, and we welcomed the Word with the return of the Alleluia: praise be to God!

Those who had journeyed over months to enter our faith tradition were welcomed with the living water in the font of rebirth. Along with two others, their Baptismal journey was confirmed with further sacraments of witness and nourishment. In turn, they sprinkled the assembly with the living water they had received as the choir reminded us in song that through this living water, we receive new life.

On Easter Sunday, we were joined by many visitors who hold this day as a special day of belief and once again all were sprinkled with the living water of new life.

Thank you to all whose assistance enabled these celebrations to be rich, faith-filled, life-giving rituals of belief, praise and glory. From the conception of ideas of the Liturgy Committee, the work of the Discernment Committee, to the music sub-committee and the gifts of the musicians, to volunteers at every step along the way, we offer our heartfelt gratitude. For a small parish, we definitely punch above our liturgical and pastoral weight.

Our parish team wish all a happy and blessed Easter. May we go forth as Easter people buoyed by the hope gifted to us by the Resurrection. For those going on holidays, go safely and enjoy!

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.

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.

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.

OUR PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Draw Us Forth

Draw us forth, God of all creation.

Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love.

Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us.

Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts.

Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter.

- *Author Unknown*

PARISH COFFEE AND CHAT

The March coffee and chat gathering was lively! We had a review of the gatherings so far. Attendance has varied possibly because many medical appointments are in the morning.

We decided to change the time to 2.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This gives us an opportunity to extend an invitation to school parents so they could attend en route to picking up children from school.

Our next gathering is on **10 April at 2.00pm in the Parish House**. The following two will be 8 May and 12 June. Please put these dates in your diary and all are very welcome. Also, if you'd like a lift please just contact the office.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Amy and Stella** as they enter our faith at our Easter Vigil and to **Helen and Luigi** who are receiving their Confirmation.

SAVE THE DATE: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION.

A Cultural Celebration: International Dinner, Saturday 25 May 6pm in St Columba's Hall, Elwood.

A night of celebration of our multicultural community. There will be food, music and dancing highlighting the different cultures in our community. Come along and join in the festivities. This is a joint fundraiser by the parish and the school and will be our contribution to Dine with Heart which supports Sacred Heart Mission. We will be setting up food stations representing each culture so if you have an idea for dinner items from your culture and you would like to be a part of the preparations, please email Jane in the parish office, jane@shscparish.org.au or speak to Jeferson or Marita at St Columba or Adrian or Toni at Sacred Heart after mass.

WELCOMING HANG

On **Sunday, 7 April**, the **CEO of Sacred Heart Mission, Hang Vo**, will be addressing the assembly at the **11.00 a.m. Mass**. She will remain for morning tea, so don't feel shy in introducing yourself and having a chat with her.

SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS THROUGH ART FOR THOUGHT

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) have launched their 'Art for Thought' campaign which aims to support and celebrate the talents of refugee artists advocating for their rights and recognition. Refugees in Australia often face significant challenges in accessing opportunities to showcase their talents and earn a sustainable income. Through 'Art for Thought', ASRC aim to address this issue by providing a platform for these artists to exhibit their work and share their stories with the world, while raising awareness of the challenges people seeking asylum face in their journey to safety. Three artists, Asad, Awer and Elrica, have provided original pieces for 'Art for Thought' so ASRC supporters can receive a free poster and learn about their personal stories and the inspiration behind their art. During 'Art for Thought' there are some giveaways of free posters featuring the work of these artists. People who sign up will also be able to download a digital copy of all three works which can be used as a phone 'wall paper'. Visit ASRC's website for further details: asrc.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Next term, we begin preparing children for a range of sacraments in the parish. While Confirmation will be our focus, alongside the school for Term II, we also have older children being prepared for other sacraments from Baptism upwards. If you know of any family who would like their children to be prepared for sacraments, ask them to email Christine on: christine@shscparish.org.au

In addition, a new group of adults preparing to enter the Catholic faith or complete their sacramental initiation (called the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)) will also begin in April. If you or anyone is interested, once again let Christine know.

NEW INITIATIVE FROM THE HOMELESS COLLECTIVE

The Pyjama Collective: Most of us will never know what it's like to escape our home with only the clothes on our back. But many of the women we help do. And when they reach a crisis centre, they have to sleep in the same torn and bloodied clothes because clothing and pyjamas aren't included in funding budgets. Imagine wearing your pain and trauma for days on end. You can help change this. The National Homeless Collective is launching a new initiative called the Pyjama Collective. We're getting Indigenous artists to design a range of pyjamas to be sold online to the public. For every pair of pyjamas you buy for yourself, an identical pair will be sent to a vulnerable woman sleeping in a shelter. And that pair will be in her size. For further information, please visit the website: <http://nhcollective.org.au>

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE: WALKING TOGETHER TO NEW LIFE

Many thanks to all our parishioners in the 'pews' and online who, during Lent, participated enthusiastically and creatively in responding to the questions posed by the members of the Discernment Group around our five areas of service in the parish. There was a rich quality of responses, and they ranged right across the faith continuum, from the conservative to the progressive believers. The challenge ahead is to hold these in tension so that we may be a truly inclusive parish.

The responses will now be collated and used in the Parish Vision workshop, scheduled for **Saturday, 18 May**. Please put this date into your diaries as we are encouraging as many people as possible to attend. The commencement time is yet to be decided but we will let you know as soon as possible.

Many thanks to all those who assisted in this process of consultation. This includes:

- Members of the Discernment who formulated the questions and addressed each Mass every weekend over those five weeks.
- Those who provided translations, specifically Jeferson (Portuguese), Christian (French), Carlo (Italian) and Maria-Luisa (Spanish). We used google translation for 'Simplified Chinese', which seemed to work.
- Those who collected, pinned up and typed (typing) out the responses.

Let us continue to walk together breathing new life into our parish.

ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI'S EASTER MESSAGE

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli asks us to reflect on the experience of the disciples between the time of Jesus' death and resurrection. 'It would have been darkness for them; a questioning of everything they had come to know and had hoped for,' he says. But God did not want the disciples to drift into oblivion, the Archbishop reminds us. 'God shook them into a new creation that would change them and everything for all time ... 'Because, at Easter, life had found a way.'

The video message can be found on [YouTube](#).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 10: 34, 37-43

Responsorial Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading: Corinthians 5: 6-8

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 16: 1-7

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 1 April - SUNDAY 7 April 2024

MONDAY NO MASS due to Public Holiday

THURSDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9.00am MASS at 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 20: 19-31

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$112.00	Total \$335.85
Loose cash	\$255.55	
Total	\$367.55	
Average for 13 weeks	\$428.35	Average for 13 weeks \$252.74

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Fr John and the parish team are so grateful for the wonderful support that continues to be given to him and the parish.

You can contribute to the collections through Tithe.ly - click this link - [tithe.ly https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524](https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524) for once off or regular giving using your credit card or download the tithe.ly app. You can also contact Jane in the office to set up cash, direct debit or credit card payments.

THANK YOU!

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."



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Eugene Munday, Michael Keleher

1st Anniversaries: Lorraine Donovan

2nd Anniversaries: Christy Leahy

Anniversaries: Rosario Marino, Mavis Heywood 5.3, David James Chieng, Patricia Herkess 11.3, Matilda Foster, John Pratt Fr Ernie Smith 28.3.18, David Griffin, Thomas Szabo, 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 13.1.10, 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: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell.

Luke Dennis, Richard Davis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright (Sydney), Chail and her husband Callum, Norma Childers (Texas - Becca's grandma), Patrick McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue McLennan, Liz Hawes, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Sophia.

We periodically start our sick list again. If you have someone you would like on the sick list please contact Jane at the office.

HOLIDAYS FOR STAFF

During the week following Easter Sunday, our Pastoral Ministry Leader, Christine will be on a break for five days, returning next weekend, the 6/7 April.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

6 / 7 April 2024: Second Sunday of Easter

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Joan Davies, Volunteer needed

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Kate Bebejewska, Brigid Murphy / Karen Englebretsen

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: Srs Karen & Brigid

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes

C / L: Helen Freris, Jane Sims / Daniel O'Connor

Set up: Enastin Fernando

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Committee