

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 9 / 10 MARCH 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY IN 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

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

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SHM Pastoral Care Worker:
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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.

Our Lenten Journey This Week.

We continue on the road of spiritual renewal in our Lenten journey for ourselves and accompany those travelling towards the Easter sacraments in our parish: Amy, Stella, Helen, Patricia and Luigi. Amy and Stella will be received fully into our Catholic tradition, while Helen, Patricia and Luigi will complete their sacramental initiation begun many years ago with Baptism by being confirmed. As previously stated, this is why we have switched to Year A readings for weeks three, four and five of our Lenten cycle. As we can see today in Week Four, the Gospel of the Man Born Blind has a clear link to Baptism. We read it today for our Elect who are preparing to be baptised and enter the Christian community. They have begun to see Jesus, to recognise him and to follow him. But the Gospel is also for us already baptised. We also need to see Jesus and the Gospel more clearly. The words of Paul in the Second Reading are very appropriate:

'You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.'

On the one hand, Paul is telling us that, like the man in the Gospel who represents all of us, we were also blind and stumbling in darkness. But now we live in the light of the Gospel and the New Testament. And that light is seen in the way we behave, in the way we relate with other people in "complete goodness and right living and truth". Our lives are to have a transparency where there is no darkness, no hidden behaviour which we would be ashamed to reveal to others.

Fr Elio Capra states that, "Through these three Year A Gospels, the church is asking the Elect: If you want to become a follower of Christ, does your heart really seek Christ as the only one who can quench your deepest thirst? (Woman at the Well). Does your heart really seek Christ as the only one who can open your eyes to see God's presence around and within you? (Man Born Blind) and the only one who can bring new meaning, new purpose and a completely new direction to your life (Raising of Lazarus, next week's Gospel)?"

While our Elect, Amy and Stella will undergo the ritual of the second Scrutiny this weekend, Fr Elio tells us that, "The presence of the elect reminds the whole Christian community that God is scrutinising not only the hearts of the elect, but also the hearts of every individual gathered to celebrate the scrutinies. Every member of the community is challenged to allow the proclamation of the three Lenten gospels—to love Jesus Christ as the living water, the new light and the new life—to purify and heal their hearts. The symbols of living water, new light and new life are the very symbols of our baptism. Lent, therefore, is our yearly calling and invitation to a renewal of our baptismal privileges, promises and commitments.

Second, the presence of the elect reminds and challenges the whole community to reflect on the missionary dimension of the church and of every member of the Church community. The very reason for the existence of the Church and of all her members is for mission. The presence of the elect during the celebration of the scrutinies asks every member of the community the following questions: 'How do I live out my missionary privilege and responsibility as a baptised Christian? How do I, through my words and actions, attract and invite others to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ as the centre of their lives?'

As we continue our journey of renewal and conversion at this time, may Jesus, the Light of the World, obtain for us the grace of welcoming anew the light of faith this Lent, rediscovering the inestimable gift of Baptism so we may be bearers of his light in our lives every day.

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.

A special welcome to **Fr Erick Niyiragira** who is Presider at all masses this weekend and thank him for his ongoing support of 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 supporting and highlighting Safeguarding. Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding Committee if you have any concerns or ideas.

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.

GREAT WOMEN OF FAITH EXHIBITION

An exhibition showcasing women of faith showing at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne will close on Sunday, 10 March. Twenty-four portraits by artist Barbara Skorupa feature the faces of women from around the world—some saints, some not—who have lived lives of faith and made significant contributions in the areas of medicine, health and education. The collection includes Australians St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, Eileen O'Connor and the perhaps lesser known Josephite Sister Mary La Merce Mahoney, who was the congregational leader of the Josephites at the time of Mary MacKillop's death. For further information, visit: www.maryglowreymuseum.info/Exhibition

MUSICAL EVENT: MUSIC OF HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

To mark the last day of the 'Great Women of Faith' exhibition, there will be a free concert featuring the music of 12th century Mystic, poet, playwright, musician, visionary and scientist Hildegard of Bingen, sung by Melbourne soprano Stella Horvath. Hildegard wrote that: 'Musical harmony softens hard hearts inducing in them the moisture of contrition and summoning the Holy Spirit'. **Date and Time:** Sunday, 10 March from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. **Place:** St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne.

PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

God of the journey,

Your word is a lamp for our feet and a guiding light for our path.

Open our minds, enlighten our hearts,

That we may see your love's glow in all we meet,

And that even in the dark, we may trust your light to shine.

May your light bring us clarity of vision,

Peace of mind and courage to act justly in our world.

We ask this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World. Amen.

[©2020 Evangelisation Brisbane, *Be Opened: A Journey to New Life, Reflections on the Sunday Gospels - Lent and Easter Sunday - Year A*; p.34]

EASTER SUNDAY PARISH PICNIC

Sunday March 31, 1.00pm to 3.30pm. ALL WELCOME.

Point Ormond Playground, 87, State Route 33, (off Point Ormond Road) Elwood VIC. Parish Families and friends are warmly invited to join us. Please bring picnic rugs, chairs, and picnic food to share. BYO drinks also. This is our first Parish social event of the year and a great way to celebrate Easter with each other by sharing a meal in the park. There will be a few fun activities and just maybe Easter eggs. Please use the sign up sheet to indicate if you can attend, if you can help on the day and if you need a lift or can provide a lift.

HARP AND PIANO CONCERT

Last Sunday, Katia, the harpist and Paul, pianist from Sacred Heart played to a large number of people who gathered in St Columba church to hear their beautiful music and to financially support the Brigidine Asylum Seekers' Project (BASP). Katia played a series of original and work of other composers. She briefly explained and showed us the sounds one can get from a harp. While Paul said that music was an adventure and he was taking us on a journey that even he didn't know where it would lead him. Sr Brigid Arthur spoke of the work of the BASP and the people they assist. Jeferson, Cesar, Karla and a few others put on an impromptu afternoon tea, with goods they had baked themselves, to be washed down with a warm beverage. The entrance donation resulted in a grand total of \$2,710.35, all of which will go to the work of BASP. Thank you to Katia and Paul for the music, to the Brigidines for their work, to Jeferson and the Brazilian crew who fed everyone and to all who attended to make this a successful event for the musicians and BASP.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTER LITURGIES

Our volunteers make our Easter liturgies so very special. We warmly invite anyone interested to use the sign up sheets at the back of Church. See the flyer for details of the Easter Liturgies and don't be shy to put your name down.

PLEASE NOTE: There are new Easter Triduum posters at the back of church and on our website. The time for the **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper is 7.30pm at St Columba Church** (not 7.00pm as stated in last week's insert).

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE WEEK FOUR: WALKING TOGETHER TO NEW LIFE

Walking Together to New Life is the theme of our parish Lenten journey. It not only refers to a spiritual renewal, the hallmark of Lent but also a parish renewal.

Last week we looked at two questions on 'Leadership and Governance'. People were asked to spend 8-10 minutes within the homily time chatting with two or more people about what could be possible in this area. This week we move onto: 'Pastoral Care' What could that look like in our parish?

Remember, this is a time to be creative and new imaginings of what could be possible. Thank you to all for participating, we implore you to do the same this week and invite others into your group discussion, even if they are visiting for this week or a short time. We are working towards a parish Visioning workshop, planned for **18 May, Pentecost Eve**. If you do not wish to chat with another, that's fine but we still encourage you to write down some thoughts. These will be collected in baskets and later pinned up on the boards in the church. If you have thoughts later, you are welcome to email them into our office manager: Jane on jane@shscparish.org.au

'What If...' Questions for Parishioners about What We Could Be Like As A Parish

Week One: On Faith Formation and Liturgy: What if...

1. We had an opportunity to explore our faith in a way that is vibrant and nurturing for us and also attracts new people and those who have left their faith. What might it look like?
2. We had lay leaders who took our worship out of the church and into the community? What might it look like?

Week Two: On Welcome, Hospitality and Belonging: What if...

1. A stranger approaches you outside the church, curious about what is there inside for them: What can you offer, that will encourage the stranger to enter with you, and return at another time?
2. What if we create a spirit of belonging for all, no matter what their life circumstances or where people are on the 'scale of faith'? What would this look like?

Week Three: On Leadership and Governance: What if...

1. We all shared the leadership of the parish, how would it look like?
2. What if we thrived without a priest to lead us?

Week Four: On Pastoral Care: What if...

1. If we all took responsibility for care and wellbeing of those in most need in our parish and beyond. What would be possible?

Week Five: On Community Outreach: What if...

1. The wider community knew about the gifts within our parish?
2. Those on the edges or outside the parish were at the centre? What would our parish be like?

GOOD SHEPHERD SHOWCASE

Good Shepherd is a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to tackle the significant issues impacting women, girls and their families. You are invited to a brief showcase of our national programs, including the 'No Interest Loans' and the Financial Independence Hub. Come along to find out:

- The benefits of each service & participant outcomes
- How it works and the specialist support provided
- Eligibility requirements
- When and how to refer
- FREE tools to promote these services to your clients

When: Next session: **Thursday, 21 March**. These sessions are repeated monthly. Please register for the session of your choice by visiting: www.goodshep.org.au If you cannot make these times, please email ramesh.kumar@goodshep.org.au to request a recording.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (SIP)

"From co-dependency to adult faith" presented by Robert Van Mourik on **Wednesday 20 March at Hampton RSL**. Dinner available from 6.00pm with the presentation starting at 7.30pm. Bookings are essential by calling or emailing Michele 0415956107 / michelekennan@presvic.org.au or Catriona 0419109830 / catriona3171@gmail.com

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 Jefferson or Marita at St Columba or Adrian or Toni at Sacred Heart after mass.

POETS AND THE FAITH

In the coming year at St Peter's Eastern Hill Anglican Church, we are hosting a series of talks about significant poets who have inhabited - or skirted the fringes of - the Anglican and Catholic traditions of Christianity. From Gerard Manley Hopkins to R.S. Thomas, from Emily Brontë to W.H. Auden, how did their poetry enrich and challenge their understanding of the faith? How did the faith inform their poetic vision? What can they help us to see of God and of our lives in the world? All are welcome!

Dates: Tuesday 12 March 2024 - Tuesday 12 November 2024

Location: St. Peter's Eastern Hill Parish Hall, 15 Gisborne Street, (Entrance on Albert Street), East Melbourne

To book or for further information, visit: www.stpeters.org.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7. 10-13

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel Acclamation:

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

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

Gospel: John 9: 1-41

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 11 March 2024 - SUNDAY 17 March 2024

MONDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community,
101 Grey Street, St Kilda

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 11: 1-45

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection
Envelopes \$35.00	Total \$274.35
Loose cash \$282.00	
Total \$317.00	
Average for 10 weeks \$450.25	Average for 10 weeks \$256.14

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!

ST COLUMBA'S

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday 24 March
Children's Flea Marq & Fair. Also, check out the second issue of the newsletter:

<https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/JKdqGGM/issue-2/page/cover>



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Adelina Ranieri

1st Anniversaries: Lorraine Donovan,

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, Lol Patten (UK), Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg.

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

RECONCILIATION

First Rite: NEXT Saturday 16 March, 9.00am St Columba Church and 10.00am Sacred Heart Church.

Communal Reconciliation: Monday 18 March, 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

16 / 17 March 2024: Fifth Sunday of Lent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Meg Taylor, Volunteer needed

Set up: Meg Taylor

9am Mass:

M: Lou Bevilacqua, Maria Kovacevic

C / L: Lina Tesoriero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: Michael & Lulu

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Daniel O'Connor

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Anna Griffiths

Set up:

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Team