

# 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 23 / 24 AUGUST 2025 TWENTY-FIRST 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](http://www.stcolumbasprimary.org)

### **Sacred Heart Mission**

87 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182

9537 1166;

[www.sacredheartmission.org](http://www.sacredheartmission.org)

### **PARISH HOUSE**

2 Normandy Road, Elwood 3184

03 9531 6120; [shsc@shscparish.org.au](mailto:shsc@shscparish.org.au)

[www.shscparish.org.au](http://www.shscparish.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Petrus

[john@shscparish.org.au](mailto:john@shscparish.org.au)

**Pastoral Ministry Leader:** Christine

Mitchell [christine@shscparish.org.au](mailto:christine@shscparish.org.au)

**Office Manager:** Jane Hearn

[jane@shscparish.org.au](mailto:jane@shscparish.org.au)

**SHM Pastoral Care Worker**

**St Columba Principal / REC:**

Daniella Maddalena

[dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au)

**Deputy Principal:** Natalie Cromie

[ncromie@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:domtess1@gmail.com)

**Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary**

Please contact the parish office.

### **A Reflection on Sunday's Gospel.** [An exert from Pope Francis Explains]

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on the theme of salvation. Jesus is going up from Galilee to the city of Jerusalem, and along the way, says St. Luke the Evangelist, someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" (13:23). Jesus did not answer the question directly: it is not important to know how many are saved, but rather, it is important to know what is the path of salvation. And so, Jesus responds to the question by saying, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough" (v. 24).

What does Jesus mean? What is the gate by which we enter? And why does Jesus speak about a narrow gate?

The image of the gate recurs several times in the Gospel and is reminiscent of home and hearth, where we find safety, love and warmth. Jesus tells us that there is a gate that allows us to enter into God's family, into the warmth of the house of God, of communion with Him. This gate is Jesus himself (cf. Jn 10:9). He is the gate.

He is the gateway to salvation. He leads us to the Father. And the gate that is Jesus is never closed, this gate is never closed, it is always open and open to everyone, without distinction, without exclusions, without privileges. Because, you know, Jesus does not exclude anyone.... Don't be afraid... Be lively, have the courage to enter through His gate. All are invited to pass through this gate, to pass through the gate of faith, to enter into His life, and to allow Him to enter into our life, because He transforms it, renews it, the gifts of full and lasting joy.

Nowadays we pass many doors that invite us to enter, that promise a happiness that then we realise lasts but a moment, which is an end in itself and has no future. But I ask you: which gate do we want to enter? And who we want to pass through the gate of our lives? I want to say emphatically: don't be afraid to pass through the gate of faith in Jesus, to let Him enter more and more into our lives, to go out of our selfishness, our being closed in, our indifference toward others. Because Jesus illuminates our life with a light that never goes out. It is not a firework, not a "flash"! No, it is a soft light that always endures and that gives us peace. That is the light that we meet if we enter through the gate of Jesus.

Certainly, it is a narrow gate, the gate of Jesus, not because it is a torture chamber. No, not because of that! But because it asks us to open our hearts to Him, to recognize ourselves as sinners, in need of His salvation, His forgiveness, His love, needing the humility to accept His mercy and to be renewed by Him. Jesus in the Gospel tells us that being a Christian is not having a "label"! [But] Christians in truth, in the heart. To be Christian is to live and witness to the faith in prayer, in works of charity, in promoting justice, in doing good. For the narrow gate which is Christ must pass into our whole life.

We ask the Virgin Mary, the Gate of Heaven, to help us to pass through the gate of faith, to allow her Son to transform our existence as He transformed hers, in order to bring everyone the joy of the Gospel.

### **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.

## 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.

We are thrilled to welcome **Fr Terry Kean** as Presider at 6.00pm Mass this weekend.

A special welcome also to **Jordan, Joshua & Amelia** who are baptised this weekend St Columba. We pray blessings for them as they grow in love and the faith of their family.

## 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

## KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

In keeping with our commitment to keeping our community safe and providing a safe environment for all, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults, we will celebrate our annual Safeguarding Weekend on 6 / 7 September. During August we will focus on and promote a number of safeguarding initiatives.

Our Safeguarding Weekend will focus on the deeper meaning of 'Safeguarding' as we continue to strengthen the culture of care in our community. Our parish holds the values of dignity, commitment to justice and care for the vulnerable at its heart.

We also need to continue our support for the important regulatory and compliance components of Safeguarding, areas that are PLDT and Safeguarding Committee primarily manage for us.

Building a culture of safeguarding is essential in fostering a parish environment where everyone—children, young people, and vulnerable adults—feels safe, respected and valued. It goes beyond compliance with checks and regulations; it involves cultivating awareness, accountability and proactive practices in every aspect of parish life. When safeguarding is embedded in the parish culture, it encourages parishioners to speak up about concerns, model respectful behaviour and support one another in maintaining a safe community. This collective commitment helps prevent harm and ensures that the parish remains a place of trust, care and spiritual growth for all.

A Working With Children Check (WWCC) is important for all parishioners, even those who do not directly work with children, because it helps ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in the parish community. By undergoing this check, parishioners demonstrate a commitment to creating a secure, trusted environment where everyone can participate in church activities without risk. It reinforces a culture of vigilance and responsibility, showing that the parish prioritises safeguarding and the protection of its most vulnerable members.

## OUR WEEKLY PRAYER

*Our weekly prayer this week is dedicated to peace in Gaza. Caritas Australia invites us to light a candle for the people of Gaza when we say this prayer:*

God of light,

You meet us in the darkest places.

Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.'

We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war.

May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza.

May they find healing and lasting peace. Amen.

## PILGRIMAGE – CLOSE TO HOME, DEEP IN SPIRIT

Pilgrimage has always been about more than reaching a destination. It's about stepping away from everyday routines to journey with God and with others. In medieval times, pilgrims walked for weeks to holy places. Today, our lives don't always allow for long trips, but the heart of pilgrimage—the call to pray, reflect and open ourselves to God's transforming love—remains the same.

In a local pilgrimage, we walk together, sharing conversation and silence, we discover a sense of community that lifts us beyond the ordinary. It's a chance to let go of busyness and listen for God's voice. Modern pilgrimages often include acts of service or moments of solidarity—visiting local 'stations', praying at places marked by suffering, or supporting those in need. These moments remind us that faith is lived in action and that our journey with Christ always leads us toward others. This is what we will be doing next weekend.

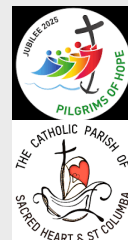
**Join Us for Our Parish Pilgrimage! A Day of Prayer, Walking, Reflection and Fellowship.**

**Date:** Next Saturday, 30 August from 9.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. with a BBQ to follow.

**Destination:** Beginning in St Columba Church, walking to Point Ormond, St Kilda Marina, St Kilda Botanic Gardens ending at Sacred Heart Church.

**Last chance to sign-up on the sheets at the back of the church.** Also, indicate whether you need or can give a lift from station to station, and other details.

Pilgrimage isn't about how many miles you cover. A simple walk, prayed with intention, becomes a holy journey.



## LET US PRAY FOR:

- The small group of parish and school children who will make their First Eucharist next Sunday at the 9.00 a.m. Mass. May they grow in the heart of Jesus, giving to the world what they receive from the love of Jesus.
- Giuseppe Contino, preparing for his Confirmation in October. Fr John will bless Giuseppe at the 9.00 a.m. Mass this Sunday. May the Holy Spirit continue to fan the flame of faith in Giuseppe's life and may he use his gifts to be the presence of Jesus in the world.

## VETERAN PEACEKEEPER CALLS FOR PRAYER AND ACTION OVER GAZA

[Source: *Cath News*, 20 August 2025]

In the wake of ongoing violence in Gaza, Brisbane Deacon Gary Stone has written an open letter calling for Catholics and people of goodwill to unite in prayer and action for a just resolution to the conflict. Deacon Stone, who founded the Veterans Care Association, offers his perspective as a soldier who has spent 48 years in the Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police – as a senior infantry officer, peacekeeper and more recently, as a Catholic chaplain.

Deacon Stone stated that, "... There is no simple or quick fix to this complex situation" but the situation is now "beyond catastrophic. We must rise up as humanity to take whatever measures are needed stop the fighting and get humanitarian aid flowing," he said.

"But in due course, there must be a glimmer of hope for movement toward a just and lasting solution that honours the dignity and rights of all people in the region.

Deacon Stone appealed to "Catholics and Christians across Australia, and to all people of goodwill, to unite in prayer and action". "Let us:

- Pray for peace in Gaza and for healing among all who suffer.
- Speak with compassion and courage to promote understanding and reject hatred.
- Advocate by contacting elected officials and community leaders urging them to support diplomatic efforts and humanitarian aid for civilians affected by the conflict.
- Gather in interfaith and community events that foster dialogue, solidarity, and reconciliation.
- Support reputable humanitarian organisations working on the ground to provide relief and protect the vulnerable.

"Let us also commit ourselves to peaceable conduct here at home, especially in our conversations with those who may hold different views."

## 2025 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2025 THIS WEEKEND

People are asked to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. These ministries are outlined in the campaign brochure at the back of our churches. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, the University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries.

To make a monthly pledge, you can use the tear-off pledge cards from the campaign envelopes at the back of our churches. You can also make a gift online at [melbournecatholic.org/archbishopsacampaign](https://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopsacampaign) or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES PUBLIC PLEDGE TO END HUMAN SUFFERING IN GAZA

Caritas Australia launched an urgent public pledge calling on the Australian Government and international community to prevent a possible catastrophic drop in humanitarian aid to Gaza – with levels already life-threateningly low. As a result of the conflict over 60,000 lives have been lost, including more than 18,000 children, with the entire population of Gaza now in the grip of a starvation crisis. In response, Caritas Australia is urging supporters to sign the pledge and amplify the call for increased aid access and a ceasefire.

"The people of Gaza cannot eat less than they already are," said Caritas Australia's CEO Kirsten Sayers. "Every signature helps protect innocent lives and ensure vital aid reaches those who need it most."

The pledge will be delivered to the Australian Foreign Minister's office on Monday the 1 September. It calls for:

- Safe, unhindered, and large-scale humanitarian operations
- An immediate and unconditional permanent ceasefire
- Protection of civilians and aid workers
- The release of all Israeli hostages and Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel

In addition to signing the pledge, Caritas Australia is offering a range of resources and actions for Catholics and all Australians who wish to stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza. These include:

- Writing to your MP using Caritas Australia's letter-writing guide to advocate for peace and humanitarian access.
- Praying in solidarity, with downloadable prayer resources for parishes, schools, and homes.
- Lighting a candle in remembrance or sharing a simple meal as a symbolic act of solidarity.
- Donating to provide urgent food, water, shelter, and medical support.

"This is not just a crisis—it is a test of our shared humanity," said Kirsten Sayers.

"As an agency of the church we are called to amplify the voices of those in need, and to act with compassion, courage, and hope."

To sign the pledge and explore all the ways to act including an online donation, visit: <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/gaza> or tel. 1800 024 413

If you prefer, there are hard copies of the Pledge at the back of our churches but they must be signed this weekend.

## MATTERS OF THE HEART

Every fourth Wednesday of the month, the St Kilda Baptist Church Community Kitchen invite all to join them for *Matters of the Heart*, an evening of live music, BBQ with salad and storytelling. For further information, contact Ross Dickson on: 0412 383162. August Date: 27 August, **Time:** 6.00 p.m.

**Venue:** 9 Pakington Street, St Kilda. have an open community kitchen every fourth Wednesday of the month, to which all are invited. Starting at 6.00 p.m., there is live music, BBQ and salad, and storytelling. Just come along and enjoy!

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Isaiah 66: 18-21

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 13: 22-30

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 25 August - SUNDAY 31 August 2025**

<b>MONDAY</b>	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
<b>THURSDAY</b>	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
<b>FRIDAY</b>	11.00am Funeral Mass for Enrico Pescatore at St Columba Church ( <b>Rosary at 10.30am</b> )
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6.00pm MASS at St Columba Church
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00am MASS at St Columba Church 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church (this mass is also live streamed) Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

### COLLECTIONS: Last two weekends

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	35.00	Total	\$170.40
Loose cash	\$326.00		
Total	\$361.00		
Average for 32 weeks	\$395.02	Average for 32 weeks	\$230.85

## 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:

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

*Pope Francis*

**All Recently Deceased:** Enrico Pescatore 20.8, Philip Keck, Paul Alan, Keith Marshall, Sonia Hougham, Tom Karlich, Yvonne Mitchell. **40 day anniversary:** Angela Chiodo

**1st Anniversaries:** Gino Nardella, Elizabeth Hawes, Reg Robertson, Gerry Walker, Annemarie Fisher, Juan Ignacio Tolosa Correa.

**4th Anniversary:** Frank Alfonso 16.8.21

**Anniversaries:** Pat Ferry, Neil Ashton, Steve Turba, Ben Donoghue, Kate Rockell, Cecila Araos, Kathleen Dennis, Bridget Phelan, Genevieve Morcom 23.8, Maria Borgia 13.8.2019, Tim O'Driscoll, Terence Kennedy 23.4.22, Peggy Newman, Gregory Bajien, John Bolger, Adele Foldesi, Greta Fisher, Alecia Barker, Stanley Mendis, Rob King, Garry (Gaz) Stewart, Doug Heighway, Daniel Voyles, Andrew Foletta, Anne Speedie, Maggie McKewan, Ralene Finlay, Steven Benstead, Tina Sylvester 2.8, Des George, Peggy Keane, Nick Cincotta, Ted Leale, John McEvoy, Chris Li Donni, Marie Rosengrave, Emma Johnson, Paul Cumming, Mary Schneider, Patricia Davies, James Hughes, Oliver Moore, Maree Hurley, Patricia Davies, Antonio Amarto, Muriel Hyndman, Muriel Lysiuk, Jeremy Warwarick, Gerard Green, baby Felix, Ray Alsaker, James Foley, Yvonne Gorman, Maria Czajkowski, Fr Michael Sheehy Arthur Carbo 12.8, Jan Altman, Cynthia Griffin, Marion Flanagan, Shane Brennan, Leo Flanagan, Margaret Papworth 16.08.80, Danny Martinov 28.8.11, Peter Burgess 30.8.10, Clare Carmody 1.8.09, Noreen O Connor 14.8.09, Tom King 17.8.09, May Pearce 24.8.11, Lyn Von Oudtshoorn 1.8.09, Daniel Cassar 17.8.05, Shirley Evans 11.8.08, Perc Marten 12.8.97, Cherry Wood- Wallis 21.8.08, Monica Bourke 14.8.00, Therese Johnson 23.8.98, Sheleagh Davidson 3.8.11, Shane Walsh 7.8.11, Robert Callaghan 8.8.1, Rinaldo Cova 9.8.14

**Birthday Anniversary:** Bernard Alfonso 20.8

**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.

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**30 / 31 August: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Volunteers needed

Set up: Volunteer needed

9am Mass:

M: Leonie Hinton

C / L: Volunteers needed

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom & friends

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter

C / L: Margaret Barry, Nora Redmond

Set up: Legion of Mary

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Liturgy team