

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 SEPTEMBER 2023 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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
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Pastoral Ministry Leader: Christine Mitchell
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Office Manager: Jane Hearnese
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SHM Pastoral Care Worker:
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kenglebrechtsen@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.

The Season of Creation Continues

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of the Season of Creation. As you will remember from last week, this season celebrates God as Creator of the vast cosmic universe. It explores God's revelation in creation and our calling to care for Earth, to protect its rich diversity, to end the destructive violence of humans, and to address the urgent crises threatening Earth's health and future - and our survival. The readings today remind us of the essential importance of calling each other to conversion. And Jesus offers guidance in approaching each other with gentle respect in these times of deep social division and too-often violent conflict

Points for Reflection on the Scriptures

In the first reading, Ezekiel describes God's warning to himself and to us: we are responsible for each other. If we hear and fail to relay God's Word, God's call to conversion to those for whom it is intended, we will be held responsible and complicit in their sin and in the suffering and punishment it brings. One of Pope Francis's central beliefs at the heart of *Laudato Si'* is that everything and everyone is connected, interdependent.

We are responsible for each other. God speaks to us and calls us to conversion in many ways. In the context of the Season of Creation, we need to listen to that Word of God in "the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor." (L.S. 49)

The cry of the Earth, heard in increasingly powerful storms and fires, melting ice and rising sea levels, heat waves, droughts and floods, pollution of air and water, loss of rich biodiversity and ecological degradation. The cry of the poor, heard and seen in widespread hunger and malnutrition, in homelessness and ill health, exploitation and vast migration and refugee flows, violence and ecological destruction of the most marginal regions where the poor are so often forced to struggle for survival.

St. Paul's letter to the Romans puts this prophetic education and invitation to care for creation in their deepest context: they are expressions of the great commandments that sum everything up: Love God. Love your neighbour. All is interdependent, all is interconnected. We cannot say we love God if we do not love our neighbour. We cannot say we love our neighbour if we do not care for the air, the water, the land, the ecological systems, the intricate Web of Life upon which our neighbours and we depend for life itself.

In the Gospel, Jesus lays out a way to convey the urgent prophetic warnings in this time of great violence and ecological crisis, an approach that shows respect for those who need to hear these truths and invites conversion gently but persistently. At the same time, the approach is realistic: there will be those who will not listen. The prophetic word around these issues is far too important and urgent to get bogged down in endless arguments with those who, in the words of the psalm, have hardened their hearts. Move on to where the work of conversion to nonviolence, ecological conversion, and the growth of the new creation can find fertile ground and produce a hundredfold.

Christ calls us together too in prayer, promising to be with us, promising us that our prayer will be heard. Let our prayer deepen our awe and reverence before God, who is revealed so powerfully in creation.

[Source: 2023 Season of Creation: Let Justice and Peace Flow; a Catholic Liturgical Guide]



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 and thank you to **Fr Erick Niyiragira** who is Presider at 6.00pm mass and to **Fr Malcolm Crawford** who is Presider at Sunday masses.

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 in our parish.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding Committee if you have any concerns or ideas.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION: FATHERS DAY APPEAL

We will be supporting the Fathers Day Appeal this weekend and we ask of your support. Archbishop Peter Comensoli says, "It has been a wonderful custom in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to allow the faithful of the Archdiocese to show something of their appreciation through an annual Fathers Day Appeal. The appeal goes to the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accommodation, medical assistance and a comfortable standard of living for them. May I commend the Appeal to you." Envelopes are available at mass and all contributions of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

FUNERAL NOTICE

The funeral for Mary-Grace Levakis will take place at Sacred Heart Church this coming **Tuesday, 12 September at 2.00 p.m.** Mary-Grace spent her final years being cared for by Sacred Heart Mission. Her siblings, Steve, Pat and Dora have come from regional Victoria and interstate to honour her life. They extend an invitation to all her friends and carers to join them. They will host an afternoon tea in the church after the service. The ashes of Mary-Grace will be taken to the family plot in Shepparton.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of mercy,

We pray that we hear your message on the need to forgive others,

even when society tells us the best thing to do is get even.

Grant us patience and understanding, and help us act out of love and kindness rather than hate and anger.

Grant us peace, and give us more forgiveness than we think we need.

In your name we pray,

Amen.

MORNING TEA / COFFEE

We had a very pleasant first gathering at the Parish House at 11am on Wednesday. Fourteen people came along, this time all women but it is not an exclusive group. All are welcome!

Many renewed connections and some met new people.

There was plenty of laughter, chat with coffee/tea for all. We agreed on a few things:

- The gatherings will be monthly on the **1st Wednesday** of each month.
- The group will remain open, welcoming whoever comes along.
- We agreed for now to keep it simple with tea/coffee and biscuits.
- We agreed it would be highlighted in the newsletter.
- We agreed that the group will be light-hearted and be allowed to evolve.
- We also felt it was important that the group not be too dependent on any one person and its main focus in building community and friendships. A great start and a big thank you to those who picked others up.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

This Sunday, 10 September, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday), which falls on the second Sunday of September each year, at the end of National Child Protection Week.

Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people.

We pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:

www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

Please reach out to our Safeguarding Committee if this causes you or a family member any concern or stress.

WELCOMING THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE SAFEGUARDING UNIT

New Director of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's Safeguarding Unit, Rachel Averbukh, has held a number of positions in the area of Safeguarding with organisations such as, Child Wise, the AFL, Salvation Army and Sports Integrity Australia. She stated that during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, she noticed a shift in the language and narrative around safeguarding. No longer dismissing it as 'private family business', people were beginning to say, 'Well, I actually have a privileged position as an adult in this community to be a voice for those who can't speak for themselves.'

Rachel stated that having a safeguarding policy that sits pride of place on a bookshelf is basically useless if the community itself doesn't connect with it, understand it and feel that they've been heard and represented accordingly.'

Reflecting on the theme for Child Protection Week this year—'Where we start matters'—Rachel acknowledges that knowing where to start can be daunting for many people.

'I don't think I've met anyone that hasn't been overwhelmed by the concept of safeguarding,' she says, 'because it's such an important task. But the truth is you have to start somewhere... You know, there are so many different things that we can do as a community. It could be as simple as offering a hand to someone around us who looks like they're struggling and help them to feel supported ... Everyone has a part to play in safeguarding and really it's about educating yourself—completing the training, making sure you understand the fundamentals, ... becoming aware of any policies that you need to be meeting as an employee. Do you have a code of conduct that you need to be conscious of, not only for your own conduct, but for the conduct of those around you?'

Rachel points out that people are far less likely to take advantage of vulnerable people in organisations where everyone feels a sense of responsibility for ensuring their protection and where there is an overt safeguarding culture, with clear checks and balances and a demonstrated commitment to advocating for vulnerable people and calling out code-of-conduct breaches.

While safeguarding can certainly be 'an extremely traumatic environment', Rachel also finds it to be 'a wonderfully inspiring space to work, because the truth is it's about building strengths and capacity within a community, and it's about giving a voice to those who wouldn't necessarily have one.'

In our parish, we work hard to build a culture where all take responsibility for one another, and ensure that the young, the frail and the vulnerable know when they enter our doors, they are in a safe community. Therefore, we remind all those who are yet to complete their Working With Children's Check and do the online Safeguarding Essentials training to complete this by the end of the month. You can do this by visiting: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules>. Jane in the office is happy to assist, if needed. Please contact her: 9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au

FAREWELL SR EMILY

Sadly this week we say farewell to Sr Emily, a member of our small Passionist Religious Sisters community who reside in our Parish. Having been with us for a year now, it is time for the effervescent Emily to return home to Vietnam to take up a new mission in her life.



While here, Emily studied, volunteered at Sacred Heart Mission, volunteered at St Columba School, was always a pair of willing hands in funerals and part of the Sacred Heart choir. Known for her infectious laughter and smiling demeanour, Emily always brightened up any room that she entered. She will be missed by all who she befriended and the silence of the Parish House will be a sad reminder that she has left us. Please hold Emily in your prayers as she returns home to continue God's work, to which she has dedicated her life. Bless you Emily.

COME, ENJOY AND SUPPORT OUR PARISH MUSIC EVENT

This is the last call to come along to our great Parish Spring Concert this **Sunday 10 September, 2.00-m-5.00pm at St Columba Church**. Tickets are \$15 adult and \$5 child and the money raised will go directly to support Timor-Leste students.

POPE VISITS THE SMALLEST CATHOLIC FLOCK

On Monday 4 September, Pope Francis concluded his unprecedented apostolic journey to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, where he encouraged the country's small Catholic population in their faith. Pope Francis has often been referred to as the 'pope of the peripheries', and this visit reaffirms this. The Catholic Church in Mongolia is one of the Church's smallest flocks: out of a mostly Buddhist population of 3.3 million, Mongolia has roughly 1,450 Catholics.

A highlight of the journey was Mass on Sunday 3 September, an occasion on which almost the entire Catholic Church in Mongolia was in the same room as Pope Francis. Participating in the Mass were also pilgrims from Russia, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and other neighbouring countries. Some came to be with the pope at great risk to themselves.

Referring to the nomadic way of life that has been the history of the Mongolian people, Pope Francis stated in his homily, 'All of us are "God's nomads," pilgrims in search of happiness, wayfarers searching for love'. The attractiveness of Christian love was the Pope's message throughout his visit: "Even though a community might be small, this love can be a powerful witness. 'God loves littleness, and through it he loves to accomplish great things... Do not be concerned about small numbers, limited success, or apparent irrelevance. That is not how God works ...'

On his final day in Mongolia, Pope Francis also inaugurated the House of Mercy, a Catholic-run shelter for those in need in Ulaanbaatar.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Responsorial Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 11 September - SUNDAY 17 September 2023

MONDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey Street, St Kilda
TUESDAY	2.00pm Funeral for Mary-Grace Levakis
THURSDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	9.00am Communion Service in 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: Matthew: 18: 21-35

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$54.00	Total	\$228.45
Loose cash	\$218.90		
Total	\$272.90		
Average for 35 weeks	\$346.18	Average for 35 weeks	\$234.40

CHANGE IN PARISH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

The parish has changed its donation software system to a more secure and safe platform. As such, the description on your Bank statement for Direct Debits and Credit Cards may be different. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact Jane in the office.

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 giving.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

All Recently Deceased: Fr Brian Gleeson

1st Anniversaries: Bernard Alfonso 28.9, Neil McKean, Daphne Omar, Mark Steele, Luke Peiper, Brent Daly, Simone Rodgers.

Anniversaries: Noreen Dempsey, 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 1.9.2002, (Leslie) Anthony Jones 14.9, Kosara Molner, Michael O'Connor 6.9, 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 7.9.12, John Duffy 11.9 Peter Courtney 19.9.11, Ivy D'Lima 12.9.11, Nevil Ryan 2.9.11, Joan Jayne 17.9.11, Rosario Patane 1.9, Gabriele Ramen 21.9, Edmund George 30.9.06, Kevin Sullivan 27.9.87

Sick: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell.
Luke Dennis, Michael Meagher, Richard Davis, Eddie.

We periodically start our sick list again. If you have someone you would like on the sick list please contact Jane at the office 9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au

FR JOHN'S ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr John is on his very well deserved annual leave and will return on Thursday 5 October. We wish him all the best for a safe and peaceful period of rest and look forward to his return. We thank Christine, Sr Trish, Brigid, Fr Erick, Fr Mal and Fr Terry who will all be supporting masses and communion services during this time.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

16 / 17 Sept: Twenty-four Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Luke Fulton-Tindal

C / L: Caroline Price, Becca Beights

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Lou Bevilacqua, Maria Kovacevic

C / L: Lina Tesoriero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: Raymond

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Daniel O'Connor

C / L: Nancye Edwards, Anna Griffiths

Set up: Volunteer needed

Prayer of the Faithful: Daniel O'Connor