

# 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 OCTOBER 2025 TWENTY-SEVENTH 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 Hearnese  
[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 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](mailto:domtess1@gmail.com)

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

### Migrant and Refugees Sunday 2025

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the release of *On Immigration*,<sup>[1]</sup> the Pastoral Letter issued by the Australian Archbishops and Bishops in 1950, offering a timely opportunity for us today to reflect on our attitudes towards those seeking a new home in our country. In response to the unprecedented influx of migrants from southern and Eastern Europe which occurred in the period between 1945 and 1965—resulting in two million migrants arriving on Australian shores in that time—the Australian Archbishops and Bishops urged Catholics to embrace their responsibility to welcome and support these new settlers... The bishops called for “great generosity” and “true unselfishness” to be the “guiding lights” for Catholics as they assisted the new settlers to build a home “beneath the Southern Cross”. The letter... called on Australian Catholics to exercise their moral duty to extend kindness, practical assistance and hospitality to new arrivals, especially those who had been displaced by war and persecution...

Their words remain just as applicable to us today. Once again, our nation serves as a sanctuary and refuge for thousands seeking a new life—whether fleeing hardships in their homelands or pursuing the opportunities, freedom and prosperity that Australia offers, and we are called again to extend the hand of welcome...

Today, around a third of our population—8.2 million people— have been born in a country outside Australia... Unfortunately, the lived experience of migrants [refugees and asylum seekers] in Australia has not always been a positive one. Despite significant progress in fostering a multicultural society, racism still persists among some of us who view others as being ‘different’ or ‘other’ within our nation. And in today’s political climate, as conflicts from abroad spill into our own nation, we are witnessing growing tensions, division and unrest, which are threatening the harmony of our communities. And yet the bishops’ message from 1950 continues to echo across the decades, reminding us once again of the eternal call to welcome Jesus in welcoming the stranger... As Saint John Paul II exclaimed: “How can the baptised claim to welcome Christ if they close the door to the foreigner who comes knocking? ‘If anyone has the world’s goods and sees [their] brother[and sister] in need, yet closes [their] hearts against [them], how does God’s love abide in [them]?’” (1 Jn 3: 17) <sup>[2]</sup>

In Australia in 2025, just as Catholics were called in 1950, we are called to welcome, support and embrace those who arrive from other lands. We must “regard it as a solemn duty to help in the placing and absorbing of immigrants into our community and in making them feel at home amongst us”. <sup>[3]</sup> As St Paul reminds us, we should “not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2).

... This timeless call to hospitality and generosity remains as vital today as it was seventy-five years ago. In Pope Leo’s words, this call today is for us to become a living witness to hope and to build a community that recognise migrants and refugees as brother and sister, part of a family which they can express their talents and participate fully in their new community life. <sup>[4]</sup>

[Source: An extract from *Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1950 Pastoral Letter on Immigration: Under the Southern Cross, A Journey of Faith and Unity*, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.]

<sup>[1]</sup> Australian Archbishops and Bishops. *Pastoral Letter On Immigration*, January 1950.

<sup>[2]</sup> John Paul II. Message for World Migration Day, 2000.

<sup>[3]</sup> Australian Archbishops and Bishops. *Pastoral Letter On Immigration*, January 1950.

<sup>[4]</sup> Leo XIV. Message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2025.

## 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 **Santiago** who celebrates his First Eucharist this weekend.

A warm welcome and thank you to **Fr Erick and Fr Martin** who are Presiders at masses this weekend.

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

## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE PARISH SPRING FESTIVAL?

On **Sunday, 12 October from 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.**, we will gather **at Sacred Heart Church** in a spirit of renewal, creativity, and community. As the season turns and the earth begins to bloom, we come together to celebrate the gifts of life, faith and fellowship. It will be a celebration of growth—of seeds planted in soil and in spirit. Through poetry, music, art and shared food, we open ourselves to the beauty of creation and the richness of each other's gifts.

We are especially excited to have a **special guest, First Nations Man, Rev. Uncle Glenn Loughrey** who will reflect on the significance of Spring and the seasons in First Nations culture. A renowned artist himself, Uncle Glenn will share his artworks and books with us. It will be a privilege to have him, along with our own parishioners, sharing their gifts with us. Come along and be inspired, uplifted and renewed in this vibrant celebration of faith, creativity and community. Entrance by gold coin donation (voluntary).

Please feel free to share the flyer with your family and friends. It will be a lovely afternoon. Thank you very much to the social committee for their hard work in organising the Festival.

## MORE WORDS FROM POPE LEO

At a conference this week, entitled, *Refugees and Migrants in Our Common Home*, Pope Leo stated that Migrants and refugees often are "privileged witnesses of hope through their resilience and trust in God... Often they maintain their strength while seeking a better future, in spite of the obstacles that they encounter". He encouraged participants to share migrants' and refugees' stories of steadfast faith and hope so that they could be, "An inspiration for others and assist in developing ways to address the challenges that they have faced in their own lives." The pope also returned to a theme he had mentioned in September when discussing migration -- the "globalization of powerlessness." Overcoming the widespread sense that no one can make a difference "requires patience, a willingness to listen, the ability to identify with the pain of others and the recognition that we have the same dreams and the same hopes". Faced with a growing sense of being unable to change or improve the situation, he said, "We risk becoming immobile, silent and sad, thinking that nothing can be done when we are faced with innocent suffering."

Copies of Pope Leo's Message on the 111<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees can be found at the back of the churches.

**Getting involved:** In our locality, we are privileged to have the presence of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers' Project who work to bring about justice and change for and to the lives of refugees and asylum seekers. If you would like to assist or get involved in their work, donate time, money, goods or expertise, please visit their website: <https://basp.org.au> You can also leave non-perishable food items in their baskets placed at the back of our churches.

## OUR PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Compassionate Lord, we pray:

For all those who see "home" and all it means disappear behind them;

For all those who cannot see a home in the days ahead of them;

For all those who dwell in daily insecurity;

For all those who are weary and without a safe place to rest their heads.

For all families in migration.

May the image of the Holy family fleeing oppression stay with us each night as we are blessed with returning to a home.

May we also be blessed with compassion for those still weary, still seeking, still with so far to go. Amen.

[Source: *Praying together for our Blessed and Broken World JPIC LEARNING HUB*]

## FR JOHN ON ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr John with return from his annual leave on Thursday 9 October. Thank you to all who have supported the parish during this time, especially Christine.



Garden of Peace  
Isaiah 32:14-18

## PEACE WITH CREATION

### SEASON OF CREATION 2025

This weekend the Season of Creation is officially ending with the celebration of the feast of St Francis of Assisi, who is regarded as the patron saint of ecology, embodying the principles of integral ecology, which connects environmental care with social justice. He believed that concern for nature, justice for the poor and commitment to society are inseparable. His life exemplified a harmonious relationship with God, humanity and the environment, inspiring many to adopt a similar approach to ecological stewardship. Though the Season of Creation ends, care for Earth must be ongoing. Let us be guided by the words of Pope Francis: "To reflect on our lifestyles, and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful." Let us be inspired by St Francis and model our lives around ecological sustainability and social justice.

#### **One by One** by Sister Angela Fellin, R.S.M

one by one the leaves fall  
reveal the pain... decay  
emanates with every  
breath of pain  
earth shudders  
fear stomps on the  
emptiness of the dying  
yet, we God's ambassadors,  
caretakers turn away  
stare at the loss but...  
today, let us stand up  
address the loss  
plant the seeds of HOPE  
with hearts of St. Francis  
hold earth in our hands

*The poem is a challenge for all of us to stand up and do something to help our beautiful earth. And, of course, St. Francis is our model. May we hold the earth in our hearts and hands and make a change.*

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO INSPIRE CHANGE

**Join the XSJN Committee!** Are you passionate about social justice? The Xavier Social Justice Network (XSJN) is seeking new volunteer committee members to help us promote equity and inclusion in the community. If you are generally interested in volunteering for social justice, then join their **online event: The Importance of Volunteering for Social Justice on 16 October at 7.00 p.m.** for an engaging discussion on the vital role of volunteering in promoting social equity. For more information or to register, contact: [xsjn@xavier.vic.edu.au](mailto:xsjn@xavier.vic.edu.au)

## ONLINE SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE HOLY LAND

Caritas Australia will host an online **Service of Remembrance on 7 October, 12.00 p.m.**, marking two years since the escalation of conflict in the Holy Land, honouring all lives lost and praying for those still suffering. On 7 October 2023, 1200 Israeli lives were lost, and more than 65,000 Palestinian lives have been lost since. Conflict has also spread in the past two years across the Middle East, with deaths in Lebanon, Iran, Syria and Yemen. In Gaza, two million people continue to suffer as they face a famine, depleted medical services, a lack of shelter and minimal access to clean water.

The 20-minute online service will be led by Michael McGirr, Caritas Australia's Mission Facilitator. "This service is a moment to honour lives lost and renew our shared commitment to peace," said Kirsten Sayers, CEO of Caritas Australia. "Being an agent of peace means making a courageous, active choice to uphold human dignity, even in the face of violence and despair." The service will include prayers for peace and solidarity with those affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Attendees are encouraged to share a simple meal - such as rice, bread, and tea - after the service, in solidarity with those experiencing food insecurity. Caritas encourage people to act in one or more of three Ways:

- Pray, during the service or in your own time
- Write to your MP, urging action for peace and humanitarian support
- Give to our Gaza Appeal, to support urgent relief efforts

Register to attend: [https://caritas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_z3cMShKiTNeIX2MdGf14LQ](https://caritas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z3cMShKiTNeIX2MdGf14LQ)

To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal, visit [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL (ACYF)

Sunday 30 November to Tuesday 2 December

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Bishops more than ten years ago. Run over three days, the Festival provides young people from all across Australia with the opportunity to come together to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia. The Festival will bring together thousands of young people (**Year 9 - 25 years of age**) from all across Australia and include opportunities for engagement with other young people, school and youth groups, Bishops, musicians and speakers.

Each day will include the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities including prayer, Mass, workshops, talks, live concerts, games, justice issues and an interactive expo.

For the full program and to register, visit [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au).

**Event Details:** Sunday 30 November to Tuesday 2 December @ Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Habakkuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4

**Responsorial Psalm:**

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever;

it is the word given to you, the Good News.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 17: 5-9

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 6 October - SUNDAY 12 October 2025**

**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 in the Parish House  
11.00am Funeral for Mick Grellet  
at Sacred Heart Church

**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: Luke 17: 11-19

### COLLECTIONS: Last three weekends

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$147.00	Total	\$842.45
Loose cash	\$994.60		
Total	\$1141.60		
Average for 37 weeks	\$386.60	Average for 37 weeks	\$237.24

## 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://tithe.ly) 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:

*"When we pray, God opens our eyes, renews and changes our hearts, heals our wounds, and gives us the grace we need"*

Pope Francis

### All Recently Deceased:

**1st Anniversaries:** Evelyn Kayes, Alan Bourke, Danny Quinlan, Paddy Maher, Cheyenne MacGarvies, Bill Kelly, Fr Des McGuiness, Viorel Biletschi, Paul Christi, Sheridan Shepherd, Mario Varone, Norma Childers.

**Anniversaries:** Gwen Yates 6.10, Bridgete (Bridie) Rehill 7.10.15, Mary McNamara, George Burns, Bartolo Finocchiaro, Sr Joan Mary, William Wallace Duncan, Sheree Meade, Andres Hernandez-Pacheco, Domenico Simonetta, Bishop Hilton Deakin, Henricus Huybers, Vicki Howard, Maria George 15.10.2020, Cynthia Joseph 11.10.2016, Noreen Dempsey, Jim Baxter 09.10.17, Maria Palumbo, Tony Zaia, George Speedie, Jessy, Aileen Briglia, William (Billy) Lloyd, Barry Francis Seymour, Loretta Venturoni, Dorothy Riggs, John Nugent, Shirley Chambers, Maureen Mitchell 11.10, Noel Hunt, Patricia Foley, Patricia O'Donnell, Carl Schmidtke, Bernadette Palmer, Alan Cameron, Maureen Bolt, Christine Fedyszyn, Antonietta Severino, Miles Gibbons, Kath McCarthy, Patricia Murphy, Giovanni (John) Guarrealla, Christine Wright, Terry Aherne, James Betram, Douglas Leitch, Jack Henry Green Withers, Maureen O'Grady, Mario Carmelo Gatt, Peter McClade, June Stewart, Paul Glover, Michele (Michael) Scotto 2.10.10 James Francis, Victor Hunt, Iris Loney, Neville Munday 2.10.13, Darryl O Meara 15.10.13, Aivars Endzins 19.10.13, Kevin Charlton 23.10.13, Cora Deegan 3.10.73, Giovanna Stragis 17.10.11, Adrian Houben 24.10.11, Robert Rosewarne 24.10.11, Joseph Lashbrook 18.10.11, Peter Peters 30.10.11, Sylvia Stamper 8.10.10, Nunziata Panettieri 13.10.10, Maria Rosa Contino, Guiseppina Barnao 12.10.10, Eileen Sage, Joan Eifermann 31.10.10, Michelina De Giorgio 7.10.94, Emmanuel De Giorgio 29.10.83, Eddy Rumengan 13.10.08, Guiseppina Contino, Dino Santini 13.10.1983, Michael Sylester Ryan, Maureen Duke, Margaret Ann MacPherson, Maureen Mitchell, Patricia O'Donnell, **Sick:** Lol Patten (UK), Jackie Pyster, Ramon Lopez, Rose Fonti, Meanwell, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Patrick McCaffrey, Sue McLennan, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Ned Connors, Jean Cropley & David Cropley, Pat Ficcaro, Lyn Crossly, Nichole Garnaut, Tony Cogo, Paul Hamilton, Rosanna Scutti, Elaine Dillon, Peter Contino, Joaquin Do Santos, David Hawe, Alva Pickett, Bernadette Callose, Tim Wilson.

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**11 / 12 October: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Bronwyn Illott and family

Set up: Legion of Mary

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Pristille No, Mizel Filho

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: The Brazilians

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Liturgy team