

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 AUGUST 2025 NINETEENTH 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

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 Hearn
jane@shscparish.org.au

SHM Pastoral Care Worker

St Columba Principal / REC:

Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Natalie Cromie
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

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

Reflection on the Gospel (an extract) by Fr Peter Varengo Seed Among the Vines: A Spirituality of the Sunday Gospels, Year C.

In a brief summary of three short parables, Luke brings together a variety of themes that have signposted Jesus' journeys to Jerusalem until now. Jesus highlights the foundational elements of faith and discipleship: awareness of God's love and care for each of us, wisdom to see and accept the presence of God in our lives and commitment to bring this presence to the world around us.

The realisation of God's eternal plan of loving presence, however, is not just a pie-in-the-sky-when-we-die future. The experience of this God-enriched love and presence needs to become a reality in our daily lives and in our mutual relationships. I truly believe in God's love and care for me. When, in my need, I discover and experience love and care around me, then the God of love becomes real and tangible in my life. Jesus' insistence in the Gospel on being, 'Dressed for action... awake and ready... for the Son of Man is coming at an unpredicted hour' does not necessarily refer to the final call into death. Nor is it an entreaty to beware, lest our ledger be unbalanced. I believe that this readiness has to be;

1. Awareness of God's presence.
2. A call to be people of wisdom who see this presence incarnated in the reality of each day.
3. A commitment to share the dual gift of presence and love where we are.

The unexpected events of daily life and the routines of home, school, office or bus stop, each of these moments can be a moment of revelation of God's love and presence, particularly in the presence of need and/or challenges, and we have to be ready to meet the challenge and to respond to the revelation as it presents itself to us. In this perspective, the Gospel today calls us to discover, acknowledge, and act upon God's call to us as beloved and little flock, and finally to enjoy the eternal presence for which we are destined.

The memory and heritage of heroes like Mary MacKillop and myriads of others point precisely to this; discovery of being loved must lead to acceptance of God and action for the kingdom now and forever. Mary's motto: 'Never see a need without trying to do something about it', is not just a nice platitude for philanthropy but a living and eternal expression of what it means to make real and believable God's endearment and affection for each and all of us... Mary MacKillop lived in desperate times, in the midst of great turmoil, insecurity, and the lack of basic structures and support systems to meet fundamental human needs, and in that time and place she responded in awareness, wisdom and total commitment. Relying entirely on Jesus' reassurance to his disciples that there is 'No need to be afraid' and drawing inspiration and energy from the acceptance of God's loving presence in her own personal struggles and misunderstandings, she immersed herself totally into the human situation at that time with courage and determination.

On reflection, our lives are full of powerful experiences and people who are ready to take seriously the challenge of being beloved and revealing the God of love to others... May we be called to make a down-to-earth commitment to mutual love and concern, both as a response and a revelation to the whole world that no matter who we may be, fundamentally we all belong to God's beloved little flock to whom God has entrusted his kingdom of peace, justice and love. May we have the courage to commit ourselves to bringing about the kingdom where we are, here and now, until we are all gathered in the embrace of the one who invites us into oneness.

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 warmly welcome the children who are preparing to receive their First Eucharist to 6.00pm mass. May their hearts be filled with love and joy at this special time.

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.

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.

BE CALM AND FULL OF HOPE

As we celebrate the Jubilee Year and end our celebration of the feast of Saint Mary MacKillop, we are invited to reflect on her timeless message: *"Be calm and full of hope."* In a world longing for peace, Mary's life urges us to become Pilgrims of Hope—walking with faith, sowing seeds of hope and trusting in God's presence along the way.

Christine Valters Paintner, in *The Soul of a Pilgrim*, reminds us that the Latin word *peregrini*, meaning "stranger," lies at the heart of pilgrimage. In her letters, Mary MacKillop often spoke of her gratitude for the strangers she encountered—people whose generosity and kindness revealed the face of a Provident God. Her message to us remains clear: welcome the unexpected kindness of others with a joyful heart, respond in kind, and, above all, deepen our relationship with God. In doing so, we live with the hope and joy that allows us, like the women at the tomb, to recognise the Risen Christ in those we meet.

Mary's legacy continues to inspire us. In a world marked by suffering, division, and uncertainty, she calls us to be Bearers of Hope—living a hope that is active, grounded in faith, nourished by prayer, and expressed through compassionate service.

St Mary MacKillop, Companion of Hope,

Teach us through your example to trust in God's providence,
To walk with courage even when the path is unclear,
And to be light for others in times of darkness.

[Based on articles by Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader and Maria Casey rsj]

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving God,
You remind us not to be afraid,
for it is your joy to give us the kingdom.
Help us to trust in your care,
to store up treasure in heaven,
not in things that fade, but in love that endures.
Teach us to be ready—
lamps lit, hearts open, hands prepared to serve.
May we be found faithful,
not just in great deeds,
but in the small acts of kindness,
the quiet moments of honesty,
the daily choice to love.
Make us wise and generous stewards
of all you have entrusted to us:
our time, our gifts, our relationships, our world.
When we are tempted to grow weary or indifferent,
renew in us the fire of your Spirit.
May we live each day in joyful expectation,
not out of fear, but out of hope—
watching not for the hour,
but for your presence in our neighbour,
your call in our conscience,
and your kingdom in our midst.
We ask this through Christ,
who comes to serve, and to save. Amen.

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.

Renowned safeguarding expert, Jesuit Father Hans Zollner spoke in Australia earlier this year. Fr Zollner spoke of Safeguarding being a source of hope for the Church. Often safeguarding has been framed only in terms of avoiding bad outcomes. Instead of seeing it as avoiding bad outcomes, he said safeguarding is a positive and pro-active action in the Church. He said actively creating safe spaces, processes and relationships facilitated the mission of the Church. Further information and reports from Fr Zollner can be found [here](#) and on our website.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ACU) MISSION WEEK 2025

The ACU Community invites you to ACU Mission Week, the theme of which is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Through music, art, architecture and nature, this series of events focus on beauty as a sign of hope.

The program includes a range of opportunities from 12-14 August. For full details please visit https://aculife.acu.edu.au/events?group_ids=828

NEWS FROM THE BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT (BASP)

Next Discussion Session

At this session local MP, Josh Burns will share his insights and experience. We will discuss and ask questions about how to bring about political change, and how the public and elected politicians can work together. As a Member of Parliament, Josh was instrumental in pushing the government in 2021 to release the refugees transferred from offshore processing who were in indefinite detention, and he remains actively committed to fighting for dignity and respect for asylum seekers and refugees. On this afternoon, we will be able to raise many of the urgent issues, such as the work rights issue, and the growing destitution among asylum seekers who have been in limbo for so long, with all the effects flowing on from that and how they can be addressed. Details:

Date and time: Wednesday, 20 August, 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Venue: St Joseph's Hall, 274 Rouse St, Port Melbourne (behind the bluestone St Joseph's church)
(note change from usual venue)

#EndTheWaiting The campaign

Also on the 20th, we will be talking about a new campaign organised by the Australian Churches Refugee Task Force (ACRT) called **#EndTheWaiting The campaign** consisting of vigils to be held in as many electorates as possible, calling for justice for asylum seekers, in particular the need for the government to provide a pathway to permanency for all those who have been failed by Australia's flawed asylum processes. We will spend some time outlining how a vigil might work.

BASP will be hosting our #EndTheWaiting vigil on Wednesday 3 September at the Brigidine Ministry Centre, 54 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park.

Copies of the latest BASP newsletter are down the back of the churches. If you wish to leave any food donations, the baskets for these are also found at the back of the churches.

For anyone wishing to make a donation, the Project Bank details are:

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Trust Account:

bsb: 083-004; a/c: 56-924-6603; NAB.

Please put your name on the entry and email us at contact@basp.org.au after making a donation so we can send you a tax deductible receipt.

IN MY OWN LOCAL COMMUNITY, DO I LOVE MY NEIGHBOUR?

Fr John will be speaking at the next Vibrant Parish Series on 'Beyond the Church Door'. Fr John will explore what it means to serve with love, mercy and justice at the local level, and how we can collaborate with others. There will also be a panel of people from parishes working at the coalface. Learn about a new practical resource to help you identify who makes up your local parish community, using data from the last census.

Date and time: Tuesday, 12 August from 6.30 p.m. (refreshments) to 9.00 p.m.

Venue: Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill

Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au or (03) 9926 5761

PARISH PILGRIMAGE: WALKING WITH PURPOSE

A pilgrimage doesn't always require distant travel or ancient shrines—it can be a local, prayerful journey that opens our eyes and hearts to the presence of Christ in the margins. A short, local pilgrimage with a social justice focus offers parishioners an opportunity to walk in solidarity with the vulnerable and reflect deeply on the Gospel call to justice, compassion and action.

So, on Saturday, **30 August from 9.00 a.m. – noon**, our parish will undertake our local pilgrimage under the theme of: *Go out to the world* (Matthew 16:15) Going out into the world is not just a suggestion but a calling for every believer. The scriptures remind us that we are to embody our faith, share God's love and actively engage with those around us. Whether through words or actions, we are encouraged to be vessels of kindness, compassion and hope in our communities and beyond.

We will begin at 9.00 a.m. travelling to five stations, as follows:

1. St Columba Primary School
2. Point Ormond
3. St Kilda Marina
4. St Kilda Botanic Gardens
5. Sacred Heart Church

We will finish at 11.30 p.m. with lunch provided.

If you wish to be part of this pilgrimage, **please register on the sheets at the back of our churches.**

We understand that some people cannot walk, and they are invited to drive (or be driven) from one station to another. Please indicate if you require a lift to each station.

This kind of pilgrimage, though short in duration, is long in meaning. It grounds faith in lived experience, challenges comfort zones and fosters a deeper awareness of how the Spirit moves in the world's wounded places. It reminds us that to follow Christ is to journey with others—especially the poor, the forgotten and the excluded.

As we walk together, we are reminded that the path of justice begins at our doorstep and continues wherever hearts are open and feet are willing to move in love. Join us.



SERVICE OF COMPLINE AT NEWMAN COLLEGE

Compline is a peaceful evening ritual, with hymns sung by the Newman College Choir. It offers a serene way to wind down the mind, body and spirit before sleep. With soothing prayers, calming music and moments of reflection, it provides a break from the hustle and busyness of daily life.

Gain a deeper sense of inner peace and make Compline your monthly sanctuary! Reconciliation will also be offered.

Everyone is welcome. **Details:**

Date and time: Thursday 14 August from 8.30pm–10.00 pm

Venue: Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville.

Further dates, all on Thursday at 8.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.

August: 14, 21, 29; September: 11, 18, 25 and October: 2, 9.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Wisdom 18: 6-9

Responsorial Psalm:

Happy the people the lord has chosen to be his own.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 12: 32-48

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 11 August - SUNDAY 17 August 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 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION MASS
at St Columba 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 12: 49-53

COLLECTIONS: Last two weekends

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$32.00	Total	\$212.40
Loose cash	\$223.80		
Total	\$255.80		
Average for 29 weeks	\$401.91	Average for 29 weeks	\$234.89

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:

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

Anniversaries: Pat Ferry, Neil Ashton, Steve Turba, Ben Donoghue, Kate Rockell, Cecila Araos, Kathleen Dennis, Bridget Phelan, Genevieve Morcom 23.8.Frank Alfonso 16.8.2021, 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

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

If you have someone you would like on the prayer list please contact Jane at the office.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

16 / 17 August: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Caroline Price, Volunteers needed

Set up: Legion of Mary / Mahtab

9am Mass:

M: Lou Bevilacqua, Maria Kovacevic

C / L: Lou Tesoriero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom & friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Cecilia Mwangi

C / L: Nancye Edwards, Anna Griffiths

Set up: Anzel & Chella

Prayer of the Faithful: Daniel O'Connor