

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 25 / 26 OCTOBER 2025 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St Columba Church

cnr Glenhuntly & Normandy Rds
Elwood 3184

Sacred Heart Church

87 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

In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus tells a parable "to some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else." Two men go up to the temple to pray: one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stands proudly before God, listing his virtues and comparing himself favourably against others. The tax collector, standing at a distance, cannot even raise his eyes to heaven. He beats his breast and prays simply, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Jesus concludes with the striking reversal that lies at the heart of the Gospel: "This man, rather than the other, went home justified before God."

At first glance, the parable seems straightforward—a warning against pride and a call to humility. Yet its power lies in how it exposes the subtle ways we can turn even our faith into a platform for self-praise. The Pharisee is not condemned for fasting or giving alms—these are good and holy practices. What poisons his prayer is the spirit of comparison. His sense of worth depends on being better than others. His words reach no higher than himself; his "thanksgiving" to God is really a self-congratulation in disguise.

The tax collector, on the other hand, prays from a place of truth. He makes no excuses, no claims, no comparisons. His entire prayer rests on the mercy of God. In that surrender lies his justification. Jesus' story reminds us that what pleases God is not our spiritual résumé, but our honesty before Him. When we come to prayer with empty hands, we make room for grace to fill them.

This parable also speaks to the community of faith. It is easy—even in religious life—to measure others by appearances or by the standards of our own effort. The moment we do, we stand beside the Pharisee. The way of the Gospel invites us instead to stand with the tax collector: humbly aware of our need for mercy, and therefore more compassionate toward the weaknesses of others. The Church is not a society of the sinless but a home for the forgiven.

"Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." This is not a threat but a promise. God longs to lift us up, but He can only raise what has first knelt before Him. True humility does not mean self-contempt—it means seeing ourselves truthfully, as loved sinners, always in need of God's grace. The humble heart is free: free to rejoice in others' goodness, free to forgive, free to begin again.

In the end, prayer is not about impressing God but encountering Him. The Pharisee prays to himself; the tax collector prays to God. Only one goes home justified, because only one truly meets the Lord. May our own prayer, however faltering, echo the words of the tax collector: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." In that simple plea lies the whole mystery of salvation.

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. A special welcome also to **Leo & Leon** 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 highlighting Safeguarding. Please feel free to contact a member of the Safeguarding Committee if you have any concerns or ideas. Our Safeguarding Committee comprises Fr John Petrus, Christine Mitchell, Jane Hearn and Daniella Maddalena. They work in conjunction with the PLDT to ensure that our parish keeps the safety of all in our community at the heart of everything we do. We would like to extend a warm invitation to a parishioner/s to join the Safeguarding Committee. It would involve a quarterly meeting and an interest in supporting these works. Please speak to one of the committee if you are interested.

MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

This Mental Health Sunday, we pause to reflect on a truth that runs deep in the heart of the Gospel: every person is made in the image of God, worthy of love, dignity and care. As Christians, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ –to reach out to those who are hurting, especially those whose pain is unseen. Mental health challenges affect people in every community, including our own. Yet too often, those who struggle are met with silence, stigma or shame. Jesus never turned away from the brokenhearted. He listened to the cries of those pushed to the margins. He restored dignity to those the world had cast aside. He calls us to do the same. Let us be a church that listens without judgment, that welcomes without condition, and that walks alongside those who feel alone. Let us advocate for care that honours the whole person—body, mind and spirit. Let us remember that compassion is not optional; it is the mark of Christ in us. This month, and every month, may we open our hearts to those who need hope. May we be aware. May we be kind. May we be brave enough to love deeply. We welcome and thank **Hang Vo, CEO of Sacred Heart Mission**, speaking at our 11.00 a.m. this Sunday on the work that Sacred Heart Mission does to address the needs of those on the margins and do so in a way that accords dignity and respect.

OUR PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

[Inspired by Luke 18:9-14]

Gracious and merciful God,
You do not look at outward appearances,
but at the posture of our hearts.
You welcome the humble,
You lift the lowly,
and You pour out mercy on those who cry,
“God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”
We confess that too often,
we have stood in pride,
trusting in our own goodness,
measuring ourselves against others.
But Your mercy is not earned—
it is freely given to those who ask.
So we come to You, not with boasts,
but with brokenness.
Not with credentials,
but with contrition.
We kneel before You,
like the tax collector in the temple,
knowing that Your mercy
is our only hope.
Thank You for the mercy that justifies,
for the grace that restores,
and for the love that never fails.
Teach us to walk humbly,
to pray honestly,
and to live as people
who have been forgiven much.
Amen.

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our wonderful school community for their two performances of the musical, Finding Nemo. The multi talented Daniella Maddalena directed and supported the students and the result was a brilliant display of talent, hard work and enthusiasm. Well done to the children, the staff, the parent volunteers and especially to Daniella. For a small school, they consistently show us that a big heart goes a very long way.

As mentioned last weekend, the Year 6 students will reach an important milestone in their PYP journey as they present their upcoming Exhibition. This is a significant moment. The culmination of their learning across the years at St Columba and a chance to show just how far they've come. The Exhibition allows our students to explore an issue or idea they care about deeply, demonstrating the IB Learner Profile in action, thinking critically, communicating clearly and showing compassion and integrity. We look forward to celebrating this special event with you on **Thursday, 13 November at 5:00 pm**, as we recognise the achievements of our Year 6 students and the thoughtful, globally minded young people they've become.

VOLUNTEER(S) TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT TO MASS

We have a parishioner, Katrina, who is a regular at our 11.00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Katrina is at a stage where she cannot make the walk or take public transport from her home in Balaclava to Sacred Heart Church. Are there any people who are willing to drive her to Mass and take her home again on a regular or irregular basis? If we can get two or three or four people, then it can be once a month commitment. If you can help, please email Christine on: christine@shscparish.org.au

WEBINAR: PRIESTS AND SYNODALITY

Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) and Garratt Publishing present 'Priests and Synodality in Australia'. With the conclusion of the Synod on Synodality a year ago, the focus has turned to implementation. However, it is claimed that the commitment to making synodality a prominent feature of Church activity and Catholic life generally in Australia and New Zealand seems to be sporadic at best. Few parishes have made it a priority, and the concept is still neither understood nor accepted at parish level to any significant extent. Indeed, it is regularly claimed that parish clergy are largely passively avoidant in relation to promoting or implementing the Final Document of the Synod. Why is this? If true, how can it be turned around? In *'The Afternoon of Christianity: The courage to change'*, Tomas Halik asserts the conviction that personal spiritual accompaniment will be the crucial pastoral role in the Church of the future. How would this play out for priests in a Synodal Church?

In this webinar, Frs Joe Grayland and Brendan Reed will discuss this and related issues. Sr Carmel Pilcher will provide a response and observations. This is a free webinar but it is necessary to book.

Date and time: Thursday, 6 November at 7.00 p.m.

To register, visit accr@accr.online

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSION

Join our online information session to learn more about study options at Catholic Theological College (CTC) and gain insights into student life. Whether you want to further your career or your knowledge of the Catholic faith, CTC has the right path or options for you. Meet our course advisors and learn about our wide range of courses and units, online and face-to-face.

Date and time: Monday 27 October from 7.00pm-8.30pm

Registration is essential: <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/information-sessions/>

Contact the Registrar for more information and enrolment appointments: 9412 3309 | registrar@ctc.edu.au.

There are some leaflets with more information at the back of our churches.

FUNERAL NOTICES

The funeral for **Teresa D'Agata**, a long-term parishioner, will be held at St Columba Church on Monday, 27 October at 12.30 p.m.

PARISH SPRING FESTIVAL

Our annual Spring Festival was held on Sunday 12 October at Sacred Heart Church. It was a celebration of growth—of seeds planted in soil and in spirit. Through poetry, music, art and shared food, we opened ourselves to the beauty of creation and the richness of each other's gifts.

It was a privilege to have First Nations Man, Rev. Uncle Glenn Loughrey reflect on the significance of Spring and the seasons in First Nations culture. A renowned artist himself, Uncle Glenn shared his artworks and books with us.

Thank you very much to our other marvellous presenters / artists and to everyone who attended. It was a wonderful showcase of parish hospitality and local talent. A very special thank you to the organising committee, Jeferson Almeida Souza, Toni Vatta, Marita Dalton and Jane Sims and to Anne Dexter and Julio Garcia for their additional support.

Please see the insert for some more great photos (taken by Julio Garcia) highlighting aspects of the Festival.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE: WALKING WITH PURPOSE NEW DATE: SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER

SIGN UP! SIGN UP! SIGN UP!

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, **15 November 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 Church
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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-19

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

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: Luke 18: 9-14

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 27 October - SUNDAY 2 November 2025

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

12.30pm Funeral Mass for Teresa D'Agata
at St Columba Church

THURSDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9.00am MASS in 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: Luke 7: 11-17

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$47.00	Total	\$411.30
Loose cash	\$674.10		
Total	\$721.10		
Average for 39 weeks	\$395.66	Average for 39 weeks	\$252.58

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:

"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: Maree Regglesworth (Nicoles' aunt).

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, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones, 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, Fr Barry Moran

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

1 / 2 November: All Souls Day

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Rica Garcia

Set up: Karen Ramanair, Sree Chelvakumaran

9am Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Kate Bebejewaska, Tony Lopes

Set up: Marcelle, Pristille, Priscila

Hospitality Roster: Dom & friends

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes

C / L: Helen Freris, Jane Sims / Daniel O'Connor.

Set up: Cecilia Mwangi

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy team