

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 MARCH 2024 PASSION SUNDAY



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
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Pastoral Ministry Leader: Christine Mitchell
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SHM Pastoral Care Worker:
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kenglebretsen@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.

A Reflection on Passion Sunday

[<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>]

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" Later in the Mass we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus' passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' death. In Mark's telling of the passion narrative, Jesus understood his death to have been preordained, and he accepted this death in obedience to God's will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood his anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of his burial, and he announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At his arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before his accusers. After he was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until his final cry from the cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that he was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in his death on the cross.

During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son.

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 **Leila and Thomas** who are baptised this weekend at 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.

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.

LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EASTER SERVICES

If you would like to assist at one of the Easter liturgies, please put your name down on the sheet down the back of the church, specifying which service you are available to assist. Please add your phone or email details so that Christine can contact you next week.

Further, it's also the last call for anyone wishing to attend the Easter Sunday picnic in the park adjacent to Point Ormond in Elwood. Remember it's a BYO food, drink, chair or blanket. If you need or can give a lift, please indicate this too. The social sub-committee organisers will contact you during the week.

ST COLUMBA'S CHILDREN'S FLEA MARQT & FAIR

Come along after mass this

Sunday! Our wonderful St Columba Primary School is holding it's annual Children's Flea Marqt & Fair **Sunday 24 March, 10.00am - 1.00pm.**

All families in and around Elwood and the wider Parish are very welcome. There will be games, music and entertainment; meet the Easter Bunny and Becky Bubble; and enjoy the stalls that the children are running selling second hand books and toys. Proudly sponsored by Bendigo Bank's Elwood Community Bank.



PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK

Gracious and loving God,
We come before you with humble hearts,
recognising that humility is a path to truth.
We thank you for sending your son,
who willingly chose the cross out of love for us,
that we might, too be your beloved.
As we enter Holy Week and approach the Triduum,
we ask for the grace to see everything through the lens of this profound truth.

May the love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross be the guiding force in our lives.

Help us to surrender our own desires and ambitions
and to humbly follow in the footsteps of our Saviour.

Fill us with gratitude for the immense sacrifice Jesus made for us
and inspire us to live lives of selflessness and love. May our actions and attitudes reflect the truth of our identity as your beloved children.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OUR RCIA ELECT

In a week's time we will celebrate Amy and Stella entering our faith after months and months of preparation, and Helen and Luigi, and Patricia later in April, completing their sacramental initiation through Confirmation. These five people have shown incredible commitment to their journey of faith exploration. Signs of deep and enriching encounters with Jesus, and through him, God, have been self-evident. Those of us on the RCIA support team are constantly inspired by those on the journey as it also forces us to look afresh at our relationship with Jesus, always giving new insight into how we are we called to be the best version of ourselves. Thanks to RCIA team supporters: Mahtab, Damian and Joanna for their commitment to this process. Let us hold our five Elect in prayer that they will always feel the joy of being called, feel the strength of Jesus' heart in tough times, draw on the gifts bestowed to them by the Holy Spirit as the beloved and know life is eternal and one day they will be welcomed home as good and faithful servants.

NEW INITIATIVE FROM THE HOMELESS COLLECTIVE

The Pyjama Collective: Most of us will never know what it's like to escape our home with only the clothes on our back. But many of the women we help do. And when they reach a crisis centre, they have to sleep in the same torn and bloodied clothes because clothing and pyjamas aren't included in funding budgets. Imagine wearing your pain and trauma for days on end. You can help change this. The National Homeless Collective is launching a new initiative called the Pyjama Collective. We're getting Indigenous artists to design a range of pyjamas to be sold online to the public. For every pair of pyjamas you buy for yourself, an identical pair will be sent to a vulnerable woman sleeping in a shelter. And that pair will be in her size. For further information, please visit the website: <http://nhcollective.org.au>

IMAGINING OUR FUTURE WEEK FIVE: WALKING TOGETHER TO NEW LIFE

Many thanks to all our parishioners in the 'pews' and online who, over the last five weeks, participated enthusiastically and creatively in responding to the questions posed by the members of the Discernment Group around our five areas of service in the parish. There was a rich quality of responses, and they ranged right across the faith continuum, from the conservative to the progressive believers. The challenge ahead is to hold these in tension so that we may be a truly inclusive parish.

The responses will now be collated and used in the Parish Vision workshop, scheduled for **Saturday, 18 May**. Please put this date into your diaries as we are encouraging as many people as possible to attend. The commencement time is yet to be decided but we will let you know as soon as possible. Many thanks to all those who assisted in this process of consultation. This includes:

- Members of the Discernment who formulated the questions and addressed each Mass every weekend over those five weeks.
- Those who provided translations, specifically Jefferson (Portuguese), Christian (French), Carlo (Italian) and Maria-Luisa (Spanish). We used google translation for 'Simplified Chinese', which seemed to work.
- Those who collected, pinned up and typed (typing) out the responses.

Let us continue to walk together breathing new life into our parish.

WELCOMING HANG

On **Sunday, 7 April**, the CEO of Sacred Heart Mission, **Hang Vo**, will be addressing the assembly at the **11.00 a.m. Mass**. She will remain for morning tea, so don't feel shy in introducing yourself and having a chat with her.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Next term, we begin preparing children for a range of sacraments in the parish. While Confirmation will be our focus, alongside the school for Term II, we also have older children being prepared for other sacraments from Baptism upwards. If you know of any family who would like their children to be prepared for sacraments, ask them to email Christine on:

christine@shscparish.org.au

In addition, a new group of adults preparing to enter the Catholic faith or complete their sacramental initiation (called the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)) will also begin in April. If you or anyone is interested, once again let Christine know.

HOLIDAYS FOR STAFF

During the week following Easter Sunday, our Pastoral Ministry Leader, Christine will be on a break for five days, returning on the weekend of 6/7 April.

THE COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY

Every year on Good Friday, the Pontifical Good Friday collection is taken up in Catholic Churches world-wide to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection. The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America is part of a world-wide network of [Commissariats of the Holy Land](#) which function as bridges between the Holy Land and Christians all over the world. They have the unique responsibility to care for the Holy Places as well for the "Living Stones," the Christians living there. They state that, "It is vital that we support Christians living in the Holy Land, in order to maintain a Christian presence in the very land made holy by the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus."

Outlined below is the way the money is used.

- Maintenance of the holy places and shrines.
- To assist Christians remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities and provide medical assistance for the needy.
- The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for young men to answer the call to become Franciscan priests and brothers. Additionally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places.
- The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering worship, Christian formation, youth and family programs, especially in regions affected by war.
- The Christian Media Centre tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organise liturgical celebrations for local Christians and pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing ecumenical cooperation.

SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS THROUGH ART FOR THOUGHT

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) have launched their 'Art for Thought' campaign which aims to support and celebrate the talents of refugee artists advocating for their rights and recognition. Refugees in Australia often face significant challenges in accessing opportunities to showcase their talents and earn a sustainable income. Through 'Art for Thought', ASRC aim to address this issue by providing a platform for these artists to exhibit their work and share their stories with the world, while raising awareness of the challenges people seeking asylum face in their journey to safety. Three artists, Asad, Awer and Elrica, have provided original pieces for 'Art for Thought' so ASRC supporters can receive a free poster and learn about their personal stories and the inspiration behind their art. During 'Art for Thought' there are some giveaways of free posters featuring the work of these artists. People who sign up will also be able to download a digital copy of all three works which can be used as a phone 'wall paper'. Visit ASRC's website for further details: asrc.org.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel for Procession: Mark 11: 1-10

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7

Responsorial Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death,

dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high

and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Mark 14: 1 - 15: 47

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 25 March 2024 - SUNDAY 31 March 2024

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

HOLY THURSDAY 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
at St Columba Church

GOOD FRIDAY 9.30am Ecumenical Service
at Sacred Heart Church

3.00pm The Lord's Passion
at Sacred Heart Church

EASTER VIGIL 7.30pm Lighting of the Fire
(please meet in the carpark of the Parish House)

7.45pm MASS at St Columba Church

EASTER SUNDAY 9.00am MASS at St Columba Church
11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(this mass is also live streamed)

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

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 cash, direct debit or credit card payments.

THANK YOU!

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."



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased:

1st Anniversaries: Lorraine Donovan

2nd Anniversaries: Christy Leahy

Anniversaries: Rosario Marino, Mavis Heywood 5.3, David James Chieng, Patricia Herkess 11.3, Matilda Foster, John Pratt Fr Ernie Smith 28.3.18, David Griffin, Thomas Szabo, David Carter, David Rickard, Caterina Pino, Michael Grigorio, John Huggett, Graziella Pesenti, James Rodrigues, Ines Picone, Wally Haire, Michael Hayward, Concettina Schiano Moriello 13.3, Maurice Thomas, John Lawler, Mary Tudor, Peter Brady, Yehia Ragheb, Brian Scanlan, Tom Schepsi, Max Hunter, Ben Tripp 16.3.14, Tony Tripp 8.3, John Muldoon, Donald Everard, Dudley Gomez, Patricia Moore, Bozo Martinov, Jean Curtis 8.3, Roza Pawloska 9.3, Arnold Krumins 11.3, Peter Wilson, David Nightingale, Tom Connelly, Jack Edwards 29.3, Kevin Mooney 19.3.04, Joseph D'Agata, Tom Rehill, John O'Shaughnessy, Patricia McHale 4.3.01, Whippy Peters 13.3.11, Ladislav Mikus 25.3.11, Matthew Beyer 15.3.08, Giuseppina Mazzella 18.3.10, Peter O Connor 5.3.51, Maria Terzita Pittari 15.3.10, Patrick Reade 13.1.10, Andrew Crook 21.3.10, Andrea 7 Raffaele Fraccalanza, Octavia Santini 8.3.98, Muriel Bowes 25.3.02, Nunziata Panettieri, Maria Tesoriero, Max Korber, Caterina Cutelle, Pat Mooney, Maria Alfonse 18.3, Denise Jacoby 18.3

Sick: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell. Luke Dennis, Richard Davis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright (Sydney), Chail and her husband Callum, Norma Childers (Texas - Becca's grandma), Patrick McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue McLennan, Liz Hawes, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg.

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

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection		
Envelopes	\$7.00	Total	\$230.75
Loose cash	\$331.55		
Total	\$338.55		
Average for 12 weeks	\$433.42	Average for 12 weeks	\$245.92

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

30 / 31 March 2024: Easter Vigil / Easter Sunday

Thank you to all the volunteers who have signed up for our Easter liturgies. You will be contacted during the week to confirm your roles. Don't forget that you can still sign up this weekend or email Jane or Christine if you are able to help. ALL VERY WELCOME!