

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 11 / 12 NOVEMBER 2023 THIRTIETH-SECOND 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:
Karen Englebrechtsen
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 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.

A reflection on Today's Gospel

[An extract from Fr Mikes in an article entitled: *Pushing Back the Darkness*, www.interruptingthesilence.com]

"What do you see when you look into the lamp of your life? Is it full of oil, running out, or empty? Is the oil fresh or has it become rancid? Is your lamp burning brightly or is it growing dim? Light or darkness, full or empty lamps, fresh or rancid oil are not about what is happening around us, the circumstances of our life and world, but about what is happening within us. They are metaphors for our spiritual condition, our inner way of being.

It would be so easy to divide and categorise the ten bridesmaids into two groups - the wise and foolish, the prepared and unprepared, the good and bad, the winners and losers, the welcomed and rejected. More often than not that's what we do to ourselves and each other. To divide and categorise the ten bridesmaids, however, is to forget, ignore, or misunderstand what today's gospel says. All ten bridesmaids were a part of the kingdom. All ten were invited to the wedding banquet. All ten went to meet the bridegroom. All ten become drowsy and fell asleep. All ten had lamps. All ten were meant, intended, and called to be carriers of the light...

Every day we either add to the light of the world or we add to its darkness... When I break relationships; turn away from the needs, concerns, or hopes of another; or act as if I have no need of him or her; my world becomes darker. And when I remain open and receptive, soften my heart, and recommit to love my neighbour as myself, a new light begins to shine...

None of us are all light or all darkness. We're all a mixture of both. Some days I add light to the world and other days I add darkness.

I don't think the question is whether there is darkness today in our life and world. There is. The question is this: What are you doing about it? What am I doing about it? Every time I live in that dark place, every time I add darkness to the world... I am no longer the light carrier I want to be or that God created me to be. No wonder Jesus says to the five bridesmaids, "I do not know you." He's speaking to the darkened part in each of our lives. It's not so much a rejection as it is a call to discover the light within us, a call to let our light shine.

What does that mean and look like for you today? How's your oil level? And if you're a quart low what are you doing about that? What's going on in the lamp of your life? The world needs your light. There is not a person or a place in our world today that is not in need of light. Your light makes a difference. You can push back the darkness with your light of love, hope, healing, forgiveness, gentleness, compassion. The light of Christ is already within you. "You are the light of the world." Let's leave this place today, face our darkness, and shine our light. For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness" (2 Corinthians 4:6)."

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 to **Henry, Zion, Madeleine and Archer** who are baptised this weekend. 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 in our parish.

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

IT'S WORLD KINDNESS DAY ON 13 NOVEMBER

On Monday, 13 November, it's World Kindness Day, Brooke Jones of The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation invites all to look for ways to make kindness the norm in our daily lives. She states that World Kindness Day is a great day to begin building a new routine which includes intentional moments of kindness, laughter and delight. It also means taking a moment to enjoy and recognise when those things are happening. Kindness starts with one. One smile. One compliment. One cup of coffee. One conversation. Happy World Kindness Day, may it be ongoing.

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Worm Juice Auction: At assembly on Friday, the Grade 4 Eco Warriors auctioned their first bottle of Worm Juice!! A tense battle ensued between parents and staff and Andy walked away the winner - paying \$26 for the bottle.

Art Walk: On **Sunday 12 November**, please join us at **4.00pm** for the wonderful St Columba Art Walk. Each class has made a unique piece of art which is on display in the shops of Elwood. Can you find them all? At 5.00pm there will be a fundraising auction and pizza in the playground. The proceeds go towards more garden beds and plants.

Grade 6 Exhibition: We warmly invite you to join our fantastic Grade 6 children as they present their exhibition. This is a culmination and celebration of their St Columba journey. **Thursday 16 November 6.30pm - 7.30pm** in the school hall. Congratulations to the children, their teachers and support staff for their fabulous work.



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Patient God,
Help me be alert and ready to always:
... do your will
... have eyes open to need and suffering
... have my heart open to those who are hard to love
... forgive without being asked
... ask for forgiveness
... act for justice
... live humbly
... overcome worldly distractions
... have a prayerful life
... live with you at the centre of my life
And not keep you waiting too long. Amen.

DURING REMEMBRANCE MONTH

During the month of November, please help yourself to Remembrance cards available at the back of each church either to take one home or write a message/names of your loved ones and place them in the basket provided. At Sacred Heart, this is in the Memorial Area and at St Columba, this is under the Memorial Cloth at the back of the Church. Further, the current memorials books are out: in Memorial Area at Sacred Heart and under the Cross at St Columba. If you have not previously written the names of your loved ones in these, we extend an invitation to you to do so during this month. We will be offering up the names listed in this book during the Prayer of the Faithful. Finally, we have compiled the funeral booklets of previous years into little books and laid them out in either the Memorial Area (Sacred Heart) or next to the Memorial Cloth (St Columba) and you are welcome to view these.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The social committee will soon put out a call for volunteers for the Parish Carols Concert, as will the Liturgy Committee preparing for our Christmas masses. If you would like to be a volunteer, please remember that it is now law to have a Working With Children's Check (WWCC). You apply for this online through the WWCC website and we urge you to remember that we do this in support of all people who are vulnerable as, despite the name, it is not just for if you work with children. The volunteer application is free. You name the Parish of Sacred Heart and St Columba as the organisation, fill out the other details, provide relevant identification and submit. When you receive a response stating that your application is being processed and the reference number, you can begin volunteering. If you need any help, our Office Manager, Jane will be only too happy to assist.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Parish Christmas BBQ:** Sunday 10 December 'Parish House Pergola' 12.30pm - 3pm
- **Parish Community Carols Concert:** 11 December 7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church

FROM JESUIT AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY:

a. Advent Blessings

During Advent, the Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia are offering an online blessing a day. Advent, the 28 days before Christmas, is all about hope, as we await the feast of God becoming human and living among us. Hope can take a real battering amid the stresses of broken life, violence between nations, and being disconnected from others, we can feel hope draining out of us. The Jesuits are offering a happy gift daily for healing and building of hope for the 28 days of Advent. To register for these free daily blessings, visit the website: <https://jisa.org.au>

b. Pray As You Go

Pray As You Go is a digital daily prayer session designed to go with you wherever you go to help you pray. A prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a thought for the day, or a sermon or a Bible study but rather a framework to support your prayer life. Running between 10 and 13 minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection, which allow for a quick but focussed time of prayer. There is also the option to go further with extra prayer tools or escape with a digital prayer retreat. For further information or to register, visit: www.pray-as-you-go.org

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry announce applications are now open for the Australian Catholic Young (aged between 25-35) Women's Fellowship for 2024-2025. The Fellowship is a key initiative reflecting the Australian bishops' ongoing commitment to formation of women for missionary leadership. Administered by the National Centre for Evangelisation (NCE), eight Fellowships, valued at over \$7,000 each, will be offered. Further details on criteria and how to apply can be found on the NCE website: <https://nce.catholic.org.au/womensfellowship>. For further questions, contact Sharon Brewer via info@nce.catholic.org.au.

The closing date for applications is 5pm AEDT, 16 November 2023.

COSMOGENESIS COURSE

A five week programme on cosmogenesis is starting on Wednesday 15 November, 10.00am-12.00pm. Science, Deep Listening, Indigenous Wisdom, Reflection, Allurement, Conversations, Music & Videos. Cost is donation only. For further information and to book contact Jenny; 0415 647 797

VOLUNTEERING AT SACRED HEART MISSION

Volunteering is a great way to give back, connect and upskill. Check out current opportunities via the the Mission website: <https://www.sacredheartmission.org/get-involved/volunteer/current-volunteering-opportunities/>

FROM THE CITY OF PORT PHILLIP

Council is investigating opportunities to improve safety on Inkerman Street, between St Kilda Road and Hotham Street. Inkerman Street has a high number of crashes compared to other Council-managed roads, with 33 recorded crashes between St Kilda Road and Hotham Street in the 5-year period ending June 2022 with 14 of the 33 crashes resulted in a serious injury. The road surface of Inkerman Street between St Kilda Road and Westbury Street is in average to poor condition and is scheduled for re-sheeting, which provides an opportunity to address existing safety concerns in this area while conducting maintenance. Concept designs have been developed to improve safety on Inkerman Street. A number of pop-up consultation will occur along Inkerman Street in the coming weeks beginning next Tuesday, 14 November from 12 pm – 2 pm at Henryville St & Inkerman Street. At the pop-up, free coffee and cake will be provided to residents that complete the survey.

Alternatively, people can complete an online survey. For further information please see [Help Improve Road Safety on Inkerman Street | Have Your Say Port Phillip](#)

HOLDING THE LIGHT SERVICE

Holding the Light is an ecumenical service to remember victims and survivors of family and domestic violence. Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) is on the planning committee for this service, and Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM will be speaking. Entry is free but any donations offered will go to McAuley Community Services for Women (Sisters of Mercy). Date and Time: **Thursday, 30 November, 5.00pm** Place: Wesley Church Melbourne, 136 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

CARITAS AUSTRALIA GAZA APPEAL

Despite the uncertainties surrounding humanitarian access, Caritas Australia can confirm that over 9,000 households have been supported with cash assistance, essential supplies, and psychological first aid via partner agencies on the ground. Four churches have been established as temporary shelter locations for 1,200 displaced people. Partners are also focusing on winterisation with blankets, mattresses, and mats for about 1,100 households, as well as working to explore temporary shelter options. However, supplies are running out. Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Emergencies Lead at Caritas Australia states that, "Day by day it is hard to imagine the situation becoming more unbearable, but that is what is happening and those in Gaza have no avenues of escape. The human suffering must end, and it must end now – with human rights and dignity restored on all sides. A pause in fighting at this point is not enough ..."

Caritas Australia echoes calls from Pope Francis for the violence to stop in the name of God and urges the church community to pray. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Wisdom 6: 12-16

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready;

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 13 November - SUNDAY 19 November 2023

MONDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community 101 Grey St, St Kilda West
THURSDAY	11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
FRIDAY	9.00am MASS 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 25: 14-30

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Check out the latest edition at <https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/JqPP98N/issue-11/page/cover>

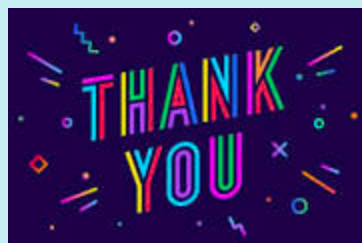
COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection		Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$7.00	Total	\$109.80
Loose cash	\$196.20		
Total	\$203.20		
Average for 44 weeks	\$341.07	Average for 43 weeks	\$228.83

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: Diane Cist,

1st Anniversaries: John Ensabella, Ron McColl, Ross Hargreaves, Bernadette Jennings.

Anniversaries: Elaine Barker, Anne Hennessy, Immaculate Maio, Bruna Skerl, Mary Fisher, Therese Mannix, Stephen Bolger, Jason Knowles and Jason Currie, Bill Hill, Manny Cassar, Patricia Featherstone, Max Jackson, Malcolm Gerber, Cassie Bricknell, Molly McKay, Tram Champion, Josef Bogner, Nicholas Dobrotwir 3.11, Eric Mousey, Dick Martin, Els Hendricks, Maria Ulehla 7.11, Betty Rogers, Bob Hunter, Denis McCarthy, Maria Rosa Contino, Giuseppina Barnao, Brian Solis, Eric Walter Peters 4.11.2015, Kathleen Redman, Sean Atkinson, Charlie Noble 16.11, Monsignor James Murray, Christopher Gamble Moloney, Sydney Pyster, Domenico Cerasuolo 23.11.03, Ian Stewart 24.11, Gordon Hill 6.11, George Thomson, 5.11, Rachael DeSilva, Luta Skorwider, John Brown 16.11, Carl Hofler 17.11, Sofia Czarnowaj 27.11, Norman Pittari 2.11.52, Maria Rosa Contino 3.11, Kathleen Sullivan 11.11.01, Margaret Upfold 24.11.05, Alberto Dos Santos, Clara Santini-Marcon 5.11.07, Sheila Keogh 26.11.00, Denis Halden 24.11.93, Michael Sylvester Ryan, Guiseppina Ranieri, Gabrielle Ranieri, Giuseppe Lo Piccolo, Concetta Lo Piccolo, Nunziata Panettieri, Francesco Panettieri, Rosario Russo, Antonio Russo, Sonia Battaglia 15.11.09, Amelia, Emma & Aida Carretta, Herbert Summers, Tom Wilczewski, Ella Blumeris, Aileen Palmer, Pasko Lena, Nikola Lena Saindra

Sick: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell.

Luke Dennis, Michael Meagher, Richard Davis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright (Sydney), MaryAnne Culhane.

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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

18 / 19 Nov: Thirty-third 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: Anzel and Chilla

Prayer of the Faithful: Daniel O'Connor