

# 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 3 / 4 FEBRUARY 2024 FIFTH 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:**  
Karen Englebretsen  
[kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org](mailto:kenglebretsen@sacredheartmission.org)

**St Columba Principal / REC:**  
Daniella Maddalena  
[dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au)

**Deputy Principal:** Bern Bradley  
[bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:domtess1@gmail.com)

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

### **Reflection on the Gospel by Pope Francis**

This Sunday's Gospel reading continues the narrative of Jesus' day in Capernaum, on a Saturday, the Jewish weekly holy day (cf. Mk 1:29-39). This time the Evangelist Mark highlights the relationship between Jesus' thaumaturgical [performance of miracles] work and the awakening of faith in the people he meets. Indeed, with the healing signs that he performs on all types of sick people, the Lord wants to arouse faith as a response.

Jesus' day in Capernaum begins with the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and ends with the scene of a crowd of townspeople who gathered outside the house where he was staying, to bring all the sick people to him. Marked by physical suffering and by spiritual wretchedness, the crowd comprises, so to speak, "the living environment" in which Jesus' mission, made up of healing and comforting words and actions, takes place. Jesus did not come to bring salvation in a laboratory; he does not preach from a laboratory, detached from people. He is in the midst of the crowd! In the midst of the people! Just think that most of Jesus' public ministry took place on the streets, among the people to preach the Gospel, to heal physical and spiritual wounds. This crowd of which the Gospel often speaks is a humanity marked by suffering. It is a humanity marked by suffering, toil and problems. It is to this poor humanity that Jesus' powerful, liberating and renewing action is directed. That Saturday ends in this way, in the midst of the crowd until late in the evening. And what does Jesus do after that?

Before dawn the next day, he goes out of the town's gates unseen and withdraws to a secluded place to pray. Jesus prays. In this way, he removes even himself and his mission from a "triumphalist" view which misunderstands the meaning of miracles and of his charismatic power. Miracles, in fact, are "signs" which encourage faith as a response; signs which are always accompanied by words that enlighten; and, taken together, the signs and words arouse faith and conversion through the divine power of Christ's grace.

The conclusion of today's passage (vv. 35-39) indicates that Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God finds its most rightful place on the streets. To the disciples who look for him in order to bring him back to the town – the disciples went to find him where he was praying and they wanted to bring him back to the town – what does Jesus answer? "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also" (v. 38). This was the journey of the Son of God and this will be the journey of his disciples. And it must be the journey of each Christian. The street, as the place for the Good News of the Gospel, places the mission of the Church under the sign of "going forth", of journeying, under the sign of "movement", and never of idleness.

May the Virgin Mary help us to be open to the voice of the Holy Spirit which propels the Church to increasingly "pitch her tent" among the people, in order to bring to everyone the healing word of Jesus, the physician of souls and bodies.

## 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.

## 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.

## EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER:

1. Midsumma Pride March: Sunday, 4 February, 11.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m., Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. The Midsumma Pride March commences at 11am and will proceed down Fitzroy Street and end in Catani Gardens, St Kilda. There are not many road closures but parking is impacted by a large number of visitors to the March.
2. Monthly Cuppa at the Parish House resumes on 7 February at 11am. Come along and meet your fellow travellers as we set out on 2024. Anyone is welcome. An opportunity for a catch up and a chat. If you require a lift, please let either Sr Brigid, Christine or a member of the Legion know.
3. St Kilda Festival: Saturday, 17 February and Sunday, 18 February 2024. This effects the movement of traffic in the area, with multiple road closures and severely impacts parking from St Kilda to Elwood.

## TOMAS HALIC ON TOUR

Speaking on topic: *Help my Unbelief! Finding God in a Secular Age*, internationally renowned theologian, prolific author and 'underground priest' Monsignor Tomas Halik will be speaking at Newman College on **Thursday, 15 February at 5.00 p.m.** Monsignor Professor Tomas Halik, the 'underground priest' who converted to Catholicism as an adult and was secretly ordained a priest in 1978 during the communist rule of then-Czechoslovakia is coming to Australia to give a series of lectures as part of the 'Bishop Vincent Presents' series. A renowned public intellectual, philosopher, sociologist and priest, Halic is known for being a leading voice against Soviet communism in the 1980s (he was persecuted by the secret police as an "enemy of the regime") and was co-responsible for the revival of the Czech Catholic Church after the fall of communism. He is a passionate voice for ecumenism, inter-faith dialogue and religious tolerance, and his award-winning books have focused on the dialogue between faith, agnosticism and atheism.

This is a free lecture and to book or for further details contact: Communications Services, Diocese of Parramatta.  
Email: [comms@parracatholic.org](mailto:comms@parracatholic.org)

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Patient Lord,  
Another busy day threatens to engulf me,  
blinding me from the grace I receive from true encounters  
with you.  
Forgive me for self-reliance,  
and for leaving you out in my haste to get things done.  
My identity needs to be in you and you alone.  
A full and abundant life comes from a relationship with you,  
not from the accomplishment of tasks or the applause of  
others.  
Give me wisdom to know what to work on and what to let go  
of.  
Remind me today that people are more important than tasks.  
let me see everyone as you see them.  
So lead me today.  
Guide my thoughts and my priorities.  
Let my words and actions always demonstrate  
the abiding presence of your Spirit in my life. Amen.  
[Based on a prayer by Mike June, *Great and Godly*]

## JAILBREAK 2024 – LIBERATING LENTEN PRAYERS

Once again, Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality are offering free online daily prayers during Lent. Fr Michael Hansen SJ stated that following:

"Every lent is a dying and rising, every jail holds a seed. This lent, instead of just 40 days of penance, why not pray for liberation, or freedom, every day – liberation from the prison we find ourselves in, or breaking free of the shackles that combined us up? This is what Jesus came for, and how he saw his mission, 'to set prisoners free'. Ultimately this is what Easter is about. Every prison has within it a seed of hope and freedom. During lent we can ask that these seeds in us be set free. So I invite you to join us in a totally fresh, transforming daily experience this lent. Receive in your inbox a stunning seed image and a short three part prayer: prison, release and repentant freedom. written by Michael Hansen SJ. It begins on Ash Wednesday, 14 February and ends on Easter Sunday, 31 March. For further information, email: [home2@firstexercises.com](mailto:home2@firstexercises.com)

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

The Parish community celebrated Fr Barry's birthday at the 9.30 a.m. Mass last Sunday with strong Italian coffee, a delicious berry cheese cake and lots of good wishes and cheering! Fr Barry was buoyed by the celebration but more-so, he said, because everyone is friendly and welcoming in our parish. He particularly noted Fr John's pastoral heart that knows no bounds, and the wisdom of his homilies. Thanks to Melissa for taking the photos.



## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT SACRED HEART MISSION

### a. **Volunteer Tai Chi Instructor**

A fun volunteering opportunity for someone who has experience in teaching Tai Chi and can facilitate a weekly Tai chi class of people with a diverse range of abilities and health conditions.

### b. **Community visitors volunteers.**

Become friends with an older person living in our age care Home and make a difference to their life. Many of our residents are from different cultural backgrounds. I want to chat in their Home language. If you speak a language in addition to English, we would love to hear from you.

### c. **Op Shop Volunteers**

Join a fun, loving op shop team and help provide a welcoming atmosphere, make our stores look presentable and provide fantastic customer service. Our 14 op shops are spread across the Metro area so please check us out and see if you can volunteer in your local community.

For further information, or to register as a volunteer, please visit: [www.sacredheartmission.org](http://www.sacredheartmission.org)

Through this website, you can also access the Mission's online magazine called *Heart Beat* and this edition has an informative and uplifting article on their crisis accommodation service for women called "Homefront".

## PODCAST: EXAMINING THE WORLD THROUGH A CATHOLIC CONTEXT

Scholar of faith and ethics, Hayden Ramsay has launched a podcast on the Sydney Archdiocese's network examining the world through a Catholic context. Called **Climbing the Sycamore - With Professor Hayden Ramsay**, the professor will be providing insight on all matters of contemporary culture, while also tackling what he describes as the four greatest questions of our time.

"Our Catholic identity is not just a tribal thing about where we belong. It's also the freedom to think for ourselves; Who is God? What is the world? How do I relate to people? And what is the morally right thing to do?" Each episode in the series will comprise two parts. Firstly, discussing the pressing issues of the day, while the second half of the show will see Professor Ramsay answering questions emailed by listeners.

"I have called the series Climbing the Sycamore because I think you need to change your position to see Jesus ever more fully and clearly," Professor Ramsay said. One key motivation for launching the series is concerns over the increasing polarisation in mainstream media, which has seen the erosion of respectful and genuine debate where unpopular views can be expressed politely and rationally. We really need to create more forums where people are encouraged to dig a little deeper in forming their own views and put their toes into other ponds and read or think about people they would not naturally be inclined to think about." Each episode will be available fortnightly on Thursday afternoons on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and *The Catholic Weekly* website.

## A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI ON THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR



The theme of the two 2025 jubilee years is pilgrims of hope - a theme that according to Pope Francis reflects the life of every Christian: "The Christian, like Mary, is a Pilgrim of hope". To prepare for the jubilee, the Holy Father has called for a year of prayer, at a time of rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer: pray in personal life, in the life of the church, pray in the world. Archbishop Comensoli suggests three simple prayers to help us enter into a time of preparation: 'Our Fathers', 'Hail Mary', 'Glory Be' - three simple prayers can open up our lives. The Archbishop encourages all to explore the Gospels and the psalms, which he says, "Share the life of faith through all of the human emotions of needs, joy and hopes. Archbishop Comensoli also challenges the community to pray for those within our own neighbourhoods.

### **Podcast: Bible in a Year**

When it was first launched in 2021, [the Bible in a Year podcast](#), hosted by Fr Mike Schmitz, became one of the top podcasts in the world. Based on the Great Adventure Bible Timeline created by biblical scholar Jeff Cavins, and in episodes usually no longer than 24 minutes, the listener is taken on a tour through salvation history. The purpose is to help people see how the pieces of the puzzle fit together, connecting themes and stories throughout the Old Testament with what takes place in the New Testament. The podcast is running again in 2024. There's still time to catch up, or you can just go at your own pace. And Ascension Press have enhanced the podcast experience this year with the launch of their new [Ascension App](#). This free app (which comes with some additional features as part of a subscription) includes not just the Bible in a Year podcast, but also the whole Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSV-CE) of the Bible, with easy, built-in cross-referencing functionality so users don't have to flip through endless pages in order to read the bits of the Catechism or Bible they are looking for. It also provides transcripts of the episodes and an interactive reading plan to help users track their progress, as well as highlighting and note-taking functions, and a tonne of extra content tackling the difficult questions that may come up when reading through the Bible.

With this new app, journeying through salvation history becomes not just a listening experience but a truly interactive and educational experience too. For further information, visit: <https://ascensionpress.com>

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are half a dozen Columban Calendars 2024 still available for sale at \$10/copy. At Sacred Heart, please see Anne Dexter and at St Columba, see Christine.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 1: 29-39

## OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**MONDAY 5 February 2024 - SUNDAY 11 February 2024**

**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 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: Mark 1: 40-45

### COLLECTIONS: Five weekends of January

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection
Envelopes \$1029.00	Total \$1227.40
Loose cash \$1393.45	
Total \$2422.45	
Average for 5 weeks \$484.49	Average for 5 weeks \$245.48

## 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](https://tithe.ly) - click this link - <https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524> for once off or regular giving using your credit card or download the [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) app. You can also contact Jane in the office to set up cash or EFT giving. 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."

## ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

A copy of the 2023 newspaper is available at the back of church and the first edition of the newsletter is available at: <https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/JeEXXDJ/issue-1/page/cover>

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

**All Recently Deceased:** Janine Nasr, Tom Devlin (SHM)

**1st Anniversaries:** Robin Deakin, Carl (Paul) Rydell, Kathleen Dennis, Steve Williams, Maurice Sinclair, Dick O'Brien

**2nd Anniversaries:** Bill Richards, Iolanda Iarussi,

**Anniversaries:** Beatrice Tarquinio, Virgilio Tarquinio, Silvana Tarquinio, Oscar Fullinfaw 21.2.2021, Neil Anderson, John O'Connor, Gwen Barry, Howard Shelton 7.2.01, Florence Clarke, Jasmine Luke, Pauline Condon, Silvi Chand, Patricia Priest, Lola Scully, Michael Grigovich Val Belle, Paolo, Audrey Donovan, Barbara Zaia, Stuart Weir, Rodney Bayliss, John Ryan, Bridget Vaughan, Felix O'Donoghue, Mary Dillon, Annie Oldroyd, Tim Pressor, Mary Babington, Joe Andrews, Velia Teseo, Neme Mario Contino 7.2.16, Joseph Molnar, Mario Martinov, Lena Kovacevic, Penny Tamplin, Patricia McCrohan, Antonio Marussi, Harry Clarke, Patricia Fleming 1.2, Mary Cuddihy, Terzita Taranto 3.2, Edith O Keeffe 11.2, Gregory Murphy 10.2, John Boland, Daphne Duttolph, Adrian Keatley 8.2, Leo Flanagan, David Jellis 16.2, Patricia Poole 17.2.12, Jane Mary Boland 5.2.1983, Miroslav Ulehla 14.2.1983 Terry Ryan, Harry Foster 4.2.11, Kevin Healy 14.2.11, Henry Loader 5.2.11, Peg Whitehill 22.2.11, Leo Miller 13.2.11, Ziggy Didl, Sean Monaghan, Kevin L Estrange, Elizabeth Bourke 9.2.04, Alphonsus O Connor 2.2.74, Eileen Madigan 1.2.56, Fr Gordon Gebbie 7.2.01, Lorant Stary Feb 1979, William Kearney 21.2.07, Elizabeth Bourke 9.2.04, David Jellis 16.2.12, William George Papworth 8.2.92, Marian Flanagan, Shane Brennan, Velia Teseo 12.2

**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 .

**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](mailto:jane@shscparish.org.au)**

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

**10 / 11 February 2024: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St Columba Welcomes**

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Bronwyn Illott, Volunteer needed

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Lydia St Ange, Tony Lopes

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier

Hospitality Roster: The Brazilians

**Sacred Heart Welcomes**

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Jane Sims, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

**Prayer of the Faithful:** Stefan Fothe