

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 6 / 7 November 2021 Thirty-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 Associate: Christine Mitchell
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Parish Administrator: Jane Hearn
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SHM Pastoral Care Worker

St Columba Principal:

Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Bern Bradley
bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

REC: Stu Andreau-Mill
sam@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: Jacqui
Robillard svdpeskw@gmail.com

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

A Reflection by Pope Francis On The Gospel

Today's Gospel episode concludes the series of Jesus' teachings given in the Temple of Jerusalem and highlights two contrasting figures: the scribe and the widow. But why are they counterposed? The scribe represents important, wealthy, influential people; the other person – the widow – represents the least, the poor, the weak. In reality, Jesus' resolute judgment of the scribes is not about the whole profession, but refers to those of them who flaunt their own social position, embellish themselves with the title of 'rabbi', that is, teacher, who love to be revered and take the best seats.

What is worse is that their ostentation is, above all, of a religious nature, because they pray – Jesus says – and "for a pretence make long prayers", and use God in order to gain respect for themselves as the defenders of his law. This attitude of superiority and vanity causes them to have contempt for those who count for little or who find themselves in an unfavourable economic position, such as widows.

Jesus exposes this perverse mechanism: he denounces the oppression of the weak carried out misleadingly on the basis of religious motivations, declaring clearly that God is on the side of the least. And to really impress this lesson on the minds of the disciples he offers them a living example: a poor widow, whose social position was irrelevant because she had no husband who could defend her rights, and therefore she became easy prey to unscrupulous creditors, because these creditors hounded the weak so they would pay them. This woman, who goes to the temple treasury to put in just two coins – all that she had left – and makes her offering by seeking to pass by unobserved, almost as if ashamed. But, in this very humility, she performs an act laden with great religious and spiritual significance. That gesture full of sacrifice does not escape the gaze of Jesus, who instead sees shining in it the total self-giving to which he wishes to educate his disciples.

The lesson that Jesus offers us today helps us to recover what is essential in our life and fosters a practical and daily relationship with God. Brothers and sisters, the Lord's scales are different from ours. He weighs people and their actions differently: God does not measure quantity but quality; he examines the heart; he looks at the purity of intentions. This means that our "giving" to God in prayer and to others in charity should always steer clear of ritualism and formalism, as well as of the logic of calculation, and must be an expression of gratuity, as Jesus did with us: he saved us freely. And we must do things as an expression of gratuity. This is why Jesus points to that poor and generous widow as a model of Christian life to be imitated. We do not know her name; however, we know her heart – we will find her in Heaven and go to greet her, certainly; and that is what counts before God. When we are tempted by the desire to stand out and give an accounting of our altruistic gestures, when we are too interested in the gaze of others and – might I say – when we act like 'peacocks', let us think of this woman. It will do us good: it will help us to divest ourselves of the superfluous in order to go to what truly counts, and to remain humble.

May the Virgin Mary, a poor woman who gave herself totally to God, sustain us in the aim of giving to the Lord and to brothers and sisters not something of ours but ourselves, in a humble and generous offering.

[Source: Faith Circles, produced by the Diocese of Wollongong, faithcircles.dow.org.au]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. May we acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri tribes 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.

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.

SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

We are delighted that our St Columba children are able to make their Eucharist now after several postponements. The children will be celebrating this special Sacrament over the next three weekends. Please keep them, their families and their teachers in your thoughts and prayers.

WHO WAS WATCHING?

As we return to in-person masses, we will continue to live-stream our 11.00 a.m. Mass for those who still cannot or are not willing to return. Adrian, one of the live-streaming team has provided some interesting statistics on our viewing coverage since we began live-streaming in 2020.

- Total Streams (now all on demand videos in YouTube) **140** since we started in March 2020
 - Views: **39,209** (people who actually watched over that period)
 - Click through rate: **6.1%** who then went to our Parish website
 - Most watched Video: Easter Vigil 2020 (11th April) **15,193** people tuned in
 - Average views **70 - 100** per stream during lockdown
 - Average views **35 - 40** per stream when not in lockdown
- We have 275 active subscribers on YouTube
Top Geographies: viewers from 45 countries in total
- United States: 21.6%, India: 16.1%, Australia: 15.3%, United Kingdom: 9%, Canada: 5.6%, Philippines: 2.5%

Fr John continues to be a Youtube star with a dedicated local and overseas online viewers fan club! 🥰

Let us give thanks to Adrian, Carlo, Silvana, Paul and of course, Fr John for all their work in ensuring that people could access Mass from wherever they were in lockdown. It has been a great act of dedication to the parish and we are forever grateful.

WELCOME BACK

We warmly welcome everyone who is able to join us for in-person Mass. It's been almost three months since we were together in the churches. As we know the Covid virus is still with us and we are forced to find a balance between being out and about in life and keeping ourselves, our families and our vulnerable people safe from catching the virus. Numbers of those with the virus are still over the one thousand mark and people are still dying.

Returning to Church in this environment means that we are regulated by government and Archdiocese protocols and sadly, this has meant a separation of those who are vaccinated and those who are not. For people to attend church, they have to:

- Had **both vaccinations**
- **Show Proof of vaccination** of this when coming to Church (only need to do this once)
- Or, proof of medical exemption.

This can be done through either:

- a. having a digital certificate on the updated Victorian government QR code App; or
- b. showing a paper version of your **Vaccination/Exemption Certificate** from VicHealth

The usual Covid protocols will also be in operation:

1. Wearing of masks
2. Distancing of 1.5 m
3. Hand-sanitisers will be provided.
4. We have to close the doors once Mass gets underway.



If you are speaking to other parishioners, especially those who do not have internet access, or a mobile phone, please pass on this information so they may ready themselves to return to Church.

For those who cannot enter under these regulations, Fr John will distribute Holy Communion or give a blessing from the side door of the churches (Normandy Rd (St Columba) or Neptune St (Sacred Heart).

While a difficult situation for all, please pray for those who cannot attend. May they soon be able to join us in the pews without distinction. Please also remember the Mass Monitors on the doors who will no doubt have to face some unpleasant moments from those who are unaware or object to these rules by which we return to Mass.

ONLINE GUIDED MEDITATION

Join Fr John on **Monday, 8 November at 7.30 p.m.** for a half hour of guided meditation, prayer and some sharing. Newcomers are welcome to join the regulars in this session of going deeper within oneself to have an encounter with God. To register visit <https://www.shscparish.org.au/event-details/online-guided-meditation-with-fr-john>

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

We have ordered copies of the **2020 Break Open the Word**. If any Lectors or other parishioners would like a copy (&15) please contact us on 9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au.

NOVEMBER – REMEMBRANCE MONTH

November opens with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. This year the Archbishop has directed that these feast days be celebrated on the weekend of 7 November.

Below is an extract from the website, melbournecatholic.org on these feast days.

[melbournecatholic.org posted 28 October]

In the Catholic tradition, November is traditionally a month of remembrance of the dead. The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on 1 November and the Commemoration of the All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), on 2 November. While no longer holy days of obligation in Australia, the Church has consistently encouraged prayers for the faithful departed and, during November, a list of the names of the dead is usually placed in the church so that the community can remember them in prayer.

The origins of All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day commemorates all the saints in heaven. The feast dates back to the early Church, when communities would gather and celebrate the anniversary of the martyr's death. During the persecution under the emperor Diocletian at the beginning of the fourth century the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each saint, so the Church established a common feast day for all the martyrs.

The first mention of this feast came during the pontificate of Pope Gregory III (731-741). On 1 November, 732, Pope Gregory consecrated a chapel in the Basilica of St Peter dedicated to honour all the saints... A century later, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on 1 November to the universal Church.

The feast took on such importance in the life of the Church that from the beginning it was celebrated with a vigil and, from the time of Pope Sixtus IV (1471-84), with an octave. The liturgical celebration on the day before the feast became known as hallowed evening or Hallowe'en... All Saints' Day is a time to consider the example saints offer us and to reflect on how we can imitate their lives. As Pope Benedict XVI said, All Saints' Day calls us 'to see the Church... as Christ wanted it, that is, as the communion of saints.'

All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day follows All Saints Day on 2 November and is also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead. It is a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died.

Believers remember, pray and offer Mass for the souls in Purgatory, that they may be purified and attain the Beatific Vision. All Souls Day originally was celebrated in the Easter season, around Pentecost Sunday. Believers pray for the souls which, on departing from the body are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins, or have not fully atoned for past transgressions, and are not yet able to be granted the Beatific Vision of with God in Heaven. The idea is that the living faithful can help them with prayers, almsgiving and especially the Sacrifice of the Mass. By the tenth century, the celebration had been moved from Pentecost to October... The day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance, with requiem Masses held...

NOVEMBER – REMEMBRANCE MONTH (CONT.)

Many people also visit and sometimes decorate the graves of deceased loved ones on All Souls' Day and throughout the month of November.

In our two churches, we put out our Memorial books at this time, if you have not yet written the names of your loved ones who have passed, you are invited to do so.

Please note that we only write the names in once, not every year.

THE LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS MELBOURNE GROUP

The Laudato Si' Animators Melbourne Group is a network of people who have been meeting since 2018 to promote the Catholic Church's social teaching on care for God's creation within the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Our members are drawn from backgrounds in ecological formation, spirituality, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, peace and justice, environmental sustainability in education and healthcare, formation with youth, parish, and mission work. We work collaboratively within Church networks to contribute collectively to God's mission.

The group welcomes new members to join this important work. For further information please contact Sr Caroline Vaitkunas RSM on cvaitkunas@columban.org.au.

Please remember to pray for the delegates at the Glasgow Climate Change conference that they put care for the earth, and all who live in her and all who will live in her, at the heart of their decisions above all else. We pray that they financially support these decisions.

FREE FORUM ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

You are cordially invited to an online forum for parishes on Pope Francis' encyclical letter Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home'. The purpose of the forum is to help strengthen support for taking action to care for the Earth and the Poor. The forum will be presented by the Care for our Common Home Group of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham and St Agnes' Parish, Highett, together with the Justice and Peace Group of St Dominic's Parish, Camberwell. Two excellent speakers, Anne Boyd csb and Jacqui Remond will join us for the forum. For more information and to register for the forum, visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUWFP>.

GEALC'S FREE HEALTH & WELLBEING WORKSHOPS

Glen Eira Adult Learning Centre is excited to announce its 2021 **WELLvember** Online event - a series of FREE Health & Wellbeing workshops throughout the month of November to enhance the personal lives of people in the community. If you are interested in joining one or multiple workshops please enrol online at: <http://gealc.org.au/enrol-now/enrol/>. A Zoom link will be sent to you prior to the session. You MUST book online to get the link for the workshop. Please email us at info@gealc.org.au if you are having trouble joining. See the poster at the back of church for more details.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 17: 10-16

Responsorial Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul

Second Reading: Hebrews 9: 24-28

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit,
the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs!

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 12: 38-44

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 8 November - SUNDAY 14 November

TUESDAY 2pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community
(Currently only residents allowed)

THURSDAY 11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9am MASS at St Columba Church

SATURDAY 6pm MASS at St Columba Church

SUNDAY 9am MASS at St Columba Church
11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(this mass is also live streamed)
Gospel: John Mark 13: 24-32

COLLECTIONS: Details in next weekends newsletter

2022 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. 2022 marks the 100th edition and is a beautiful edition. The Calendar makes a lovely Christmas gift and is available for \$10 at the piety stall at Sacred Heart or see Christine at St Columba.

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

One option to provide financial support for the parish continues to be through the thanksgiving envelopes. Many people moved away from using envelopes during the COCID lockdowns last year. This does save us time and money as we have to pay for printing of the envelopes etc.

If you would like to discuss utilising our [tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) app, direct debit or credit card options please feel free to contact Jane at the office jane@shscparish.org.au or 9531 6120.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased:

1st Anniversary: Bruna Skerl, Mary Fisher, Therese Mannix, Stephen Bolger, Jason Knowles and Jason Currie

Anniversaries: 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: Vasili Miller, Baby Lewis, Liz Heritage, Leanne Flynn, Colin Nettlebeck, Norma Tyley, Ruth French, Monique Belcourt, Jackie Pyster, Ghislaine O'Malley, Sarah O'Brien, Michael Ratliff, Peter Dwyer, Patricia Mizzi, David Rankin, Mary Throssell (Perth, W.A.), Dan Voyles, Carl Riddell, Pat Ficcaro.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

All ministry volunteers must be double vaccinated

13 / 14 November: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Meg Taylor, Tony O'Malley

Set up: Meg Taylor

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet

(currently only one volunteer needed at mass)

C / L: Tony Lopes, Volunteer needed

Set up: Jeferson Almeida Souza

Altar & Cleaning: November - Volunteer needed

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Oswald Fernandes

C / L: Nancy Edwards, Anna Griffiths

Set up: Volunteer needed

Prayers of the Faithful: Christine Mitchell