

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 27 / 28 November 2021 First Sunday of Advent



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
christine@shscparish.org.au

Parish Administrator: Jane Hearn
jane@shscparish.org.au

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.

Advent 2021

This weekend we move from Ordinary time into the Advent season. Advent comes from the Latin meaning 'coming'. It is a season of joyful and active anticipation. We are preparing for Christmas, the birth of our Lord but also looking to the second coming of Jesus at the end of time. As Christians, we are called to prepare ourselves for these comings.

Mary Coloe, biblical scholar and former parishioner, recently said in an online Advent reflection series that at this time, in this space, we are more focused on looking for signs of the end of Covid or lockdown, or how many Christmas shopping days are left. Unlike, the Jewish population in the time of Jesus, we are not fixated on the certainty of end times. For the Jews of Palestine, they lived under Roman oppression but believed wholeheartedly that end times would mean an end to the oppression, that God was in covenant with them, acted for their salvation and was always present.

Our Advent readings call us in the year 2021 to be alert - stay awake, be ready and not to be distracted by the cares of the world, by the seduction of all that glitters, so to speak but rather to anticipate, prepare and be open to God entering into, as Mary Coloe says, the 'stuff of our lives'. While we are waiting, what can we do? Fr Chris Monahan suggests that we:

- Grow in love - this is at the heart of Christian life - a love that is not exclusive. Who can we invite into our lives more closely?
- Be strengthened in holiness - we are called to remain in right relationship with God, each other and all the world. Live in holiness and grow into holiness.
- Make progress in the life of faith - the life of faith is a dynamic process. It's not about standing still, or priding ourselves on our achievements and merits. It's about growing and not about being content to stay where we are. We do this through prayer, through acts of love towards one another, through actions of mercy, forgiveness, advocacy and justice - this is the face of God that Jesus came to reveal to us.

Advent joy is not always comfortable because it calls for us to focus on how God centres us, holds us, saves us and what we need to do in a committed response. Sr Mary Reaburn tells us that this weekend's psalm gives an indication of this response - *To you O Lord, I lift my soul.* "In Hebrew the word for soul is *nephesh*. It is not about the body-soul divide of Greek thought. It is a reference to the whole person - one's whole being." We respond to God entering into our lives with all we have, all we do, all we say.

- Finally, remember what Jesus handed onto us and follow. As we move into Year C, we change to the Gospel of Luke. Chuck Swindoll, theologian states, "So much of readings of Luke involves Jesus' interactions with people on the fringe of acceptable society - sinners, women, children, the thief on the cross besides Jesus and so on. Luke's portrayal of Jesus reveals a man come to minister and show compassion to all people no matter what their station in life. Jesus walks through this gospel illustrating his deep and abiding care for people regardless of what they've done or their status. The Son of Man, as he called himself, has profound implications for our relationship with God today and with one another."

As we focus on our Advent joy and longings, let us pray every day either the following mantra or the longer prayer provided inside.

"Lord, help us to anticipate, prepare and be open to your coming in our lives this day and at the end of time. Amen."

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. We warmly welcome Fr John back to masses this weekend. Thank you very much to everyone who has offered support to him over the last week.

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 last group of children are celebrating this special Sacrament this Saturday. Please keep them, their families and their teachers in your thoughts and prayers.

1ST RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Fr John will be available for the 1st Rite of Reconciliation next Saturday 4 December; 9am at St Columba Church and 10am at Sacred Heart Church.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

We have ordered copies of the **2022 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.

MASKS FOR SALE

We will continue to sell masks after Mass at \$10/mask, of which half of the proceeds go to the parish. Our thanks to Adrian Cropley's mum who continues to provide us with stylish and masks, which contribute to the fight against Covid-19 virus.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Loving God,

I Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.

I Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.

I Pray for discernment of how you would like me to set your priorities

and for the ability to focus on them consistently.

I Pray for the grace to be able to rest, to become aware of your presence, and enjoy it.

I Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.

I Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.

I Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps me contribute to the world in creative ways.

I Pray for freedom from all that burdens me - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.

I Pray for joy and a sense of humour.

I Pray for confidence in your love.

I Pray to encounter you more fully every day.

I pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus.

Amen

NEWS FROM THE SACRED HEART MISSION

One of the focus on the *Heartbeat Newsletter* this month is on Social Inclusion Week. Here is an extract on what this week is all about:

"It's Social Inclusion Week, a time to reflect on the importance of supporting individuals to feel connected and valued within society; and address social exclusion and discrimination that people experience every day.

We caught up with Liz, a Peer Support Worker in our Journey to Social Inclusion (J2SI) Program. Peer Support Workers have a lived experience of homelessness and use that experience to support J2SI participants on their journey towards stable housing and social inclusion.

Liz works alongside caseworkers, supporting them in engaging with clients. "I become a bridge for them. It's a space where they feel like they can speak without bias or judgment. I'm that extra support that is needed because a lot of people, when we move from homelessness, don't have the social supports that other people have."

Treating people with dignity and respect, she says, "builds self-worth, so someone can make different choices. When we do that, we become a different person, become who we're supposed to be, not who our trauma or hardship has made us into."

For Liz, social inclusion is essential for people to exit homelessness: "Social inclusion is letting them re-enter society on their terms, being who they want to be."

If you would like to read more and support the work of the Mission, you can access this newsletter and all programs through their website: sacredheartmission.org

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE MEDIA BLOG ON THE RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION BILL

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has welcomed the introduction of the Religious Discrimination Bill, which will provide basic human rights protections for Australians of all faiths and none to express their beliefs.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, chair of the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement, has commended the bill, saying it offers "a positive expression of religious freedom" that will be "an important progression towards parity with other anti-discrimination laws in Australia". "Federal and state anti-discrimination legislation protects Australians from discrimination on the basis of a wide array of attributes," he said.

"However, discrimination on the basis of religious belief or activity is only inconsistently acknowledged and protected against.

"All Australian citizens, regardless of their religious belief or activity, should be able to participate fully in our society. They must be entitled to the equal and effective protection of the law and should not be discriminated against on the basis of their religious belief or activities in public life."

Archbishop Comensoli said the draft bill is a significant improvement on the second exposure draft.

"It had been our hope that the bill would go further in protecting religious freedom," he said.

"However, we think that this more limited bill will still be an important recognition of the rights of people with a religious faith to express religious beliefs and engage in religious activities."

Archbishop Comensoli also backed the provisions in the bill that protect the ability of religious organisations to hire people who share their faith and values.

"We want the freedom to hire people for the sake of our mission, just like other non-faith-based organisations," he said.

"The value of religious organisations to people of faith and wider society is in their religious mission and their ability to embody and pursue that religious mission. Operating religious organisations, such as religious schools, according to their mission includes recognising their ability to hire staff who want to teach and model the vision of the school."

Archbishop Comensoli said the bill must attract bipartisan support to ensure an enduring legacy for laws that help prevent discrimination against people because of their religious faith.

"Because what is being tabled is a modest and positive proposal for protection from religious discrimination, I hope both houses of Parliament will offer it safe passage without reduction in the Senate," he said.

"There is no reason to delay a bill that will protect the freedoms of all Australians to adopt and express a religious belief or unbelief."

THAT CATHOLIC SHOP; CHRISTMAS GIFTS

For a great range of Christmas gifts visit www.thatcatholicshop.com. The proceeds of every purchase assist the work of *Aid to the Church in Need*.

ARCHDIOCESE VISION OF PARISHES: UPDATED

On Thursday evening, representatives of our parish met with representatives of Sts Mary/ Coleman; St Joseph and Holy Cross Church for our first face-to-face meeting as potential parishes in a Mission. As you know, the Archdiocese is looking to form several parishes into a group known as a Mission for resource and personnel sharing, and in an effort to create greater vital and vibrant parishes. As we have only re-emerged from lockdown, our focus lies with regathering and addressing needs brought on by prolonged bouts of lockdown and what this did to our ministries, worship and community. While we cannot ignore the Archdiocese's direction, we can take it at our own pace. Our discussions on Thursday were more in the vein of sharing our experiences of lockdown and opening up - the issues, the challenges, the gifts and the blessings. We also discussed how our three parishes can support one another as we begin to live in a 'Covid-normal' existence.

We decided that would share with each other and circulate within our own parishes a common calendar of events, activities, formation resources and groups with an open invitation to all parishioners to attend or participate, no matter which parish one is from. We also began talking about how we can utilise each other's groups. For instance, St Joseph and Holy Cross do not have an active Legion of Mary or an RCIA group but they have interested people. We discussed the potential for those interested joining us. While their parish has a regular Adoration and Devotion hour, which may interest others from our parish or Sts Mary/ Coleman. There was also talk about sharing formation opportunities and social activities. The group won't meet again until late January. However, in the meantime the priests and the workers will continue to communicate with each other. If you would like to hear more about the Archdiocese vision of Mission or our approach, you can talk to: Fr John, Christine, Dom (St Columba), Carlo, Melanie or Helen (Sacred Heart).

FROM THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION

Books in First Languages build Indigenous children's confidence, identity, autonomy and wellbeing. They also help to revitalise, maintain and preserve First Languages. UNESCO saw this as so incredibly important it has claimed 2022-2032, the Decade of Indigenous Languages.

This festive season, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation are promoting their [bilingual book packs](#) which will give non-Indigenous people the opportunity to also engage with Aboriginal First Languages. In purchasing these books, you will be adding "some diversity to your children's bookshelf, and support children in remote communities to have access to new, culturally relevant books and learning resources. There has never been a more significant time to support our Foundation, or to bring Indigenous Languages and literature into your home to share with your family." You can find further information from info@ilf.org.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Responsorial Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3: 12 - 4: 2

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 29 November - SUNDAY 5 December

MONDAY 2pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community
(Restricted access at this time)

THURSDAY 11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9am MASS at St Columba Church

SATURDAY 9am 1st Rite of Reconciliation
at St Columba Church
10am 1st Rite of Reconciliation
at Sacred Heart Church
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: Luke 3: 1-6

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Immaculate Maio

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, 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.), Carl Riddell, Pat Ficcaro.

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Envelopes	\$359.00
Loose cash	\$281.70
Total	\$640.70

PRESBYTERY COLLECTION

Envelopes	\$295.00
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ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

All ministry volunteers must be double vaccinated

4 / 5 December: Second Sunday of Advent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Emer Di Muzio

C / L: Karen Ramanair, Volunteer needed

Set up: Karen Ramanair & Sree Chelvakumaran

9am Mass:

M: Peter Bowes, Michael Illott

(currently only one volunteer needed at mass)

C / L: Bronwyn Illott, Volunteer needed

Set up: Michael and Bronwyn Illott

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano, Oswald Fernandes

(currently only one volunteer needed at mass)

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

Set up: Legion of Mary

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Team

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Due to the amazing support and generosity of our parishioners - those close and further afield - we are still within budget despite the significant lockdowns. Additionally, there were donations of approx \$13,500 made into the Presbytery account for Fr John which is wonderful and incredibly beneficial.