

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 12 / 13 December 2020 3rd 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 6120; 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

Youth Minister: India Mitchell-Fletcher
indiashsc@hotmail.com

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

SHM Pastoral Care Workers: Belle Hann
bhann@sacredheartmission.org

St Columba Principal:
Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

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

REC: Natalie Cromie
ncromie@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Safeguarding Committee:
Fr John Petrus, Christine Mitchell,
Daniella Maddalena, India Mitchell-Fletcher and Jane Hearn

Parish Visiting Team: Lay Pastoral Care Group; Legion of Mary Groups
Call or email the Parish Office.

St Vincent de Paul President: Jacquie Robillard
svdpeskw@gmail.com

On this third Sunday of Advent, traditionally called Gaudete Sunday, we light a pink candle symbolising joy. Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice, and this Sunday is the time for us to rejoice as we draw closer to the birth of Jesus, knowing his coming delivered us salvation.

A Prayer for Joy

Lord, we pray for the joy of knowing that through the birth of your Son, Jesus, you restored the joy of our salvation.

As we hear your Word this Sunday which reminds us who you are and the ways you love us, ignite in us a sense of joy that overflows out of our hearts!

Let this holy joy be contagious and spill over onto the lives of those around us. May your peace that surpasses all understanding be upon us, especially as approach the end of a uncertain and anxious year.

Encourage our hearts with the knowledge that with *you* we can live in your perfect peace, no matter our circumstances. We thank you for the joy and peace you give! Amen.

Parish Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

- **St Columba - Family Mass at 6.00 p.m.** This will require registration and confirmation of your place via the website or office. As we are restricted in numbers, we will have to reserve the places at this mass for families only. As per usual, this mass has a children's focus. Please email Jane at the office on jane@shscparish.org.au and provide the names and contact numbers of all those attending with you. (a parent's number is valid for children under 18) and you must receive a confirmation email.

This mass will be live-streamed to enable those who cannot attend.

- **Sacred Heart - Mass at 11.00 p.m.**

Christmas Day

Two masses at *Sacred Heart Church and St Columba Church* at: 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. The 11.00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart will be live-streamed, as per usual.

Covid Rules governing our Christmas Masses.

Apart from the Children's Mass, there is no need to pre-register for the other masses, however, we have a maximum limit of 150 people per mass.

All attending mass will have to check in via a QR code or register / check in at the door.

A distance of 1.5m must be maintained between family groups.

A cap of 150 people applies to each church and the front doors will have to be closed once this number is met.

Calling Volunteers for the Christmas Masses

Each of the Christmas masses will need a team to bring it altogether. There are sign-up sheets at the back of the church. If you wish to help in some way, please put your name, contact phone and the mass that you will be attending.

We will need lectors, monitors and ushers, and people to do an array of roles within the mass so please sign up and join our wonderful Christmas team.

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 honour the presence of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flow through all creation.



RIP: NEIL ROBBINS

Neil was a huge presence in both churches and our Mission for many years and is being mourned by all. No doubt God has welcomed him as a good and faithful servant into the heavenly Kingdom. We hold Mary, his daughters and grandchildren in prayer as they grieve his passing. Neil's funeral will be held on Monday, 14 December at 11.30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church

CELEBRATING SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to all our children of the parish celebrating with First Eucharist or Confirmation this weekend. Please continue to hold them in your prayer that their faith may guide them as they grow into adults.

We also ask you to pray for Alison and Allie who will enter our faith tradition next weekend on Sunday, 20 December at the 11.00 a.m.



Mass at Sacred Heart. They have been exploring their faith for well over a year, they have embedded themselves into our parish community in service and support and are ready and so excited to, at last, be received in Baptism and Confirmation and be nourished by the Eucharist.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Copies of the **2021 Break Open the Word** are available. This is a great resource which details the readings, psalms and gospels for each Sunday and reflection notes. See Christine after mass or contact us on 9531 6120 or shsc@shscparish.org.au - \$15 to cover costs.

PARISH TEAM HOLIDAYS

- Christine** - will be on holidays from 26 December to 13 January
- Jane** - will be on holidays from 26 January to 4 January and from 14 January to 18 January.
- Fr John** - will be on holidays from 13 January to 22 January

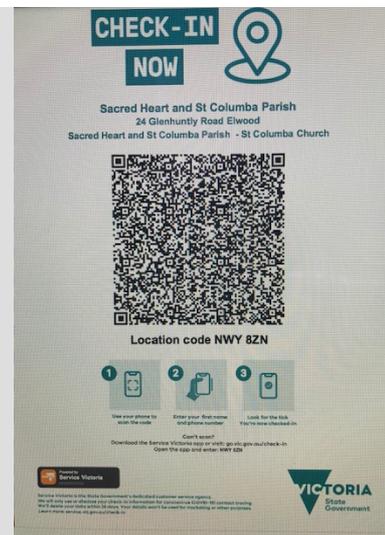
PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

As we all know, this year during Mass we have not been able to sing because of the increased danger that singing presents in spreading the Corona virus - droplets are propelled further through singing. Every year we hold Carols half an hour before the two masses on Christmas Eve but sadly this will not be happening this year. However, in responding to this situation, our Mass recording crew of Adrian, Carlo, Kunal, Oswald and our Sacred Heart musicians, Silvana and Paul have put together an online Christmas Carol event comprising narrative and song. This will be available to watch online through our website: www.shscparish.org.au on **Friday, 18 December at 7.00 p.m.** If you cannot watch it at this time, it will be available through our Youtube channel, which is accessed through our website. We will send out words to the carols via email early next week so people can singalong and enjoy! We thank our recording crew for enabling our parish to have Carols at this festive time. Let us also thank them for the amazing job they have done during this Covid time in enabling our parish and beyond to celebrate our masses online. It was a steep learning curve and sometimes the sound system went on strike but in the end our parishioners and many beyond were able to feel the comfort of having mass in our parish. Thank you team and thank you to those, such as Nancye and Daniel who supported the team.

REGISTERING AT MASS

In line with government requirements and in preparation for our Christmas masses, we have created a QR code system for 'checking in' to mass. Each church has a unique code which must be used each mass time you attend mass. We are trialling it for the first time this weekend so we ask you to patient and help out those who need it.

There are posters with the



Check-in to
Sacred Heart and St Columba Parish - St Columba Church

First name
First name

Phone number
e.g., 0411222333

Check-in to this location

QR code at the entrance to each church and extra copies that can be taken to the pews to check in family members. Each person must be checked in separately. If you hover your phone camera over the QR code, a link will appear at the top (usually) of your phone. Click it and it will take you to the check-in screen (as here).

There will be monitors at the entrance to assist. If you do not have a phone you must sign in on the sheets provided.

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 **Alexander** who is receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Columba this weekend and to baby **Lucas** who is baptised at Sacred Heart this weekend. We pray blessings for him as he grows in faith and the love of his family.

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our wonderful Grade 6 children who were able to hold their Graduation ceremony and final assembly in the church. We wish them all the very best for their further and thank them for



the contribution to our school and parish. Thank you to all the staff and parents who have supported so well over this difficult year.

ETHICAL GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Space 2B, based in Chapel Street, St Kilda, is an art and design social enterprise which supports newly arrived migrants and refugees. They have a number of items which would make great Christmas gifts, including:

Ethical Veggie bags handmade in Uganda by the beautiful Molly using brightly colored Kitenge fabric, 100% cotton in traditional designs. Gorgeous soft Liberty fabric Eye Masks, Glasses cases, and hankies made by our in house trainee designers Chaw Po, & Wenqian Zengin in a huge range of prints. Popular body products such as these locally made natural soaps which we are wrapping in hankies as a sustainable gift wrapping alternative. Grass Bolga baskets hand made by artisans in Ghana. A5 notebooks were specially crafted for Space2b and handmade using rescued and upcycled quality paper, board, and book cloth, which would otherwise be discarded.

These gifts are good for the environment, great for the women who are trying to eek out a living and wonderful gifts for friends and family. You can visit their store at 144 Chapel Street, St Kilda or visit their website: shop.space2b.com.au

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Fr John and the parish team have been so grateful for the wonderful support given to him during the Covid restrictions. So many people have offered their support and contributed financially in different ways. We sincerely thank each and everyone one of you.

We have also been incredibly grateful to everyone who has adapted the way they have supported the parish financially. Thank you to all those who have joined tithe.ly, made direct debit contributions or dropped off envelopes to us. Your ongoing support has been very helpful but also very humbling during these times.

While COVID-19 restrictions are still in place, you can contribute to the Church (1st) and/or Presbytery (2nd) collection 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 you can contact Jane in the office to set up cash or EFT giving. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support.



CALENDARS AND ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

There are a handful of Columban calendars 2021 still available at \$7.00. If you wish to purchase one, please see Christine at one of the Masses or email the office: shsc@shscparish.org.au or via the website: www.shsc@shscparish.org.au

Further, Advent reflection books are available at \$3.50. This is a wonderful resource if you are choosing to read the daily scriptures as part of your Advent preparation. Once you have read the scripture of the day and pondered it, you can turn to this book to read a reflection, written by a number of theologians. Once again, see Christine or contact us via email/website.

REMINDERS

Our Sunday mass is live-streamed on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. and appears about an hour later on YouTube. We no longer stream Tuesday masses as Fr John is now able to return to holding this mass at the Sacred Heart Mission Hostel. However, at this time, volunteers who usually attend this mass are still not able to be present. We will let you know when this changes.

Please also visit our parish Facebook page and join us/like.

CALLING MASS MONITORS

As we open up to an increasing number of worshippers, we will need mass monitor assistance on the doors and ushering people to the seating areas. We may not use everyone, every week as that will depend on numbers but if you would like to do this ministry, please let Christine know at the masses or contact us through the office.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 14 December - SUNDAY 20 December

MONDAY	11.30am FUNERAL MASS for Neil Robbins at Sacred Heart Church
TUESDAY	2pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey St, St Kilda West <i>RESIDENTS ONLY at this stage.</i>
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 <i>(this mass is also live streamed)</i>

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Envelopes	\$60.00
Loose cash	\$125.60
Total	\$185.60

Average for 4 weeks \$166.31

PRESBYTERY COLLECTION

Envelopes	\$209.35
Total	\$209.35
Average for 4 weeks	\$166.48



MASS MINISTRY ROSTERS

We are able to recommence our ministry rosters but understand that some people may not be able to help us at this time. If you are not able to continue your previous roster duties please just let Jane or Christine know. We would, of course, warmly welcome anyone who would like to join one of the rosters. Jane or Christine can provide you with more information and training so feel free to contact us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

“Prayer is what keeps the faith, without it, faith wavers”

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Neil Robbins

1st Anniversaries: Ernie O’Keeffe 3.12.2019, Dorothy Corcoran, Raphael Ruske, Mrs Amad, Bob Collins

5th Anniversaries: Therese Mitchell 6.12.2015 (Christine’s mother)

Anniversaries: Anthony Ellul, Pamela Pimento, Merrill LeesEva Bebjewsky, Norman Garland, Naser Azari, Lucas Santos Fraga, Robin Wheatley, Leslie Korosztos, Barry Scanlan, Bill Waucope, Rolando Chan, Bridie Spierings, Bartolo Canestra, Maria Terzita Canestra, Angelo Marcon 5.12.69, Mark Samuel-King, Peter Cescato, Royce Hagen, Stuart & Beryl Melville 5.12, Stephen Phillips, Domenico Cerasuolo, Millie Walker, Esther Dempsey 19.12, Julie Lyons-Vague, Rita Briglia, Carole Bilton 15.12, Rachel West, Helena Szeffler 17.12, Graham Bilton 29.12, Mak Czermak 2010, Maria Cafarella 26.12.11, Augusto Strangis 2.12.01, Bob Alexander, Agnes Castellano 8.12.10, Darryl Shand 16.12.10, Frank Ruberto 26.12.10, Charlotte Cooper 12.12.73, Clare O’Connor 29.12.05, Maria Basile, Mara Dale, Jackie Everett, Sandra Aerche, Gary Munari, Dorothy McEwan, Kolja and Peter Kovacevic, Pashko and Lena Djelovic, Michele Pescatore, Maria Pescatore, Nicola & Maria Panella, Paolo & Maria Duca, Nunziata Panettieri, Denise McAlorum 24.12.03, Gavin Curran 23.12.11

Sick: Colin Nettlebeck, Neil Robbins, Josephine Cassar, Norma Tyley, Ruth French, Monique Belcourt, Jackie Pyster, Ghislaine O’Malley, Sarah O’Brien, Michael Ratliff, Peter Dwyer and Jim Finlayson recuperating after a knee reconstruction. May Jim soon be pain free and back on both feet with his usual agility. The Liturgy Committee misses him greatly.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

19 / 20 December: 4th Sunday of Advent

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Martin Ezeani, Volunteers needed

C / L: Brigid Arthur, Volunteer needed

Set up: TBC

9am Mass:

M: Lou Bevilacqua, Mari Kovacevic, Celine / Martin Watine

C / L: Lina Tesroiero, Dominic Tesoriero

Set up: Adrian Bevilacqua

Altar & Cleaning: December - Volunteer needed

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Sergio Torres Da Costa, Daniel O’Connor, Volunteer needed

C / L: Anna Griffiths, Nancy Edwards

Set up: Carlo Marcon

Prayers of the Faithful: Liturgy team