

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 19 / 20 December 2020 4th 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

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, 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

Special Christmas Bread

At Mass this weekend, Fr John will be blessing a special Christmas wafer or bread, from the Polish tradition and each family will be invited to take one home and share it with one another at the Christmas Day table. This is a ritual to share as a sign of the nourishment we have been for one another during this most challenging year. We hope to have enough to post out to our older parishioners who have not yet returned to our Masses.

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 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.

WE STILL NEEDS LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS SO PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME DOWN
AND CHRISTINE WILL CONTACT YOU DURING THE WEEK.

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.

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.

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.

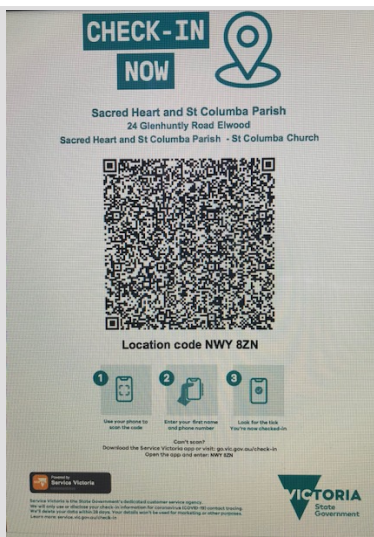
PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

On Friday night at 7pm, we launched our online Parish Carols evening comprising narrative, led by Adrian and song with Silvana, Carlo and Paul. If you missed out on this joyful feast of Christmas celebration, you can still view and sing-a-long by going through our website: www.shscparish.org.au. We sent out the lyrics to the hymns earlier this week through our email. Once again thanks to Fr John, Adrian, Carlo, Silvana, Paul, Kunal, Oswald, Fatime, Nancye and Christine who worked on this event in some way.

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 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.



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

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.

WELCOME TO THE FAITH ALISON AND ALLIE

In April we were one week away from welcoming Alison and Allie into our faith tradition after they had spent over a year in preparation. Every fortnight they and the RCIA team met to discuss the Sunday Gospel, how it spoke to them; beliefs and rituals of the Catholic Church, the rubrics of the Mass, the Holy Spirit, discipleship, different liturgical seasons, and so much more. This journey is always enriching for those seeking to enter our faith family **and** those supporting them as it allows us to stop and think about our relationship with God, with Jesus and the implications of this in our daily lives – and much, much more! One week out and the pandemic closed us down, now we have finally found the opportunity to celebrate the initiation of these two amazing and inspirational women, who never once lost their faith footing in lockdown, in fact, their call to faith was strengthened. They have become active members in our community through membership of groups and acts of service, and regular worship. They continually thank us for accompanying them on this journey but, just as importantly, we thank them for choosing to be part of us as they have given so much back, and no doubt, will continue to do. Let us pray for them this weekend as they are baptised, confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time and continue to hold them in our prayers, asking for their strength as they deepen relationship with our Lord.

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you; (Jer 1:5)*

Alison and Allie have written a small piece each on their journey, which we have inserted into this newsletter.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Next year our YA minister, India will be commencing a new job that will be demanding of her time and accordingly, she will be stepping down from her ministry of Young Adults minister. Throughout this Covid year the Young Adults have continued to regularly meet online but in much smaller numbers. For a number of reasons, other people in the group are not able to take a leadership role and so for the time being, the group will go into abeyance. Many of the Young Adults have indicated that they would like to join other parish groups, such as Couples in Faith, the RCIA and CLC (Ignatian Spirituality).

During their time together, members of the Young Adults made many friendships, supported one another in various difficulties, including looking after those internationals who got stuck here during the early days of the pandemic; they regularly prayed together and explored aspects of their faith, and shared many meals together. Last week they finished the year off with a Christmas picnic.

Let us thank India for all her efforts in establishing and managing this group. We can all continue the work she began by consciously offering a friendly welcome to new and young people as soon as they enter our doors so they immediately feel that this is where they want to belong.

WISHING ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Wishing All A Blessed Christmas

After this weekend, I will be staying at St Columba for all the Christmas Masses, supporting Fr Mal, and then I will be on leave until Thursday, 14 January. So I take this opportunity to wish all who attend Sacred Heart Church a blessed, safe and happy Christmas. It has been a tough year for all, tougher for some more than others, but we are people of the Resurrection and that is our strength and we are there for one another. Slowly we are regathering and it brings great joy when another face, who has been missing for some time now appears at the church door. I thank all who have played a vital role in supporting Fr John, Jane and myself in maintaining community, connection, companionship and presence during lockdown. I will hold you all in my prayers and look forward to seeing your smiling faces again in 2021.

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.

JESUIT AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY AUSTRALIA

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia has just released their last newsletter for the year with an inspirational and timely Christmas message by the Provincial Delegate, Fr Ian Cribb. He states:

"The birth of the child Jesus gave rise to many unexpected twists and turns. It involved a journey; an experience of rejection and humble accommodation. It also witnessed surprise and joy. Jesus' adult life would continue in this manner. He experienced the love of the Father and his disciples. He also experienced hunger, poverty, rejection and unspeakable suffering. Yet he remained faithful to His mission of bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to the captives, new sight to the blind and setting the downtrodden free. [Luke 4:18]

This year of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an unexpected journey with many twists and turns, hardship and suffering for many. It has also given rise to generosity, heroic deeds and selfless love for others, a true witness to the message Jesus brings; peace and good will to all peoples. We pray that this Christmas be a time for stopping; relaxing; reflecting and contemplating the good news the Christ child announces, peace and a profound love for all humanity and our common home."

The 2021 programs includes:

- Full spiritual exercises in daily live – a practical way of discovering God's unique love and desire for us in our daily lives.
- Australian Ignatian Trail Pilgrimages
- Silent Retreats
- Online spiritual exercises in group or individually
- Spiritual Direction.

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.

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.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

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

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.

PARISH FUNDRAISER FACE MASKS

Adrian and Carlo have organised face masks to be sold as a fundraiser for the parish. The masks are homemade and are triple layered. There is a choice of patterns for the outer layer and a soft cotton inner layer to feel comfortable on your face. The middle layer is a light open weave interface ensuring a triple layer protection. The masks come in one adult size with elastic ear loops. The masks are washable and re-usable and cost \$10. If you would like to order a mask/s visit the "shop" section of our website to view the options: <https://www.shscparish.org.au/shop>. We weren't able to set up a cost effective payment option on the website so when you have picked your designs please just email Carlo carlo_marcon@hotmail.com with the mask style name, quantity of masks and your address.

Payment is made by direct debit to the church bank account: Elwood St Kilda West Church Account

BSB: 083 347 and A/N: 646514692

Please use 'your name' and 'masks' as a reference.

You can also call into the parish office and order and pay for them that way.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Responsorial Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 21 December - SUNDAY 27 December

TUESDAY 2pm MASS at Sacred Heart Community,
101 Grey St, St Kilda West
RESIDENTS ONLY at this stage.

THURSDAY **NO 11AM MASS**
6pm CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS
at St Columba Church (*to be live streamed*)
11pm CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9am & 11am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
at St Columba Church
Celebrant: Fr Malcolm Crawford

9am & 11am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
at Sacred Heart Church
(*11am Mass to be live streamed*)
Celebrant: Fr John Petrus

NO SATURDAY 6PM MASS ON 26 DECEMBER

SUNDAY 9am MASS at St Columba Church
11am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(*this mass is also live streamed*)

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Envelopes	\$855.00
Loose cash	\$162.35
Total	\$1017.35

Average for 5 weeks \$420.65

PRESBYTERY COLLECTION

Envelopes	\$357.90
Average for 5 weeks	\$255.96

THANK
YOU

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Victor Saunders

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.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

27 December: THE HOLY FAMILY

St Columba Welcomes

9am Mass:

M: Theresa Ellis, Roger Vail / Alecia Rathbone, Ada Nardella
C / L: Raymond Bolger, Volunteer needed

Set up: Ada Nardella

Altar & Cleaning: December - Volunteer needed

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Anne Dexter, Ver Costa, MaryAnne Culhane
C / L: Adrian Copley / Carlo Marcon, Toni Vatta, Ramon Lopez

Set up: Carlo Marcon

Prayers of the Faithful: Liturgy team

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