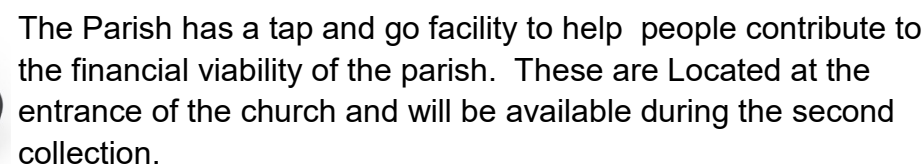


**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia x 2**  
All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them we will come to  
them.  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia x 2**

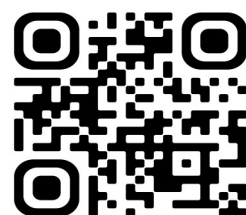
**Music License A-739406**



## Your Parish: Your Financial Support

This money is used to pay for the running of and the upkeep of our Parish.  
Bank details: BSB: 083 347  
Account #: 682 606 383  
Reference: Full name

**Thanksgiving for the upkeep of our parish this week was \$2,726.16 . We need \$4K per week just to meet our everyday running cost.**



# Sacred Heart Parish, Kew

30th Week in Ordinary Time Year A 29 October 2023



**Parish Priest**  
**Father John Madden**  
**Director of Liturgy**

**Parish Manager**  
**Michele Agustin-Guarino**  
**Michael Spillane**

**Parish Office, 116 Cotham Road, Kew  
PO Box 3221, Cotham L.P.O. Kew 3101**

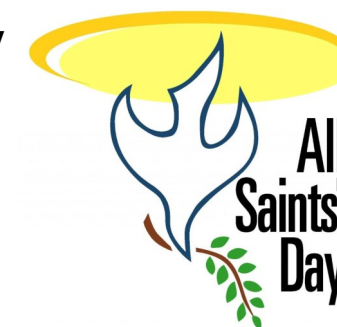
**Office is open on Wednesday & Friday, 9:00 am-3.30pm**

**Telephone 9853 6701    Mobile 0431 635 068 (Emergency)**

**Email: [sacred.heart.parish.kew@gmail.com](mailto:sacred.heart.parish.kew@gmail.com) Website: [www.shkew.org.au](http://www.shkew.org.au)**

**Lord, may we the parishioners of Sacred Heart strive to be people of the gospel and prayer. Imprint in our hearts a deep desire for your Word and a love of the Eucharist. Motivate us to be an engaging, welcoming, and supportive community. Help us to be a people of compassion and justice for all.**

We warmly invite you to join us for the **All Saints Day Mass and Rosary on Wednesday 1 November, 9.15am**. Let us gather in prayer and reflection, honouring the saints' legacy and seeking their intercession.



Join us for the **All Souls Day Mass and Rosary on Thursday, 2 November at 9:15 am** as we remember and pray for our departed loved ones.

## Magnificent Melbourne Cup Carnival Day Garden Party at Sacred Heart

★ Treat yourself and join us for **afternoon tea**  
★ **on Tuesday 7 November, 2 – 5pm @ Parish**  
★ **Garden. Book [https://www.trybooking.com/](https://www.trybooking.com/CLXXA)**  
★ **[CLXXA](https://www.trybooking.com/CLXXA)** . If you need assistance contact  
★ Michele 03 9853 6701.



## An Evening of Joyful Conversations and Celebration

Come and join us for a splendid evening of enjoyable fun to round off our year. Consolidate friendships and acquaintances—make new friends!! Bring your thoughts on how we're doing and ideas for adding interest to 2024. Above all engage in conversations with our diverse community. You'll be so glad you came along.

**Date: Saturday 18 November**

**Time: 7pm**

**Venue: Sacred Heart Theatre**



Book your seats via Trybooking or by scanning the QR Code. If you need assistance contact Michele 03 9853 6701. <https://www.trybooking.com/CKJQL>

## Join Our Mission: Embrace Community, Open Hearts, and Rekindle Faith!

We're reaching out to you with open hearts and arms as we embark on a mission to reopen the doors of our cherished church! After recent renovations, we are excited to open our doors and continue to serving our community. To make this dream a reality, we require dedicated volunteers. We are seeking volunteers to join us in opening our doors wider than ever before.

### Why volunteer with us?

At our parish, we believe in the power of unity and compassion. By volunteering, you'll be contributing to a welcoming church where people find solace, friendships, and spiritual nourishment. By opening our doors, you'll be opening hearts, minds, and souls.

### Volunteer Opportunities:

1. **Open the Church doors:** By opening the church doors when there is no Mass, you'll be welcoming everyone to .
2. **Event Coordinators:** Help us organize enriching events. Your ideas and enthusiasm can make a significant difference.
3. **Children's Ministry:** Nurture the next generation by volunteering in our vibrant children's programs. Create a safe, educational, and fun space for young ones to grow spiritually.
4. **Maintenance and Decor Team:** Take pride in ensuring our church is always a beautiful, clean, and serene place. Your touch can transform our space into a sanctuary of peace.
5. **Tech and Media Support:** Embrace the digital age by assisting with sound, social media updates, and multimedia presentations.

### How to Volunteer:

Joining us is simple! Contact our parish office. We'll schedule a warm welcome meeting where you can learn more about our mission, the roles available, and how you can contribute your unique talents.

### Benefits of Volunteering:

- **Forge Lifelong Friendships:** Connect with like-minded individuals who share your passion for community service.
- **Deepen Your Spirituality:** Immerse yourself in the teachings of love, kindness, and understanding. Experience the joy of contributing to a meaningful cause and making a difference in people's lives.
- **Make a Lasting Impact:** Witness the positive change your efforts bring to the lives of others. Be part of a community that appreciates your efforts and acknowledges your invaluable contribution.

Let's work hand in hand to keep our church vibrant, open, and full of love. Together, we can create an atmosphere where everyone feels cherished, accepted, and valued.

Thank you for considering this heartfelt invitation.



## Thirtieth Sunday of the Year: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus' reply to the Sadducees in today's Gospel draws together two separate commands in the OT Torah. The command to love God occurs in Deuteronomy 6:5 and is part of the famous '*shema*' (hear O Israel!) prayer that is recited in the synagogue every Sabbath. The command to love one's neighbour is in Leviticus 19:18. This pithy Gospel packs a lot of punch. Three reactions or questions spring to mind (for a start). Why does God command us to love? We speak of 'falling in love'; do you ever hear our governments commanding people to love? If they did it would be greeted with incredulity or seen as a gross intrusion of privacy. Why does Jesus combine these two commands in response to the Sadducees' question about the one greatest command? Thirdly, why does the second one command us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves? It almost looks as though there are two commands here. We are commanded to love our neighbour and to love ourselves. The Gospel implies that if we do not love ourselves then it is unlikely we will be able to love our neighbour or even to love God.

In answer to the first question, we can take a lead from the text in Deuteronomy that follows the command to love God. It commands Israelites to 'keep' the words of the Torah in their hearts, in other words to be completely loyal to it. How is this loyalty manifested? By teaching one's children about the Torah, by talking about it at key points in the day, and by visibly displaying one's commitment to it. For the Torah, love of God means loyalty to God according to the instructions or guidelines that God has provided. These instructions are about what one is to do, not how one is to feel about God or neighbour. If one feels good about God that is a plus but the Torah knows feelings and emotions cannot be commanded. The biblical notion of love is rather different to our romantic one.

As for the second question, we can take a lead from the Decalogue or Ten Commandments where commands about loyalty to God are followed by commands about loyalty to neighbour. The implication here is that one who worships the God of Israel will therefore be loyal to his/her neighbour according to the Decalogue. If not, then one's love of God is a sham. Or, if one starts from the laws about neighbour in the Decalogue then I love my neighbour according to these laws primarily because I love (am loyal) God who established the covenant relationship and these laws. These in turn reveal God's love for my neighbour and for me. What greater reason or motivation can I therefore have for loving my neighbour? Moreover, the command challenges me to see my neighbour from God's true perspective rather than my own warped one. That the Torah regards one's love of neighbour as a sign of one's love of God is abundantly clear in the first reading from Exodus. The severe punishment threatened in this law suggests that the theologians who drafted it found it hard to imagine that a person who claims to love God would do such things to a neighbour whom God loves.

In relation to the third question, one could reply that the text is not commanding us to love ourselves, rather it assumes that we love ourselves. Hence this command is another version of 'do unto others as you would want them to do unto you'. However, I prefer to see it as a command that issues the same challenge about how I should see myself as I should see my neighbour—and act accordingly. That is, I should be loyal to my true self because I love God who is the one above all who knows my true self and loves me unconditionally, despite my flaws and failures. Again, what better reason or motivation is there for loving oneself?

When reflecting on these commands to love it is well to keep in mind the covenant context in which they occur. According to the Torah, God establishes the covenant relationship because God loves Israel. In response to this divine initiative, Israel is called to love God and neighbour. To put this another way, we are called to love because God has first loved us. We are called to give but we can only give what we have first received.

Some might think that being 'receivers' and obeying commands cripples one's individuality and creativity. Not so, says Paul in the second reading. The Thessalonians indeed began by being imitators (how else does one begin) but they in turn became 'a great example to all' by their own unique response to persecution and opposition. The imitators themselves have become worthy of imitation. The gift of God's love is creative and liberating. Paul only 'started the work' among them, they then developed it in a way that radically changed their lives. **Fr Mark O'Brien Op.**