Christ Our Light Catholic Parish
Highett/Cheltenham
CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME GROUP
PARISH UPDATE 29th / 30th AUGUST 2026

Season of Creation 2026

Welcome to the Season of Creation 2026, celebrated around the world each year from 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Living Water
Season of Creation 2026
Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

This year's theme of "Living Water" is inspired by the words of the prophet Ezekiel, written when he and the people of Israel were exiled in Babylon. His vision is one of hope and ecological healing, both badly needed in our time. He sees living water flowing from God's sanctuary, revealing divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole of creation.

Pope Leo in his Message for the World Day of Prayer, calls for peace from the wars raging around the world, destroying lives and the earth for generations to come. He points out that peace, like war, starts in the human heart. He asks all people to turn to God who will reorder our desires, which will then flow to our relationships, communities, and the world.

In the weeks to come, we will celebrate the Season in displays, songs and prayer in the Mass, and collect goods for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project to feed the poor. We hope you will find this a time of increased ecological awareness, spiritual renewal and hope.

Saving Money on Home Energy Bills Seminar

Our recent seminar on 'Saving Money on Home Energy Bills' was attended by about 20 people. The speakers, Cait O'Shea and Tom Rose from Solar Savers, gave a very informative presentation about practical energy efficiency tips, the benefits of electrification, and how making smart upgrades to a few key appliances can help you save money over time. A copy of the slides can be made available on request.

Social Justice Sunday 30 August 2026

The Australian Bishops have issued two Social Justice Statements this year, “The Cost of our Living” and “Living the Gospel in times of Social Division”.

The first statement focusses on the hardships that many Australians face with the very high cost of living. We are called to see Christ in those who suffer, to walk alongside them with compassion, to share generously, to advocate for justice, and to build communities where no one is forgotten.

Catholic social service organisations across Australia provide assistance to around 700,000 people annually. The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides many different forms of support to thousands of people struggling to make ends meet. This includes providing around $50 million in emergency relief a year.

The second statement notes that “we are living through an era of heightened community tension and a growing normalisation of abusive behaviour, incendiary language and violence”. The Statement sets out several good approaches we can use to live the Gospel in these times.

See https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Social-Justice-Statements

A Visit to The Briars in November

Our Group is planning a visit to The Briars, near Mount Martha on the Mornington Peninsula. The Briars is a conservation park set across 230 hectares, offering plenty of things to see and do. We are thinking of a group visit on a Saturday in November, avoiding the Melbourne Cup. If you would like to join us, please contact Phillip Steele (see below).

Social Justice Prayer

Heavenly Father, You created every person in your image and You call us to live as one human family. Teach us to see one another not as strangers or opponents, but as sisters and brothers, worthy of dignity, respect and compassion. Help us to build bridges where there is distrust, to seek encounter where there is separation, and to work for justice with humility and mercy. Guide us to welcome the stranger, to reject all forms of hatred and racism, and become instruments of reconciliation in our communities. We ask this through Christ our Lord (adapted from “Living the Gospel” Statement).

Please contact Phillip Steele E: Phillipsteele1@gmail.com or M: 0419311582 for more information about any item in this Parish Update.