Christ Our Light Catholic Parish
Highett/Cheltenham
CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME GROUP
PARISH UPDATE 1st November, 2026

Season's Greetings – and an Invitation

This is our last newsletter for 2026. we thank you for your company during 2026 and wish you well for the coming Advent season. We look forward to being with you in 2027. We will hold our last group meeting for the year on Sunday 8 November at 10.00am in Exodus Hall, you would be very welcome to join us. We would love to see you there!

Melbourne Synod 2026 – Christ Our Light Parish Consultation



In lead-up to the Melbourne Synod, eleven members of our Parish met on 10 August and prepared a three-page submission to the Synod working group on the Synod topics of Youth Discipleship, Formation and Participation and Missionary Leadership. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact Adrian Foley on ade.foley@gmail.com or 0497 780 233.

Absence from the Table: Welcome each other

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference recently published a report *Absent From the Table: Australian Catholics who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass*. The main themes behind non-attendance were: going to Mass is not a priority; crisis of faith; family or household-related issues; liturgical issues; challenges with the parish priest or other clergy; and the misuse of power and authority in the Church.

Vice President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Bishop Greg Bennet, said that "The hope is that each diocese will listen carefully to what people have shared and respond with pastoral initiatives shaped by their own communities and contexts. It is important that Mass is engaging, inclusive and involves the meaningful participation of all those who attend. It is also vital that we ensure all our parishes are places of welcome which foster belonging and build faith".

The report included many mentions of how much people appreciate being welcomed at Mass, and how much they miss it when it is absent. Let's all do we can to make others feel welcome and valued, not only at Mass, but in all our relationships.

Greenhouse gases are still increasing, we need to do our part

World greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to increase, although they are showing signs of signs of slowing according to the United Nations' *Emissions Gap Report 2026*.

In this situation, whatever we do by ourselves may seem insignificant. However, our actions, both individually and collectively, are extremely important. In addition to their direct impact on emissions, our actions help to change the culture of our families, friends and nations. Consider the uptake by Australians of rooftop solar power, which produced more than 14% of energy generated in Australia in the second half of 2025, more than all coal energy plants combined (Clean Energy Council). Let's keep doing everything we can to reduce greenhouse emissions.

A Visit to The Briars – Sunday, 22nd November. Meet at carpark at 11.30am

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. If you would like to join us, contact Phil Steele Phillipsteele1@gmail.com



The Briars Homestead and Gardens

Household waste – what goes where?

Kingston City Council has a downloadable App for your phone called 'Binston' that tells you of your bin collection dates and which items go in which bin. Bayside City Council does the same via their website. Search for City of Bayside Victoria A-Z Waste and Recycling Directory

A Question:

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal..

What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?

We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn".

Laudato Si – On Care for our Common Home **by Pope Francis, para 160.**