



The parish of *St Joseph* *Newport & Spotswood*

Parish Office

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Mass Times

Tue & Thu – 9.15am, Spotswood

Wed & Fri – 9.15am, Newport

Sat – 5.30pm, Spotswood

Sun – 10.00am, Newport

Reconciliation

Sat 10.00–10.30am, Newport

5.00–5.20pm, Spotswood

Parish Priest

Fr Samuel Kapani PP

Parish Office Hours

Tue–Fri – 9am – 2:30pm

Parish Finance Committee

Martin Kruse – *Chairperson*

E: newport.spotswood-PFC@cam.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong – *Chairperson*

E: newport.spotswood-PPC@cam.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Group

JP Eid – *Chairperson*

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

The Parish of St. Joseph, Newport and Spotswood, holds the care, safety and wellbeing of all children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson

Irene Bongetti

Carmel Crawford

Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti

Maureen Llewellyn

Michael Nardella

Tricia O'Shea

Rose Santo

Choir

Larissa Cairns – *Director*

Catholic Primary Schools

Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin

T: 9391 6262

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St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge

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5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

18 MAY 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

During these Sundays of Easter, the liturgy has led us to reflect upon how the disciples came to faith in the Risen Lord, and how they came to terms with the future it opened up for them. Clarifying the message of faith they must bring to the Church of all ages, must have involved looking back upon the frightful drama that led to the Saviour's resurrection, and coming to understand how a 'crucified Christ' could be proclaimed as 'both the power and the wisdom of God' (1 Cor 2).

In today's gospel reading we hear how the community inspired by the beloved disciple remembered the words of Jesus at the Last Supper as pointing the way towards understanding. The drama of the passion had begun – Judas had left to carry through his decision to betray his Master – and Jesus makes an astounding declaration: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified'. Jesus declares himself to be the 'Son of Man' foretold in the Book of Daniel – the one who will establish God's 'everlasting rule' (Daniel 7).

We are helped to understand what the declaration of Jesus means, if we consider the basic meaning of 'glory' in the Scriptures. We instinctively associate the word with fame and acclaim; but the original meaning of the term is associated with weight or heaviness. God's 'glory' is the incomparable density of God's being. Jesus is saying that his passion is an expression of the divine mystery itself, in the depths of a lost world – through what he is now undertaking, he is giving expression to the incomparable greatness that is the life he shares with the Father.

The Father's response, Jesus continues, will be the Resurrection – the Father will 'glorify' him by taking him, in the humanity he shares with us, into the incomparable greatness of the Father 'himself'. Paul expresses this Paschal Mystery in simpler terms: 'he emptied himself even to accepting death on a cross. And for this God raised him high and gave him a name which is above all names' (Philippians 2).

But in what follows our gospel reading leads us deeper into the mystery of God's 'glory'. 'I give you a new commandment', Jesus continues, 'Love one another, just as I have loved you'. In the love that led him to lay down his life for us, Jesus gives expression to the 'glory', the incomparable mystery of all that he shares with the Father. God's 'glory' is shown to the world – not in power and display – but in an act of selfless love that is the expression in our midst of a decision made from all eternity in the depths of the divine freedom.

Making our own the ways of God, and making this 'new commandment' our rule of life, we must lead the world to a meeting with the mystery of God and all the blessings this meeting can bring.

The vision of the second reading from the Apocalypse tells of what may be hoped for, when the whole of creation is caught up in the 'glory' the Saviour has brought into the world.

Meanwhile, the reading from Acts reminds us, the cross is the way to a sharing in God's 'glory': the 'hardships' of life should not surprise us, as we make our way towards 'the kingdom of God'.

Next Weekend's Roster – 6th Sunday of Easter

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturgy Roster
Saturday, 24 May 2025	Marizabel Saliba	Jane Attard	Lilly Mullins		Katherine Wong
Sunday, 25 May 2025	Maureen Llewellyn	Alice Guiney	Bang Bui	Martin Briffa	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Parish of St. Joseph, Newport and Spotswood, acknowledges the Yalukit-willam people of the Bunurong Country who are the traditional owners of the land on which the churches of Sacred Heart and St. Margaret Mary stand.

We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 14:21–27

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8–13

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R)

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. (R)

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. (R)

2nd Reading

Apocalypse 21:1–5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new'.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

**John
13:31–35**

When Judas had gone Jesus said:
'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

REFLECTION SR MARY FERMIO

Love is a word that can be spoken about loosely, used for all kinds of reasons eg I love licorice, I love cream cakes etc. But love, in the real sense, is the love Jesus refers to. If we wish to know how a Christian is to live and love, we look at Jesus.



Jesus's definition of love is to give oneself, even when that love is not returned or rejected or even betrayed. Love is not a feeling, but something we live out faithfully. We see this love in families who stick together through thick and thin, the good times and the bad times. Jesus showed this love when he washed the feet of the apostles, even Judas, to whom he gave a special sign of friendship, though he knew he was to betray him for money, his first love.

Spending one hour in Church each week does not make us disciples of Jesus. How we live in the family home, our place of work, on the bus, at the footy, in the street, – this determines what kind of disciples we are.

New pope calls for 'joyful' Christian witness to a world that finds faith 'absurd'

Where Christians are 'mocked, opposed, despised or at best tolerated and pitied' is where the Catholic Church's 'missionary outreach is most desperately needed', Pope Leo XIV said in his first homily as leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

Today, 'there are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd, meant for the weak and unintelligent, settings where other securities are preferred, like technology, money, success, power or pleasure,' the new Pope told cardinals on 9 May during Mass in the Sistine Chapel.

'This is the world that has been entrusted to us, a world in which, as Pope Francis taught us so many times, we are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Jesus the savior,' he said.

An excerpt from Justin McLellan (CNS)

PARISH OFFICE

Please note: due to change of circumstances our parish office is currently unattended. However, your enquiries are important to us and will be responded to as quickly as possible. We thank you for your understanding.

PARISH MASS COUNT 2025

This year, the four weekends of 3-4 May, 10-11 May, 17-18 May and 24-25 May have been selected for the count.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and chat this Saturday on 17th May, at St Margaret Mary's Church after 5:30pm mass. Hosted by the Parish Choir. All welcome.



BAPTISM AT SACRED HEART



We congratulate and pray for the Carey, Gehrig, Martin, Moran and Reddrop families whose children will be baptised this Saturday (May 17) at Sacred Heart. May the families always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Please join us for children's liturgy at Sacred Heart's 10am Mass, Sunday May 18.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

May 28: National Sorry Day
May 29: Parish Finance Committee Meeting
May 31: Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary



Please Pray For

OUR SICK

Helen Kelly

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Agatha Nguyen Thi Mau, Natalino, Giuseppe, Concetta, Fabiola, Vittorio Farrugia, Anabile, Margherita, Elena Gigi, Vittorio, Falzon, Roberto, Lourencinha Fernandes

PARISH COLLABORATION

In the spirit of continued collaboration with St. Mary's Williamstown, our two parishes will continue to share resources and work together. Fr. Greg and Fr. Samuel will continue to share pulpits and work with the Combined Parish Youth Group while discerning additional future initiatives and opportunities for the benefit of all.

The 4 combined parishes from our local area will meet again on May 27. St. Joseph members are Fr. Samuel, Marlene Monahan, and Tony Nicholson.

SCHOOL NEWS

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Newport
13h · 45

A huge thank you to our amazing Maths Coordinator, Kim, for leading a fantastic Family Maths Night!

With Kim's guidance, our Sacred Heart families explored how maths can be engaging, practical, and a shared experience both at home and at school. Together, they played fun, hands-on number games designed to build fluency and confidence - all while having a great time! 🎉🎲📚👨👩👧👦



JUNE

June 1: Ascension of the Lord, Cuppa & Chat (SH)
June 6-10: Eid al Adha
June 8: Pentecost
June 12: SMM SAC Meeting
June 14: Cuppa & Chat (SMM)

DIOCESE NEWS



A LIVING TRADITION: HUNDREDS GATHER AT OUR LADY OF LA VANG SHRINE

Hundreds of local Vietnamese families, clergy, religious and youth groups from across the Archdiocese gathered for the celebration at Our Lady of La Vang Shrine in Keysborough on Saturday 10 May. The event included Mass, a Marian procession and Q&A sessions with Bishop Thinh, Bishop Vincent Long OFMConv, Fr Peter Kim Huy Hoang SDB, Fr Peter Danh Trong Ly CSsR and Fr Anh Nguyen.

Bishop Thinh said it was 'rare' for a migrant community to have the opportunity to celebrate '50 years of grace' in a foreign land. 'The stories we share today are not just tales of the past but a source of inspiration for us to continue living and passing on our faith to future generations,' he said.

To read more see link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-living-tradition-hundreds-gather-at-our-lady-of-la-vang-shrine>

Maternal Health in rural Zambia

A Project of Catholic Mission

In rural Zambia, many mothers walk for hours while in labour to reach basic care.

In parts of rural Zambia, this is the reality for many expectant mothers who face long journeys to access basic healthcare. With fewer than three doctors per 10,000 people, facilities are often stretched and under-resourced—a stark contrast to Australia's 40+ doctors per 10,000, highlighting the global disparity in access to maternal healthcare.

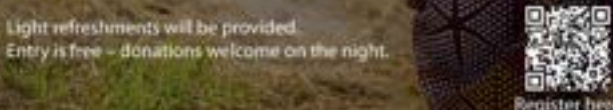
"A mother's life... shouldn't be left to chance"

Presented by Abraham Muma
Health Services Coordinator Chilonga Mission Hospital, Zambia

Thursday June 5th, 7 PM

St Peter's Parish Centre
581 Toorak Rd, Toorak

Light refreshments will be provided.
Entry is free - donations welcome on the night.



Register here



PARISH PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We gather as the parish of Saint Joseph as we welcome all into our community. We celebrate our faith, share in the Eucharist and Sacraments and come together to embrace each other's joys, sorrows, hopes and dreams.

We pray that we will always be a welcoming community, embracing our future and the uniqueness of all who come amongst us.

We are led by the example of Christ, the cornerstone of all we are and all we do. We are guided by the Spirit to be the heart of God, as we find grace in each other. We are inspired by the charism of Mary MacKillop and the work of the Sisters of St Joseph.

We pray that we will follow St Margaret Mary's devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, be with us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

St Margaret Mary, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God,

the Father Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the

Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You have already come, I embrace

You and unite myself entirely to You;
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

O St Margaret Mary, through you, Jesus pours
Out His abundant graces to all mankind. Help us to
put aside personal interests and abandon
Ourselves entirely and lovingly to His Adorable
Heart. May our work, like yours, merit His special
Care and favour, through Jesus' Holy Name.

Amen

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

1st Collection

Supports: *Parish clergy,
Sick and retired priests,
Priests in needy Parishes,
Archbishops & auxiliary
bishops.*

2nd Collection

Supports: *Parish running costs,
Parish Pastoral initiatives,
Diocesan and various services.*

If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program, and receive a thanksgiving envelope no. please contact the parish office.

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available in foyer



JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

→ If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program electronically or make a one-off gift to the church scan this QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your continued support.

