



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood



Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

Mass Time

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 Clergy

Father Binh Le PP

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong
Chairperson

Secretary & Safeguarding Officer

Ivana Toulmin
Tuesday & Friday: 9am – 5pm

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson
Irene Bongetti
Carmel Crawford
Grace Frazzica
Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti
Maureen Llewellyn
Michael Nardella
Barbara Payne

Choir

Larissa Cairns
Director

CHRIST THE KING, YEAR A

26th NOVEMBER 2023

REFLECTION BY JOHN THORNHILL SM

The tableau in today's gospel concludes Matthew's collection of the teachings of Jesus concerning the End. Unique to Matthew's gospel, it is a masterpiece. Strictly speaking, it is not a parable, but an allegory – a narrative in which details have symbolic significance. It may be the development of a simple parable, in which Jesus likened the expected coming of the 'Son of Man' with divine authority (Dan 7) to a shepherd 'separating sheep from goats'. It provides, in a simple form, a splendid summary of the teaching of Jesus in Matthew's gospel, concerning the living of our Christian faith. For the first Christians, Jesus was the 'Son of Man', invested in his risen glory with divine authority (Mt 26:64). In today's second reading, Paul celebrates the divine authority with which the Saviour brings his saving work to completion. In the triumph of the resurrection he has authority over the whole of creation; when 'the end' comes, having overcome all the forces of evil, he will deliver the New Creation into the hands of his Father, and those who share in his triumph will rejoice in a divine generosity that has no limits. Paul's account of 'the end' is somewhat overwhelming. Matthew's tableau, on the other hand, presents the final Judgment in terms that are easy to understand – terms that can be related to the ways of God that found expression in the Sermon on the Mount. Despite its simplicity, however, the more we ponder this tableau the more we come to appreciate how rich it is in inspiration for those who want to live as followers of Jesus.

The criterion by which we will be judged when we come into the presence of God is practical, simple and clear. It is not so much what we do for the God 'we cannot see' that matters, in the end, but what we do for one another – expressing the fact that we are true children of the same Father (cf. 1 Jn 4:20). And among God's children it is the poor and needy who should have our special care – our 'preferential option'. The things that will establish our worth in the sight of God, and our readiness to share in God's friendship, are simple things, possible to all, learned and simple, rich and poor. What overturns our expectations and is immensely reassuring is the fact that those who have proved themselves worthy of hearing the Lord's invitation – 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world' – may well be taken unawares. Responding to the grace of God, working in them 'in a hidden way' (Gaudium et spes, n.22), they have shown themselves true children of the Father – helping for the sake of those in need, without any thought of a reward. Matthew's tableau finds a place among the elect for all who fight unselfishly humanity's ancient enemies: 'ignorance, poverty, disease, injustice, bigotry, death of body or soul' (B. Vawter). The greatest inspiration of all, however, is found in the Lord's affirmation, 'You did it to me'. Sharing our humanity and experience in a struggling world, the 'Son of Man' has made himself one in a privileged way with those in greatest need. Placing us on the threshold of the final Kingdom, this tableau gives us a glimpse of what it will be like – one family of the Father, united in God's generous and merciful ways. Today, we venerate Christ the King; today's gospel reminds us that it is only in his final 'glory' that he exercised his kinship. Among us, he makes himself the 'Servant' of all.

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin
9391 6262
principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge
9391 3118
principal@sम्मspotswood.catholic.edu.au

**SAFETY OF YOUNG CHILDREN,
YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE
ADULTS.**

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Parish of St Joseph, Newport & Spotswood, acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the churches of Sacred Heart & 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 Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. (R.)

2. Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me,
In the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from

another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." 'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: LONG LIVE CHRIST THE KING!

The scripture texts of this solemnity, on the last Sunday of the Church year, sum up what we have been reading, listening to, and pondering all year. We have watched as Jesus taught, healed, freed, consoled, and reached out to all. From birth to death, and in his glorified life, he was the visible presence of the Father's kingdom of love on earth.

The First Reading, from the prophet Ezekiel, also contains the theme of shepherd. Though judge, the shepherd is one who serves. Jesus picks up this theme in the Gospel, but now he is found not only in the one who serves the poor, but also in the poor themselves. Both readings reveal a divine bias, if we can say such a thing – against those who would exploit, and for those who are exploited.

The Second Reading gives us a picture of Christ's kingship. St Paul reassures the church at Corinth that, despite the direst of circumstances, all earthly rule and authority will give way to Christ. When God's enemies, including sin and death, are destroyed, then all will be alive in God. How we need such a message in today's world. The Psalm tells us that God, Shepherd and King, has such authority that we can safely feast, even within sight of our enemies. With him, we shall never be in want.

The response to *Viva Cristo Rey!* (Long live Christ the King!) is *Que viva!* (He lives!). Let's pray that Christ the King will live in me; will live in my actions this coming week.

ROSARY GROUP

Please join us this Monday 4th December, at 1.00pm Jubilee Room, Newcastle st, Newport for our Monday Rosary Group.



60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

We congratulate and pray for Chris and John Styzinski who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. We give thanks to the Lord for their faithful, fruitful and forever love. May the Lord bless them with many more years of good health and peace.



ANNUAL PARISH FORUM & END OF YEAR LUNCHEON

We will hold our Annual Parish forum directly after 10.00am, Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 26th November. This will be followed by a full Sunday lunch for all Parishioners to be served in the Sacred Heart school hall.. All are Welcome

November

Our Parishioner Anton Messina has been raising money for Movember since 2013. It's a great cause for men who are struggling with Mental Health issues. For those who would like to help Anton reach his target, please go to <https://au.movember.com/mospace/8658521>

St Margaret Mary's Parish School, Spotswood

Congratulations Milla! State Champion in 100m Sprint and Long Jump. St Margaret Mary's is so proud of you.



Sacred Heart Parish School, Newport

Our Year 5 and 6 students have just spent 2 days at Williamstown Beach, participating in the Surf Life Saving Program. Students tested their beach & surf skills and learnt about water safety - helping them stay safe and empowering them in an open water environment, now and in the future.



2023 SUMMERFEST

Thursday 30 November 2023
6.30pm-9.00pm

Come and join the young people of Melbourne as Archbishop Peter A Comensoli leads this special Six30 Holy Hour at St Patrick's Cathedral, to be followed by a summer barbecue, More Info, please visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/events/2023-summerfest>

OUR SICK

Anthony Peter Watt, Tibor, Luca Barun, Helen Kelly, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba, John, Anna.

ANNIVERSARIES

Emanuel Cassar, Lina Bartnik, Duro Spoljar, Maria & Fernando Mesiano, Angela Mesiano

RECENTLY DECEASED

'CHRIST IS EVERYTHING': FAITH AND SUFFERING IN LEBANON AND NIGERIA

For the second annual Night of the Witnesses in Australia, Archbishop Georges Bacouni of Beirut is travelling the country with Sr Majella Dogonyaro OP, a Dominican sister based in Northern Nigeria. They share with us their experiences of Christian persecution and hardship, as well as how their own faith has been shaped by a life of trusting in God's providence. To continue reading, visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/christ-is-everything-faith-and-suffering-in-lebanon-and-nigeria>



CARITAS AUSTRALIA

Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au



'NURTURE HOPE,' POPE FRANCIS TELLS YOUNG PEOPLE FOR SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

In his message for this year's diocesan celebration of World Youth Day, which has coincided since 2021 with the solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe, Pope Francis encourages young people to nurture hope and 'share with others the hope and joy of the risen Christ'. To continue reading visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/nurture-hope-pope-francis-tells-young-people-for-solemnity-of-christ-the-king>



'BE COURAGEOUS': SEMINARIANS PREPARE FOR ORDINATION THIS SATURDAY

As they prepare for their ordinations to the priesthood this Saturday 25 November, we speak with Deacons Thomas Christie, Peter Nguyen and Tien Tran, and with Jean-Sebastian Gery, who will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. They share with us some of what they are feeling, a few of the experiences and people who have helped to shape their journeys, and their advice for those who might be contemplating their own vocation. To continue reading, visit:



<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/be-courageous-seminarians-prepare-for-ordination-this-saturday>

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.

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 Margaret Mary, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible
and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only
Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before
all ages. God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father; through him all
things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,

*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and
rose again on the third day in accordance with
the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again in
glory to judge the living and the dead and his
kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

| 1 st Collection Presbytery Offering | 2 nd Collection Thanksgiving Offering |
|---|--|
| To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish clergy• Sick and retired priests• Priests in needy parishes• Archbishop & auxiliary bishops | To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish running costs• Parish pastoral initiatives• Diocesan and various services |
| If you would like to join parish thanksgiving programme, please contact the parish office. Thank you. | |

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.