



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood



Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au
www.stjosephs3015.com.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 Administrator

Father Samuel Kapani PA

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong
Chairperson

Secretary & Safeguarding Officer

Ivana Toulmin
Tuesday & Friday: 9am – 4pm

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson
Irene Bongetti
Carmel Crawford
Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti
Maureen Llewellyn
Michael Nardella
Barbara Payne
Rose Santo

Choir

Larissa Cairns
Director

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

08th DECEMBER 2024

REFLECTION BY JOHN THORNHILL SM

Last Sunday, the liturgy invited us to see Advent as a time of preparation for the Saviour's birth, the dawn of salvation. Today we take up this theme again, in the gospel reading from Luke. John the Baptist is a prominent figure in the liturgies of Advent. After a long period in which the voice of the prophets was not heard, the Lord's Precursor – praised by Jesus as 'more than a prophet' (Mt 11:9) – made his appearance. Luke's introducing of John is dramatic and skilful. Situating John's heralding in the midst of the real world's history, he names contemporaries who foreshadow the tragic conflict that is soon to be enacted – Pilate who will authorize Christ's death, the petty rulers of the nation under occupation, the high priests whose hostility seals the fate of Jesus. But the gloom of this introduction gives way immediately to the vision of hope and promise that inspired John's mission. The Baptist – remembered as a man of the desert – is presented as inaugurating a new Exodus for God's people, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

Because the first Exodus from Egypt was the defining moment in the destiny of the Chosen People, it is not surprising that old Israel sometimes looked forward to the final fulfilment of God's promises as a kind of new Exodus. Our first reading, from the prophet Baruch, takes up this theme – making part of today's liturgy, not only because it echoes the words of Isaiah, describing the making of a way through mountains and valleys 'so that Israel may walk in safety', but also because its message of hope is admirably suited to the mood of our Advent liturgies. Looking back on the return from the Babylonian captivity as a second Exodus, the prophet looks forward to God's final intervention on behalf of his people as a last great Exodus. It is an outstanding example of the boundless hopes of those among the Chosen People who were faithful to their Jewish faith, looking forward to the coming of the messiah, in the last years of Old Testament times. When God remembers his promises, and Jerusalem's children are reassembled, they will discard their mourning garments and 'put on the beauty of the glory of God forever'; God will make them a sign for 'every nation under heaven'; God will give them a new name, 'Peace through integrity'. We are challenged in this time of renewal, to match this remarkable faith and hope.

Last week, we saw how – as 'the Son of Man' foretold in the prophecy of Daniel – Jesus presented himself as the fulfilment of Israel's boundless hopes. In today's second reading, from Paul's letter to the Philippians, we see how this truth has become part of the faith of the first Christian Church. One of the principal themes of the prophets of old Israel, as they warned a wayward people to amend their ways, was the 'Day of the Lord', when all must face the judgment of God. Paul now takes up this old theme – but for him it is 'the Day of Christ Jesus', when the Saviour will return as Son of Man to be our Judge. Though it is a season of hope and joy, Advent is also a time in which we are called to a deeper conversion.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT 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.

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

First reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125(126)

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing. **(R)**
2. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed. **(R)**
3. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. **(R)**
4. Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves. **(R)**

2nd Reading

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of

Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FERMIO

As we prepare for the Jubilee in 2025, Pope Francis calls us to be pilgrims, not to be just sightseers. To really notice the beauty around us, discovering the meaning in the roads we take. The road we are travelling today is that of Advent which leads us to the Christmas season.

Isaiah has written of preparing a way for the Messiah, encouraging the people to be ready. As the population would do for the coming of a King, the roads would be levelled, the potholes filled, the rough roads smoothed, so the King would have a comfortable journey. John the Baptist called the people to a preparation through the forgiveness of sins, a change of lifestyle and by declaring their readiness by a baptism in the water of the Jordan River.

As we walk this journey this Advent, let us really notice the beauty around us now – of trees, of gardens, of Christmas decorations, of children's expectant faces, the goodness and generosity of others. Let us reflect on the meaning of Advent and may we reflect this joy to others. Come, Lord Jesus. Come and be born in our hearts.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

Catholic Parish of St Joseph
Newport - Spotswood

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
Christmas Eve 24/12

Newport	Carols	5.30pm
	Family Mass	6.00pm
Spotswood	Carols	8.30pm
	Mass	9.00pm

Christmas Day 25/12

Spotswood	Mass	8.30am
Newport	Mass	10.00am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy this weekend 8th December at Sacred Heart 10:00am mass.

VINNIES GIVING APPEAL IS BACK!

The 2024 Vinnies Giving Appeal will collect funds, gifts and non perishable items to contribute to Christmas hampers for companions in our local area that our local Newport Conference has assisted throughout the year. If you'd like to donate, please consider picking up a tag off the Giving Tree, a donation envelope in our churches, or head to: <https://my.fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/vinnies-christmas-appeal-2024/newport-conference>.

Please return any physical donations to our churches by **10.30am Sunday 15 December** at the latest – we will be making and distributing hampers that afternoon. Thanks in advance!

If you'd like to find out more about the work of our local conference and being a member, contact president Clare at newport.conference.pres@svdp-vic.org.au.

Note: We will have Vinnies speakers at both Masses this weekend

SAVE THE DATE

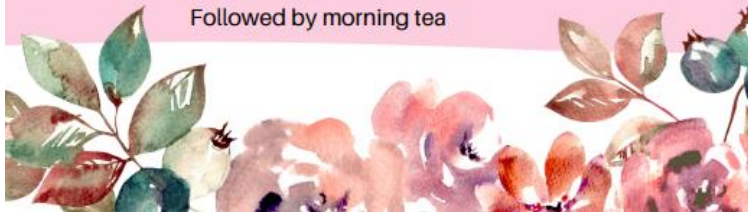
As you may be aware, our Parish Secretary Ivana, will be leaving our Parish at the end of January. We will be having a special Mass and morning tea to thank Ivana for the significant contribution she has made to our Parish as Parish Secretary. We hope you can join us. Please see details below.



PLEASE JOIN US TO SAY

Thank you Ivana

Mass at Sacred Heart Church
Newcastle Street, Newport
Sunday | Dec 22 | 10:00 am
Followed by morning tea



SACRED HEART NEWPORT PARISH SCHOOL

Yesterday, our Year 5 students participated in a Leadership Day that inspired them to explore the traits and values of a leaders. Through hands-on activities, they uncovered their own unique skills and began reflecting on



what it means to lead as they prepare for Year 6. Whether in a formal role or not, every student learned how to lead with confidence, purpose, and heart.

OUR SICK

Romano, Rita Galea, Editha Begovic, Joe Attard, John, Helen Kelly

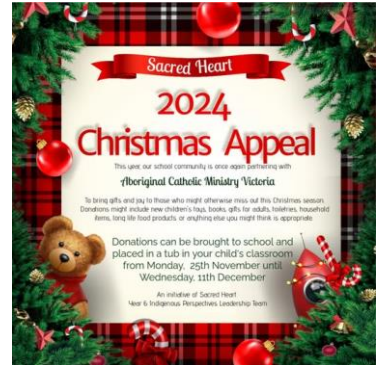
ANNIVERSARIES

Sarah Montesano, Giuseppe Penna

RECENTLY DECEASED

SACRED HEART NEWPORT PARISH SCHOOL

We invite our school and parish community to support this wonderful initiative of our Year 6 Indigenous Perspectives Leadership group and bring Christmas joy to others this festive season. Thanking you in advance for your generosity



PARISH DONATIONS

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available at our Mass's for Thanksgiving/Donations. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are looking for Volunteers to be Lectors and Special Ministers, PowerPoint and Music at Mass. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Ivana at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or via email newport.spotswood@cam.org.au. Please note that you must have a current Working with Children check, and signed code of conduct.

GIVING HOPE: 7 WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Advent is a season of preparation, a time to look to the future with hope and to ready our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ, the greatest gift of all. Advent is an opportunity to reflect the mercy and generosity of God in our own lives, spreading hope through acts of kindness and compassion—a task that takes on even greater significance in light of the Jubilee Year that is almost upon us. Here are seven ways you can spread joy and hope this Christmas:

1. Jesuit Mission Australia—making an impact for those in need.
 2. Caritas Australia—helping to create brighter futures.
 3. Catholic Mission—providing life-giving clean water in Myanmar.
 4. Order of Malta Australia—showing people they are not alone.
 5. CatholicCare Victoria—offering hope in the darkest of times.
 6. St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria—helping families survive the cost-of-living crisis.
- VMCH—providing a little joy at Christmas.

To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/giving-hope-7-ways-to-make-a-difference-this-advent-and-christmas>

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.

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.

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.	

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.

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 o 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