



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

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

15th OCTOBER 2023

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

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

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.

REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

The biblical tradition liked the image of a great feast to communicate something of its conviction about the ultimate purpose of God. The passage from Isaiah paints a portrait of the final festal banquet around two key notions of God: the utterly transcendent one who is also the utterly immanent one. Only the utterly transcendent God can remove the mourning veil covering all peoples of every time and place. By the same token, only the utterly immanent God can personally wipe away the tears 'from every cheek'. The ultimate purpose of this marvellous banquet is that all will recognise that 'this is our God'. According to the Bible, God acts so that the reality and glory of God will be manifest in creation and acknowledged by humanity. It is only on the basis of this that everything else can find its proper places – our relationships with God, with one another, with creation, etc.

The Gospel passage from Matthew addresses a key stage before the final realization of God's purpose via the parable of the wedding feast – the invitation to come. Those first invited initially refuse and subsequently abuse the king's servants. The two groups of servants could refer to the Old Testament prophets or to a combination of the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament disciples of Jesus. What is striking about this parable however is that on hearing of the abuse of his servants, the king suspends all preparations for the wedding for his son and deals with those who abused and killed his servants. The servants are not second class, disposable 'servants', equally precious as his son. Hence, the king devotes as much energy to righting the awful wrong perpetrated against his servants as he has devoted to the wedding of his son. Another angle on the transcendent and immanent? Whatever the case, there is a strong message for the 'servants' of the king who proclaims this parable. Their suffering will not be forgotten, will not be in vain. Justice for all is an integral part of the king's preparation for the great feast.

After righting this wrong, the king invites all and sundry to his wedding; good and bad alike. God's invitation does not depend on how good you are beforehand; God loves all and all are precious in God's sight. But, one cannot assume to enter the wedding banquet on one's own terms, without any change at all. The episode of the person failing to don a wedding garment implies that he sees no difference at all between being outside or inside the wedding hall as an honoured guest. Or, even worse, he is deliberately demeaning its significance. The episode adds an important element to the theology of the festal banquet: it is not so much about a party but about our transformation, our being made perfect. We are all invited as we are so that we may become what God wants us to be. And this will be to the glory of God.

On a first reading, one might think that Paul's statement in his letter to the Philippians is rather presumptuous: this is a man who thinks he is perfect, who knows what it is all about ('there is nothing I cannot master'). Two statements in the passage save Paul from such an accusation. The first is his acknowledgement that anything he does is done 'with the help of the One who gives me strength'. Without that strength, Paul knows how weak and helpless he is. The second is his interest in the welfare of his helpers rather than his own. It was good that they came to help him in his troubles and he thanks them for that. But, more importantly, he gives thanks that this good act of theirs shows how much they are imbued with the Christian spirit. It is a sign that God 'will fulfill all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can'. In a word, they are not far from that final, eschatological, lavish banquet.

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

Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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

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

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **(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

Philippians 4:12- 14,19- 20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: GIVE TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

Today's readings concentrate on God as ruler over all the world. The First Reading teaches us about the relationship between God and Cyrus, one of the most powerful earthly rulers. Even though Cyrus did not know God, God works through him, giving Cyrus all that he needs to help accomplish God's plans.

The Psalmist calls us to speak of the Lord's greatness and glory throughout the world, and to pay him worship and honour. In the Second Reading, St Paul gives thanks to God and prays for the Christian community in Thessalonica. Chosen and loved by God, the community – aided by the power of the Holy Spirit, and strengthened by its faith and hope in God – continues in its work. The Gospel message is that we belong completely to God and are therefore called to offer God our entire selves. Jesus is aware that the Pharisees and Herodians are trying to trip him up when they ask if Jewish people should pay taxes to the Romans. Although he confirms that this is reasonable, at the same time he also affirms that our first duty is to serve God, and to give God what is due.

This week, maybe we can pray for the rulers and leaders of our world, particularly during these difficult times. We ask that God will work through them towards justice and peace. We pray too that the Holy Spirit will guide each of us in how we can serve God best.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa this Saturday after 5.30pm mass at St Margaret Marys Church. We look forward to seeing you.



1st HOLY COMMUNION

We pray with and congratulate the Findlay family whose child will be receiving their 1st Holy Communion this Saturday. May you experience God's love and become more like Jesus so that your life will give glory to God the Father by the love you show to others.



WORLD VISION SUNDAY 21ST/22ND OCTOBER

Pope Francis writes in his Message for World Mission Day 2023, "...it should be remembered that breaking our material bread with the hungry in the name of Christ is already a work of Christian mission. How much more so is the breaking of the Eucharistic bread, which is Christ himself, a work of mission par excellence, since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church."

It is in this spirit that Catholic Mission invites parishioners in every diocese in Australia to join with us again and support our brothers in sisters in Timor-Leste. Envelopes will be available at Mass this weekend, or you can transfer your Parish donation securely through.



Bill code: 347 716

Parish Ref: 107153925014

NIGHT OF THE WITNESSES

SAVE THE DATE! Night of the Witnesses – 22 November 2023, 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be



Aid to the Church in Need

one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of

persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us. For more information please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/notw

7 NEW SCHOOLS PLANNED AS MORE FAMILIES CHOOSE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

Recent school census figures show that demand for Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to grow, particularly in Melbourne's northern and western corridors, where MACS has opened 12 schools since 2018. With seven new schools planned to open in the next three years, MACS Executive Director Dr Edward Simons says



OUR SICK

Anna D'Agata, Luca Barun, Helen Kelly, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba, John, Anna .

ANNIVERSARIES

RECENTLY DECEASED

Eileen Hinds, Carlo Radoicovic, Ian Naggle

that 'families value the emphasis Catholic schools place on the pastoral care and wellbeing of students, along with our focus on strong partnerships with parents.'

To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/more-families-choosing-a-catholic-education-with-7-new-schools-planned>

'WAR IS A DEFEAT': POPE AND JERUSALEM'S CHRISTIAN LEADERS PRAY FOR PEACE

'War is a defeat,' Pope Francis insisted in his Angelus address on 8 October as he called for prayers for peace in Israel and Palestine. Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem have also united in a call for peace and justice amid unfolding violence, following a surprise attack by Hamas on 7 October in southern Israel, which has left 600 Israelis dead. To continue reading, visit:



<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/war-is-a-defeat-pope-and-jerusalem-christian-leaders-pray-for-peace>

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK: ONLINE LAUNCH

When: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (5:30pm – 6:30pm)

Venue: Online This is an opportunity for youth and young adult leaders from across the country to gather, pray, celebrate and discern the future of the youth and young adult landscape in the Australia Catholic Church. Leaders will be able to network with other leaders as they launch an exciting new chapter of Australian Catholic youth and young adult ministry through the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Network (ACYMN).

For more information, contact ACYMN on acymnonline@gmail.com



ST MARGARET MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPOTSWOOD

Juniors are learning about fractions.

Today we made pizza. We cut it into quarters, halves and eighths and shared it with our friends. We were able to say and record what fraction of the pizza we ate.



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.

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.

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.

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.