

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

3rd DECEMBER, 2023

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

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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 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@smmspotswood.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 Mark O'Brien OP

Just when another busy year is drawing to a close and we are looking forward to the holiday season, a chance to get some rest from the busyness of our work, the Church has the cheek to present us with a Sunday Gospel about staying awake. Jesus warns us that the master will come at a time we do not expect and he had better not find us asleep! If we take this reading literally we are in trouble on two counts. First, no human being can be continually 'on the job' without a break of some kind. Second, to take the text literally is to turn God into a tyrant and I don't think that is what the Bible is about.

How might we understand Jesus' charge to 'stay awake' that resonates with our Christian life? A clue may be found in Paul's letter to the Corinthians where he says of Jesus, 'he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful'. This bond between Jesus and ourselves enables us to be faithful as God is faithful, that is, to be loyal to God as God is loyal to us – in Gospel terms, 'to stay awake'. When speaking of the period between his earthly life and his definitive coming as the Son of Man, Jesus says that 'it is like a man going on a journey'. Jesus may not be with us as he was in his earthly life but he is very much with us in spirit. Jesus is not absent during 'our time', the time of the Church. His presence, his being 'joined to us' enables us to be loyal disciples at any stage of our life, 'to be awake'. This doesn't mean to be continually running around, filling our days with good deeds. To attempt to do so is try and take control, perhaps even to justify ourselves on our terms. It is the same kind of desire to be in control as affects those who try and predict the last days so that they can arrange their lives accordingly. As in all things, God does not take control of our lives but trusts us to make honest (loyal) decisions about what we can and cannot do. Given that this is a reasonable interpretation of the charge to 'stay awake', we can now apply it to our lives. Rather than seeing the text as a threat, I think Jesus is teaching us something fundamental about discipleship, namely that there is no time in our lives when we cannot be faithful disciples and we never think that there is such a time. The bond with Jesus is never broken or weakened, unless through our sins. We can be just as faithful and effective whether we are young, middle aged or old. Nor is there any retirement plan in Christianity; the aged, even those dying can bear powerful witness to the reality of God's grace. You can't take a break from God. God is always with us, working through us to our good and that of our neighbour. Just as we never think that our days as disciples are past, so – the reading from Isaiah indicates – we should never think that the time for repentance and God's forgiveness is past. The author of this passage reviews Israel's long history of infidelity with brutal honesty. But he does not distance himself from his flawed ancestors, instead he stands with them in the solidarity of sin: 'we had long been rebels against you; we were all like men unclean'. Despite this, he has complete confidence to place himself and his people in God's merciful hands: 'we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand'. As we begin a new liturgical year, our readings give us confidence to our own sinful past: it is never too late to acknowledge our sinfulness and God is merciful. At the same time, our readings encourage us that we are able to be God's valued disciples no matter what stage of life we may find ourselves in at year's end; in Christianity there is always more future tense than past tense.



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 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8**

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79

R. *Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he

comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: STAY AWAKE! BE READY!

As we begin the season of Advent, the readings continue to focus (as in recent weeks) not just on the coming of Christ at the end of time, but also on his coming in our own lives. The people of Israel, newly returned from exile, find the task of rebuilding their land difficult, and ask God their Father to come and help them. They have done penance, and now trust that he will return (First Reading). The Psalm continues this theme, appealing to God 'the shepherd of Israel' to come to the help of his people. In the Second Reading, Paul writes to the Corinthians of his gratitude for the graces they have received. Their strong Christian witness and the gifts of the Spirit they have been given will stand them in good stead when the Lord returns on the last day.

In the Gospel Jesus uses images familiar to his audience to warn them to remain alert and awake, as a doorkeeper would. In this way they will not be caught unawares when the Lord comes again.

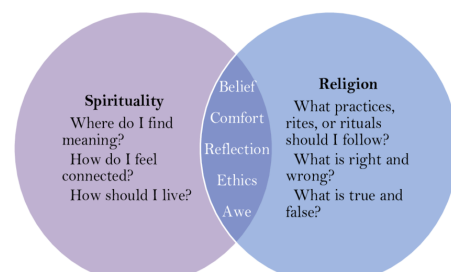
So, we too pray to enter this season of Advent trusting that the Lord will come: as he came in history at Christmas; as he comes in our hearts if we keep our door open; and as he will come at the end of time. We pray for all those in the world who are waiting with longing and hope for freedom from oppression and peace.



RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL?

Fr Jim Cogley, this is one of the most often heard statements of our age that, 'I'm not religious, I don't go to church, but I am spiritual'. The latter part about being spiritual is quite

nebulous and can range from having a deep awareness of God in my life and being committed to a spiritual discipline, to having given up on church but still holding on to vestiges of former beliefs. Any claim to being spiritual that is isolationist and doesn't carry a good degree of interconnectedness and belonging has to be considered suspect. To continue reading visit: <https://www.thehookoffaith.com/single-post/religious-or-spiritual>



CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa on Sunday 3rd December after 10:00am mass at Sacred Heart Church. We look forward to seeing you. All welcome.



ROSARY GROUP

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



CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate and give thanks to God for the two newly wedded couples: Mary-Ann & Shahin and Mai & Jarrod, who have just celebrated their wedding in our parish. May the Lord bless them with a faithful, fruitful, and forever love.



COMBINED PARISHES CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND READINGS

You are invited to a Christmas Carols and Readings of the combined Catholic Parishes of Yarraville, Kingsville, Brooklyn, Newport and Spotswood on Saturday, **16th December 2023, at St Augustine Church's, Yarraville at 7:00pm.**



THE VINNIES TREES ARE HERE

Our Vinnies Christmas Appeal this year collects both funds and gifts to provide hampers for companions in our local area that we have assisted throughout the year. If you'd like to donate, please pick up an envelope in the church, a tag off the tree or head to:

<https://my.fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/vinnies-christmas-appeal-2023/newport-conference>.

Please return any physical donations to our churches by Sunday 17 December at the latest! Thank you in advance for your support! If you'd like to find out more about the work of our local conference, speak with one of our members after Mass or contact president Clare on 0421 164 091.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. 'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.'

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate via phone 1800 024 413 or online, visit:

www.caritas.org.au/gaza

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL NEWPORT

Christmas Carols in the school grounds. Thursday 7th Dec 5.30pm-7.30pm. Gates open at 5.00pm. Families are invited to bring a picnic rug or chairs, food & drink and your festive spirit whilst enjoying the Christmas season and the students singing their favourite Christmas carols.

OUR SICK

Anna Cegac, 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

Giuseppe Penna.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr Gerard Patrick Dowling, Joseph Mua.

St Margaret Mary's Parish School, Spotswood

It was great to gather for our whole school photo. Thankfully the rain stopped just in time! Times have certainly changed and we can't wait to see the results



ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI TO LAUNCH APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

After 643 days of continued conflict, millions of Ukrainians have been displaced, the number of casualties on the frontline and among civilians continues to climb and the need for humanitarian aid remains high, especially as winter approaches. In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli is launching a special Advent appeal on 3 December, the first Sunday of Advent. Funds raised will go towards providing aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and who are without basic supplies, especially the sick and the elderly. To continue reading, visit:



<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/archbishop-comensoli-to-launch-advent-appeal-for-ukraine>

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF VICTORIA AND WAGGA WAGGA ADVENT CAROLS

When: Saturday 9 December 2023 (2.00pm-4.00pm)

Where: St Mary's Catholic Church, 208 Dandenong Road, St Kilda East

The Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga will be hosting Advent carols at St Mary's, St Kilda East. Led by Fr Jerome Santamaria and featuring tenor Matthew



Bennett, this is an afternoon not to be missed! Carols will be followed by afternoon tea at 3pm. Register by 6 December for catering purposes via TryBooking. For further information, email cwlvicww@gmail.com Entry is free. Donations welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL

When: Sunday 17 December 2023- 3.00pm-4.15pm

Come along for a family concert of traditional and modern Christmas carols in the beautiful and inspiring space of St Patrick's Cathedral. Featuring Cathedral Brass, Cathedral Schola and the Grand Organ, this performance will include plenty of audience participation, a children's segment and 'special guest' appearance. For more information visit

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events/christmas-carols-at-the-cathedral>

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 Joseph, pray for 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.

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.