



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



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

21st of APRIL 2024

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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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

Reflection by Rev Mark O'Brien OP

I argued earlier that a number of the readings during Lent are about the need to make God the centre of our lives rather than ourselves – as modern western culture in particular urges us to do. According to the Gospels, our relationship with God won't work if we see God as a kind of personal assistant; someone on whom I can call when needed to help me achieve my career goals. It is only when we make God the centre of our lives that all other relationships can find their proper place and function. Jesus is the one who enables us to do this through the example and power of his death and resurrection.

When we cast our mind back to the passion of Jesus we recall that Peter betrayed Jesus in the (false) hope of saving himself. His case is a good example of how things go wrong when we put ourselves at the centre at all costs. Now, in the reading from Acts, we see the transformed traitor doing the reverse: though arrested and on trial before the authorities, he does not cut and run to save himself but proclaims the centrality of Jesus and the power of God in Jesus. It is by the name of Jesus and this name only that the cripple is healed. Even more, rather than elevate himself to a privileged position alongside Jesus, separate from the hostile crowd, Peter places himself squarely among them by proclaiming 'this is the only name by which we can be saved'. All are equally in need of God's reconciliation: Jesus is the one 'you crucified'; Jesus is the one Peter betrayed. It is only when one has been healed by Jesus that one is able to see reality clearly. We spend a lot of time in our modern world 'getting it all together', making accurate assessments, working out best practices, monitoring results. But, says Peter using the imagery of a builder, we may reject as useless the stone that is really the 'keystone', the one that will enable us to look again at our building project and see that the plans are all awry.

The reading from the first letter of John tells us in its turn what happens when we – with God's grace – make God the centre of our lives. We become the centre of God's life; we become God's children and, as the perfect loving parent, God is completely devoted to the children. Being God's children is not simply a promise of something yet to come, in which case one might accuse God of using a carrot and stick approach. No, it is a status that the believer enjoys as soon as he or she becomes a believer. One is already an heir in the kingdom of heaven. What is more, God makes us the centre of divine life, not for God's sake but for ours. We are to benefit. God's purpose is that 'we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is'.

To leave oneself behind, or rather the idea of self that each of us has and in which each occupies the centre, and to follow Jesus in the hope that we will find our true selves, is the major challenge and promise of Christianity. In order to encourage us to step out confidently in faith, we have the famous passage on the good shepherd from John's Gospel. Jesus is the utterly reliable leader and guide who, like the Father, makes the sheep the centre of his life. He knows them all intimately and gives his all for his sheep, even to laying down his life for them. Jesus dies for the sake of the sheep. One might think this would signal victory for the wolves and the failure of the shepherd. But, in a superb paradox, the passage claims that the death of Jesus brings about the reverse: it is his non-violent victory over the wolves that seek to destroy the sheep. This is 'revealed' in the way he freely lays down his life (he is not the wolves' prey) and takes it up again in the resurrection (the sign of victory over the forces that promote death). And this is all done in obedience to the Father, which means it is done for our sake. Hence, both sheep (and wolves?) can place complete confidence in Jesus, the good shepherd who leads us unerringly to the Father who is the source of life and in whom we find our true life.

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 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 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117

R. *The stone rejected by the builders
Has become the cornerstone.*

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. **(R.)**

2. I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I

have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. 'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS: THEY TOO WILL LISTEN TO MY VOICE

We continue our journey through Eastertide, experiencing the joy of the Risen Lord. This fourth Sunday of Easter traditionally features Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and is also kept annually as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

In the First Reading, Peter explains that the miracle he has been able to perform came not from him, but from the name of Jesus Christ, the keystone rejected by the builders. The Psalm, normally sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem, is a thanksgiving prayer from someone who has been rescued from an ordeal. It uses the same cornerstone image as the First Reading. Like Peter, the psalmist acknowledges the Lord as his Saviour.

The writer of the Second Reading stresses that we are God's children. Although we might find the path difficult, and feel unsure of what the future holds, we will be transformed into God's likeness when we meet him. In the Gospel, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd, who is prepared to lay down his life for us; he knows us intimately and wants to bring everyone into his fold.

On this Day of Prayer for Vocations, we might pray that everyone should be willing and able to fulfil their own vocation. We continue to pray for war-torn countries, that they will find a Good Shepherd to guide them out of conflict.



POPE FRANCIS, MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

'To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him.. To continue reading, visit:

<https://www.thehookoffaith.com/single-post/newsletter-insert-for-vocations-sunday>

BAPTISM



We pray with and congratulate the *Bombaci, Fidow & Spitari/Spiteri Families* whose children will be baptised this week. May the *Bombaci,*

Fidow & Spitari/Spiteri Families always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community.

CUPPA AND A CHAT



Cuppa And A Chat

Please join us for a cuppa on Saturday 20th April after 5.30pm Mass at St Margaret Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you. All welcome.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will resume this weekend at Sacred Heart Church, Mass at 10.00am. All Children are welcome.



PARISH CENSUS

Throughout the last three weekends of May, our parish will undertake a census. Its aim is to accurately record and update parishioners' information for effective pastoral care, strategic planning, and resource distribution. This endeavour seeks to strengthen our parish's vitality, vibrancy and viability for the years ahead.

ROSARY GROUP

The Monday Rosary group will recommence on Monday 6th May in the Jubilee Room. All are welcome to attend.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

New Thanksgiving Envelopes commencing on the 5th of May are now available for collection at each Mass this weekend.

COMBINED PARISHES YOUTH GROUP

Who: 13-18 years old

When: Saturday 4th May

Where: St Mary's Parish centre
116 Cecil Street, Williamstown

Time: 7:00-9:00pm (Movie Night)

Please encourage young people to participate.

ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day is a National Day of Remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders "who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations" and "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served."

For those who would like to attend the Newport RSL ANZAC Day Lunchtime Service in Paines Reserve (13 Market Street Newport 3015), near the Newport Cenotaph. The event will commence at 1pm on Thursday 25th APR 2024.



OUR SICK

Jett Guy, Kevin Foley, Kata & Branko Ujelac, Michelle Jenkins, Anne Shechan-Lee, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanam, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly

ANNIVERSARIES

Jamile Orfali, Marco Antonio Conidi, Marie Duckworth, Teresa-Natalina Costa, the Peric Family

RECENTLY DECEASED

Giuseppina Falzon, Janja Nikovic, Anton Saric

SEE THE COMEDY KID BEFORE HE HITS THE BIG TIME

World-renowned (not quite yet!) Comedy Kid Alex Southwell will be performing at **St Margaret Mary's Church on Saturday April 27 after 5.30pm mass.** You won't want to miss his unique comedy stylings!

This kid is bound for the big time! So don't miss your chance to see him before he headlines comedy festivals worldwide!

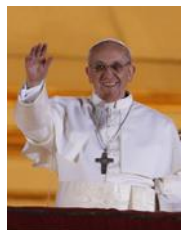
Gold coin donations will be accepted (but notes are better)! All money raised will go to St Margaret Mary's School as part of the Colour Fun Run fundraiser.



POPE FRANCIS'S MESSAGE FOR GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations which is also Good Shepherd Sunday, invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty – even in the name of a religious ideal – is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves. To continue reading, please visit: <https://www.thehookoffaith.com/single-post/pope-francis-message-for-world-day-of-prayer-for-vocations-2024>



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.

All you need to do is select the amount or select custom to donate a different amount, tap your card and you are good to go. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.



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.

Amen.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

| 1 st Collection Presbytery Offering | 2 nd Collection Thanksgiving Offering |
|--|--|
| To support: • Parish clergy • Sick and retired priests • Priests in needy parishes • Archbishop & auxiliary bishops | To support: • 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.