



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood



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

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

22nd OCTOBER 2023

REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

Our readings for this Sunday provide an opportunity to reflect on something that is central to our faith – the Word of God. Each reading offers an angle on the mystery of the word of God and each angle challenges and surprises. The surprising thing about the reading from Isaiah is that the Word of God is addressed to the Persian conqueror Cyrus, the ultimate outsider. Even though Cyrus does not know the God of Israel, this is no barrier. God calls him personally by name as he called Moses and gives him the title of Messiah or anointed one, the only foreigner in the Old Testament to be given this title. Not even the Immanuel to come in Isaiah 9 and 11 is called Messiah. Cyrus is given a commission to deliver Israel from oppression. This outsider becomes a favoured insider, Israel's deliverer personally called and commissioned by God. This may have come as something of a shock to the insiders, the Judean exiles in Babylon. To the outsiders, whether Persian or Babylonian, it would probably have appeared outrageous, even laughable. Cyrus's vocation is not simply to deliver Israel. The prophecy proclaims that God has a purpose in this that goes beyond Israel: it is that all may come to know that 'apart from me, all is nothing'. God's ultimate purpose is that people come to acknowledge the reality of God. Only on this basis can everything else fall into place.

In the 1 Thessalonians, one senses Paul's wonder and delight at the impact that the preaching of the Good News had on the Thessalonians. What astonishes him is the realisation that the preaching of the Good News is not just the communication of a message, a word. It is a personal presence of the Holy Spirit and an encounter with the Spirit in two ways; It inspires those preaching the Good News and empowers those who hear the Good News. . In the Gospel passage from Matthew we encounter the Word himself in debate with the Pharisees. Two things – at least – are surprising and challenging about the behaviour of the incarnate Word in this scene. The first is that although Jesus knows the deceptive motive behind their question and points this out to them bluntly, he does not dismiss them or walk away. The Good News is preached even to those with evil intent who have placed themselves on the outside ('I have come to call the sinners, not the virtuous'). But, as one reads it, there is another surprise. The Incarnate Word does not appear to answer the pressing question whether a Jew should pay taxes to the foreign overlord. He seems to leave the decision up to them. This may be meant to indicate that Jesus comes to challenge us to make decisions about our life, not to provide a ready list of solutions to every question that we raise or problem that we encounter. In short, the Word challenges us to speak our word and act on it.

But, a closer look at the passage prompts another interpretation. Jesus prefaces his reply by asking the Pharisees whose image is on the coin. Those things that bear the image of Caesar belong to Caesar and those things that bear the image of God belong to God. What in the context of this passage bears the image of God? Surely it is the Pharisees and indeed all human beings. On this reading, Jesus' word is a challenge, an invitation to the questioners, to look at themselves from another angle, not as subjects who willingly or unwillingly use the Roman system, but who they really are despite their flaws – the image and likeness of God. If only they could 'see' that the pure image and likeness of God is the one speaking to them, then they might be able to look at themselves from his perspective.

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

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:
'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**

4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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 Thessalonika. 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

This due week, maybe we can pray for the rulers and leaders of our world, particularly during these difficult times. We ask that God 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 Sunday after 10.00 am mass at Sacred Heart Church, We look forward to seeing you.



BAPTISM

We pray and congratulate the **Mayall** and **Vance** families whose children will be Baptised this weekend. May the children and their families always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community



SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS ONLINE TRAINING

For all volunteers that had issues signing in or have not completed their *Safeguarding Essentials* online training module which is now accessible.

Please use this link <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F> to sign in. Once you have completed the training which takes about ½ hr, please send though your certificate to the office so we can keep as record of completion.

For those who do not have access to a PC we will hold a workshop on Wednesday 25th October at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church. **If you would like to attend, please advise office, for preparation of certificates.**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

This weekend PPC members will speak to parishioners about the works of the PPC and upcoming Parish Forum and new members for the council.

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.

BPAY Biller Code: 347 716 Parish Ref 107153925014

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWPORT



Each week, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools features an educator living out the vision and mission of our Catholic schools through their work

and presence. Recently, our Art educator, Rita McEwen celebrated 10,000 days of teaching at Sacred Heart and was featured by MACS in this short video where she reflects on her time teaching at the school and the way arts education contributes to the lives of her students. We are so blessed to have someone with Rita's passion and commitment to children at Sacred Heart

OUR SICK

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Anton Miletic, Carmelo Sagona, Gina Meilak, Peggy Dooley

RECENTLY DECEASED

Anna D'Agata

ST MARGARET MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPOTSWOOD

Our school feast day was a wonderful occasion. We celebrated mass together followed by Kaboom tabloid sports incursion. We are so proud of our school.



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.' With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online

www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

DENNIS ALBERTO, SHARING HIS HEART FOR TEACHING, MUSIC AND GOD

Twelve years ago, Dennis Alberto was just setting out in his teaching career at Penola Catholic College in Broadmeadows, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, where he'd completed his own high school years. Today he is still a religious education and science teacher at the college, but now he is married with two young children, is part of an award-winning musical band, M22, with some of his students, and recently returned from his third World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. He reflects on his recent trip, and explains why he's still passionate about fostering a love of God and music among his students.



To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/dennis-alberto-sharing-his-heart-for-teaching-music-and-god>

POSITION VACANCY

St Mary's Williamstown is looking for a new Parish Secretary to work 21 hours Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, ideally from 9 – 4pm but subject to negotiation especially on the latter time. More information can be found on website of 'The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne' under 'job vacancies'. Applications are to sent to recruitment@cam.org.au

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.

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.