



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

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

4TH JANUARY 2024

Parish Office

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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 John Thornhill sm

Concluding the introductory section of Mark's gospel, today's reading further clarifies the nature of the mission Jesus means to share with his disciples. As we have seen, the healings and deliverance performed by Jesus are part of his preaching of the Kingdom, signs that God will triumph over all the forces of evil in the world. This is brought out by Mark, as he recalls and contrasts two moments of healing.

There are practically no details in the gospels of the family circumstances of the apostles. The account of the curing of Peter's mother-in-law is therefore remarkable. It is generally accepted that Mark composed his gospel in Rome about the time of Peter's martyrdom. If this is true, Peter's telling of the story of Jesus would have been an important source of his material. In this incident we may well hear echoes of Peter's voice describing a sequence of events. Peter brings Jesus from the synagogue to his home for a meal; they are surprised to find the old lady ill with fever; Jesus heals her instantly by taking her hand and helping her up; fully recovered she gives herself to the service of the Lord.

As we have seen, 'Who is this man?' is the subtext of Mark's narrative. There is no doubt that Jesus worked miracles. Miracles, as we all know, have an unhealthy fascination for many people. Mark is concerned that his readers are not carried away by the fact that Jesus was a wonder worker. They must understand that the miracles of Jesus were signs inviting faith in the coming of God's salvation into the world. True faith in the Saviour will come, in the end, to understand that the greatest wonder in the life of Jesus of Nazareth was the salvation he brought to the world as its crucified Saviour. Thus, as Mark's narrative continues, we hear echoes of how Peter began to learn this lesson at the end of the eventful Sabbath Mark has described.

By evening, word had spread that there is a miracle worker in town. People came crowding around Peter's door, bringing their sick and 'possessed' for healing. Jesus responded to their appeals; but in his silencing of the 'devils who knew who he was' we are reminded that these people still have to learn who he is. In the morning there was consternation when Peter and his companions find that Jesus was nowhere to be found. 'Everyone is looking for you', they protest, disappointed that he has not made the most of this instant notoriety. Later they will recognise that Jesus was concerned to lead the people beyond the wonders he worked to a renewed faith in the coming of God's Kingdom – the great theme of the solitary prayer he shared with his Father. This could only be achieved by his preaching the message of the Kingdom. And so the ministry he was about to undertake 'all through Galilee' would combine his 'preaching' and his 'casting out devils'.



Let us go elsewhere,
so that I can preach there too,
because that is why I came

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

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. **(R.)**
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of stars;
he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak: I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning,

long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: HE HEALS THE BROKEN HEARTED; HE BINDS UP ALL THEIR WOUNDS

After stilling myself and allowing the busy-ness of my mind to settle, I consciously place myself before the Lord, and ask for the grace to open my heart, body and mind to his presence. I turn to the psalm and begin by slowly reading and repeating the response: 'Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.' I let these words settle deep into my being.

As I listen to the words, what do I notice in my body? Where are my thoughts drawn? Which part of my being longs to be healed? When I am ready, I pray with the rest of the psalm, slowly reading each line, pausing and listening to the deepest needs of my body, mind and soul. What do I hear? To where is my attention drawn?

I place any hurt, wounds, needs or longings before our loving God. God knows, God listens, God heals . . . I listen to what God wants me to hear, and I close my prayer with my own words of gratitude. Glory be to the Father . . .



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY - FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

When some people talk about terminal illnesses, there are two words they often confuse: incurable and uncurable. But they are not the same. Even when little chance for a cure exists, every sick person has the right to medical, psychological, spiritual and human assistance. Sometimes they can't talk; sometimes we think they don't recognize us. But if we take them by the hand, we know they are relating with us. Healing is not always possible, but we can always care for the sick person, caress them. Saint John Paul II used to say, "cure if it is possible; always take care." And this is where palliative care comes in. It guarantees the patient not only medical attention, but also human assistance and closeness. Families should not be left alone in these difficult moments. Their role is decisive. They need access to adequate means so as to provide appropriate physical, spiritual and social support. Let us pray that the terminally ill and their families always receive the necessary medical and human care and assistance.

CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa this Sunday 4th February after 10:00am mass at Sacred Heart Church. We look forward to seeing you. All welcome.



SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL NEWPORT

What a wonderful first day we had at Sacred Heart today! Excitement was in the air all day and it was a pleasure to speak with all the students about their holiday adventures and what they are looking forward to in 2024. ❤️ It's going to be a great year!



ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL, SPOTSWOOD 70TH ANNIVERSARY

I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to current staff and students on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the opening of St Margaret Mary's School, Spotswood. This week marks the anniversary of the day when Sr Adrian of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart opened the doors of the combined St Margaret Mary's church and school building along Reed Street, Spotswood for school classes for the first time.



I was a student at St Margaret Mary's School during the 1960s when Sr Barbara Connolly RSJ was our teaching principal and Rev Fr Philip Smith was parish priest. It was a time when the school had its highest enrolment of about three hundred students on a campus of about half the current land area. Classes were conducted for students up to grade 8 but stopped at grade 6 when St Paul's Campus, Altona North first opened its doors for students in 1965.

Please be assured of my continued prayers and thoughts as we celebrate this grand milestone.

Terry McIntosh

Past student and parishioner

SR MARY SARAH GALBRAITH: 'YOU CAN BE A FRIEND OF GOD'

Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith is a Dominican Sister of St Cecilia and the local superior of the Dominican Sisters in Bacchus Marsh. Over more than 33 years as a religious sister, she has experienced the joy and the adventure of living as a friend of God. 'If you have a friend with you, it doesn't matter where you're going or who you're going to be with or what you're going to be asked to do,' she says. 'Your friend is with you, and it's going to be great.' To continue reading, visit:



<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/sr-mary-sarah-galbraith-at-the-service-of-the-lord-in-this-particular-place-at-this-particular-time>

OUR SICK

Kata Duvnjak, Bob Cairns, Kristy Robinson, John.

ANNIVERSARIES

Marija Miletic, Tommaso & Filomena Penna.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Vincenzo Scarpari, Anthony Peter Watt.

ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI ON HOW TO ENTER INTO THE YEAR OF PRAYER

To prepare for the 2025 Jubilee Year, the Holy Father has called for a Year of Prayer, a time of 'rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world'.



Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, who was recently in Rome, has recorded a special message for the local church of Melbourne in which he suggests three simple prayers to help us enter into this time of preparation. To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/three-ways-to-enter-into-the-year-of-prayer-archbishop-comensoli>

ORDER OF MALTA- LOURDES DAY MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

When: Saturday 10 February 2024 at 10.30am –11.30am

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

The Order of Malta invites you to the annual Lourdes Day Mass—an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm, particularly those who would not otherwise have the



possibility of visiting Lourdes. The Mass will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant. For further information, please call Sauro Antonelli on 0411 250 288.

JESUIT FATHER GENERAL THANKS AUSTRALIANS FOR GIVING THEIR HEARTS TO THE MARGINALISED

On Monday 29 January, as part of his recent visit to Australia, Jesuit Father General Arturo Sosa met with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli while in Melbourne. The previous week in Sydney, Fr Sosa, accompanied by a number of his Jesuit brothers from Rome, joined Jesuit major superiors from across the Asia-Pacific region at an intimate evening on 24 January. Attended by some of Jesuit Mission Australia's most loyal long-term supporters, it was an occasion marked by a spirit of gratitude and friendship. 'You are part of the family of the Society of Jesus, not because of what you give, but because of who you are—because what you are giving is your own life, your own heart,' said Fr Sosa.

To continue reading, please visit;

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/jesuit-father-general-thanks-australians-for-giving-their-hearts-to-the-marginalised>

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

1st Collection

Presbytery Offering

2nd 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.