



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

01st DECEMBER 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 Administrator

Father Samuel Kapani PA

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong
Chairperson

Secretary & Safeguarding Officer

Ivana Toulmin
Tuesday & Friday: 9am – 4pm

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson
Irene Bongetti
Carmel Crawford
Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti
Maureen Llewellyn
Michael Nardella
Barbara Payne
Rose Santo

Choir

Larissa Cairns
Director

REFLECTION BY JOHN THORNHILL SM

The Church begins its new liturgical year with a season of hope. Advent time – when we look forward to the celebration of the birth of the world’s Saviour – has produced liturgies filled with joy and expectation. Advent’s liturgies also look forward to Christ’s ‘Second Coming’, to gather all things into the final Kingdom of God. The liturgy nourishes our faith in the Lord, risen and triumphant. His birth, which we look forward to celebrating, will not take place again. We remember it as the dawning of the final moment of God’s eternal plan, a dawning full of promise for the whole of creation. This fundamental theme of Christian faith and hope - encouraging us to look forward to a ‘new heaven and new earth’ - has been obscured in recent centuries. For sincere believers, expectation of ‘the end of the world’ should convey far more than the uneasiness and dread it so often arouses.

The readings of today’s liturgy show us something of the development of this theme in the faith of God’s people. In the first reading, Jeremiah promises that the messiah – ‘a virtuous branch’, a ruler of ‘honesty and integrity’, belonging to the family of David – will realise all that old Israel hopes for. It is a reassuring message, indeed, for a people whose history had been presided over by rulers who were for the most part corrupt and selfish. We see this prophecy being fulfilled in the gospel reading from Luke. Jesus – knowing that that the final moment of God’s designs for creation had come – made use in his teaching of the symbolic imagery of the prophets and the current (‘apocalyptic’) literature. But he also introduced a startling new dimension to these expectations by uniting them with the coming the ‘Son of Man’ foretold in the Book of Daniel – ‘coming with power and great glory’ to establish God’s eternal reign. The first Christians, who recognised Jesus as the ‘Son of Man’ who had been foretold, and lived in wonder at what God had done in the Lord’s Paschal Mystery, faced a perplexing question. They rejoiced that old Israel’s hopes had been so wonderfully fulfilled in the coming of the Son of God and his victory over all evil. But what were they to make of the fact that the world seemed to go on as before? It is not surprising that they saw themselves living in brief time of waiting before the Risen Lord returned to inaugurate God’s ‘new heaven and new earth’. The Thessalonians to whom, in our second reading, Paul is writing a friendly letter – the earliest Christian writing we possess, written about twenty years after the Resurrection – were wrestling with this problem. They looked forward, in the near future, to ‘the Lord Jesus Christ coming with all his saints’; but, as the letter makes clear, they were confused as they tried to anticipate how this will happen (see 4:13-18; 5:1-11). Paul himself was still coming to terms with the problem we have described. His message to them, however, is reassuring and meaningful, even today: Trust in the Lord, as it becomes clear how this final moment of God’s plan is to unfold; remember the gospel teaching of Jesus - be alert and prepared; above all, prepare for what lies ahead by living according to the Lord’s commandment of love: ‘Love one another, and the whole human race, as much as I love you’.



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.

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

First reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time,

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 24(25):4-5,8-9,10,14

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day. **(R)**
2. Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way. **(R)**
3. All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction. **(R)**

2nd Reading

1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the

earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FERMIO

We read every day of someone who has died suddenly – in a farm accident, on the roads, stroke or heart attack, or stabbed by a violent person, who leave home and never return. As well floods, volcanoes, landslides and fire take the lives of others, suddenly, unexpected, unprepared for. The prophetic words used by Jesus can be frightening and the events above can also be terrifying for those involved. Jesus talks of signs in the sun, moon and stars, of the heavens being shaken and the ocean in tumult. Every age has suffered disasters, causing people to think the end has come. Jesus warns us to be alert and always ready for when he comes, to lead good lives, praying for the strength to accept whatever happens.

Advent is a time when we can consider am I ready for when Jesus comes? What if it is tomorrow? How do I prepare myself? Today’s reading from Thessalonians has the answer – how to live the life that God wants me to live, remembering “God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us!”



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: STRAIGHTEN UP AND RAISE YOUR HEADS, BECAUSE YOUR REDEMPTION IS DRAWING NEAR

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

How am I coming to this time of prayer? How am I feeling just now? Am I carrying something with me? Am I able to hand over some of my worries and concerns into the Lord’s care?

I ponder these questions to ready myself for prayer as I take some slow, deep breaths. Gradually I become stiller, quieter. I ask for the grace I need for these moments. Only when ready do I begin to read the text slowly, prayerfully. As I read, what do I notice? Is something drawing me? Resonating within me? I read again and pause, perhaps to savour a word or line.

There may be something challenging me in this reading. Or I may be feeling consoled. I might consider... who am I before the Lord? In what ways do I please God? How might I walk in God’s way even more?

Perhaps I imagine myself standing before the Lord Jesus with all his saints, asking (as St Ignatius invites us to do in the Spiritual Exercises): ‘What have I done for you? What am I doing for you? What will I do for you?’ I ponder these questions in the Lord’s presence and, perhaps, await his response. When ready, I end with a slow sign of the cross.

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. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy this weekend 1st December at Sacred Heart 10:00am mass.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Don't forget we are having a cuppa and chat after 10.00am Mass on Sunday 1st Dec at Sacred Heart Church. All welcome to chat and mingle.



THANK YOU FROM THE PARISH TEAM

The parish team would like to thank, all those who attended the Annual Parish Forum on Sunday, 24th November. It was a powerful gesture of oneness in faith and mission. We thank the team for the meticulous planning, presentations, arrangement of the hall and the sumptuous lunch. We are indebted to the volunteers for their dedicated service to the parish community. An important update particularly for those that were not able to attend: the motion was passed to apply to the archdiocese to offer redundant land on Newcastle St, Newport, for sale, with a reserve price jointly agreed by the Parish and the Archdiocese.

LECTOR, SPECIAL MINISTERS AND POWER POINT, MUSIC VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are looking for Volunteers to be Lectors and Special Ministers at Mass. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Ivana at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or via email Newport.spotswood@cam.org.au Please note that you must have a current Working with Children check, and signed code of conduct.

VINNIES GIVING APPEAL IS BACK!

The 2024 Vinnies Giving Appeal will collect funds, gifts and non perishable items to contribute to Christmas hampers for companions in our local area that our local Newport Conference has assisted throughout the year. If you'd like to donate, please consider picking up a tag off the Giving Tree, a donation envelope in our churches, or head to: <https://my.fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/vinnies-christmas-appeal-2024/newport-conference>.

Please return any physical donations to our churches by **10.30am Sunday 15 December** at the latest – we will be making and distributing hampers that afternoon. Thanks in advance!

If you'd like to find out more about the work of our local conference and being a member, contact president Clare at newport.conference.pres@svdp-vic.org.au.

Note: We will have Vinnies speakers at both Masses this weekend

SACRED HEART NEWPORT PARISH SCHOOL

We invite our school and parish community to support this wonderful initiative of our Year 6 Indigenous Perspectives Leadership group and bring Christmas joy to others this festive season. Thanking you in advance for your generosity



OUR SICK

Romano, Rita Galea, Editha Begovic, Joe Attard, John, Helen Kelly

ANNIVERSARIES

Robert Costa, Antonio Loiacono

RECENTLY DECEASED

Joesph Bartnik, Sr Anne Tuck

'BE HOPE AND LIGHT': ARCHDIOCESE CELEBRATES THE COMING JUBILEE YEAR AND COUNTDOWN TO ACYF 2025

On Sunday 24 November 2024, on the solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe, young people and families from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne



came together in joyous celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral. Representatives of parishes, faith movements and migrant communities gathered to mark three significant milestones: giving thanks for the Year of Prayer that is almost over; looking with anticipation to the launch of the 2025 Jubilee Year on 29 December; and marking one year until the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) brings thousands of young people to Melbourne from across Australia.

CHRIST THE KING TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL WITH THE POWER OF LOVE, POPE SAYS

While world events can seem chaotic, violent and out of control, Christians can be certain that 'everything is ultimately subject to the judgment of Christ, the just and merciful king,' Pope Francis said at Mass.

'Those who destroy people, who make wars, what will their faces look like when they come before the Lord? "Why did you make that war? Why did you kill?" God will ask. "And they, how will they reply?" the Pope said on 24 November, the feast of Christ the King.

The Mass in St Peter's Basilica also marked the local celebration of World Youth Day. Fifteen young people from Portugal, where the international celebration of World Youth Day was held in 2023, and 15 from South Korea, where the global gathering for World Youth Day will be held in 2027, joined the Pope for the liturgy.

Cardinal Kevin J Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, the Vatican office that organises the youth gatherings, was the main celebrant at the altar.

At the end of the liturgy, before the Portuguese young adults passed the World Youth Day cross and Marian icon to their peers from South Korea, Pope Francis offered a special prayer that the symbols would be a source of consolation and strength for young people living in situations of war and violence.

The Pope prayed that wherever the cross and icon are taken, there may be 'a growth in certainty about the invincible love of God and fraternity among people'.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that passing the symbols on 'is an invitation to all of us to live out the Gospel and take it to every part of the world, without stopping, without being discouraged, getting up after every fall and never ceasing to hope.' To continue reading, please visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/christ-the-king-triumphs-over-evil-with-the-power-of-love-pope-says>

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.

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.

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.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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 o 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