



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

**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B**

**17th MARCH 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 Rev Mark O'Brien OP**

The preceding Sundays of Lent have exposed the fractures and divisions that sin causes in human life. We lose touch with God and our neighbour. We become absorbed in ourselves but it is really a false self, a mockery of the real self that we construct and to which we then pay homage. It is insanity masquerading as the most reasonable and profitable thing to do. How can we know our true self without God as the focus of our attention? Without God at the centre of our life we can only have a distorted perception of God, ourselves and others. Biblical faith professes that God provides the remedy (to this distortion); biblical hope proclaims that one day humanity will accept the remedy.

The first reading from Jeremiah is a case in point. Despite the 'death' of the Babylonian exile and the prophetic claim that it is the just consequence of Israel's disloyalty, the book of Jeremiah proclaims a new covenant and new life for the people. God's purpose in establishing this new covenant is clear: 'Then I will be their God and they shall be my people'. The key topic of discourse will be 'Learn to know the Lord'. It is a brutal contrast between disloyalty that brings death (exile) and the grace of God that brings life (new covenant). It does not try to sift the guilty from the many God-fearing Israelites who no doubt remained loyal to God yet perished in the misery of the exile. To try and address such complex and almost intractable problems would detract from the basic claim the book seeks to make: authentic human life is possible only with God as the centre of life. Can this be proved to be the case in every case? Of course not and the book of Jeremiah knows this very well (cf. Jeremiah's lamentations in the book). It is a bold confession of faith that God is on the side of those who are on God's side.

The Gospel reading brings what scholars call 'the book of signs' in John to a close. The Greek delegation that arrives in this reading may be taken as a symbol of the rest of the world coming to Jesus. What looks to be an almost insignificant incident – a few Greeks wanting to see Jesus – is proclaimed as signalling the hour for the revelation of the greatest sign of all – Jesus being lifted up on the cross. Paradoxically, it is this shocking sign of violent death that will turn people from absorption in the things of the false 'world' of their making and lead then to make Jesus the centre of their lives. The Son of Man will be glorified, not only be the great sign of being crucified and rising from the dead but also by another related sign – the sign of a rich harvest of humanity coming to Jesus for salvation, like those few insignificant Greeks. Within the Christian context on one is insignificant; the death and resurrection of Jesus enables everyone to be an integral part of the reign of God; every grain of wheat is able to flourish and bear much fruit.

The reading from the letter to the Hebrews dispels any notion that Jesus' path to glorification was serene and untroubled. In almost graphic terms, the letter reminds us that Jesus experienced the same temptations that we do (he was like us in all things but sin), the temptation to make ourselves the centre of the universe, to get God to serve us rather than us serving God. Jesus had to assert his complete loyalty to the Father in the face of fearful temptations, fed by the prospect of what he was about to face. It is Jesus' loyalty in the face of temptation that enables us to have the courage to meet the temptations that threaten to fracture our humanity.

**CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**Sacred Heart**

Principal: Kaylene Carlin  
9391 6262  
[principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Margaret Mary's**

Principal: Colleen McCambridge  
9391 3118  
[principal@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.

**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

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 50**

*R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me  
of your holy spirit. **(R.)**

3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Hebrews 5:7-9**

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

### Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

**John 12:120-30**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I

have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: I WILL WRITE MY LAW ON THEIR HEARTS

This Sunday's readings encourage us to turn towards growth and transformation out of pain and suffering. The prophet Jeremiah makes a great proclamation: 'See, the days are coming . . . when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel'. God's eternal covenant of love and forgiveness is written deep within our hearts (First Reading).

It is because of this same promise, that Christ became human to share with us in our suffering, forever praying for us and with us (Second Reading). In Christ, all suffering and death are transfigured into growth and new life through his resurrection. This Sunday's Psalm would have been familiar to Jesus as he prayed for us during his time on earth, earnestly encouraging us to turn from our sinful ways towards God's love and compassion.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the personal suffering and death that he will soon be facing. He knows that he could ask his Father to save him from this fate, but instead he willingly makes a choice that leads to our salvation. Jesus invites us to follow his way of living. It is not an easy path to travel, but Christ is always with us, helping and sustaining us.

Let us pray for each other that through God's infinite grace, we will remain true to the law of love that is written deep within us



### FOUR WAYS ST PATRICK INSPIRES A MISSIONARY CHURCH TODAY

On 17th March each year, the Church returns to her rich storehouse of inspiration to reflect on the life of a saint whose witness can breathe new life into our missionary efforts today. In the story of St. Patrick of Ireland, we find a Church Father who stands at the beginning of our faith tradition and whose writings are steeped with references to the living Word of God in Scripture. To continue reading, visit: <https://www.thehookoffaith.com/single-post/four-ways-st-patrick-inspires-a-missionary-church-today>

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Every Sunday at 10.00am Parish Mass, Sacred Heart Church. All children are welcome to attend.



## BAPTISM

We pray with and congratulate the *Needham Family* and whose child will be baptised this week. May the *Needham Family* always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community.



## ST JOSEPH PARISH FEAST DAY



Sacred Heart church  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
10.00am Mass, followed by Lunch  
In the school hall.



Dear Parishioners,  
For our parish Feast Day of St Joseph, there won't be an evening Mass on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of March. Once a year, our parish feast day provides us with a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate as a community. I encourage you to join other parishioners as we celebrate this significant occasion. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Warm regards,  
Fr Binh

## MERCY MELBOURNE AT ST MARGARET MARY'S, SPOTSWOOD

When: Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Where: St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Details: An evening of healing, quiet prayer in the presence of the Lord, followed by Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## COMBINED PARISHES STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.00pm at St Leo the Great Church, 387 Mason St, Altona North

## 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.

## OUR SICK

Doug Cue, Carmine Camerlengo, Michelle Jenkins, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanam, Barbara Payne, Kata Duvnjak, Bob Cairns, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly

## ANNIVERSARIES

Giovanni Giarrusso

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Anthony Maugeri

## LENT PROJECT COMPASSION

Partnership in action

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.



Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse. Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities. Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection. You can donate through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes or by visiting: <https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or call 1800 024 413.

## HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

### Palm Sunday

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Spotswood 5:30pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Newport 10:00am

### THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

#### Thursday of the Lord's Supper

28<sup>th</sup> March Spotswood 7:30pm

#### Friday Passion of the Lord

Stations of the Cross

29<sup>th</sup> March, Spotswood 10:30am

29<sup>th</sup> March, Newport 3:00pm

#### Easter Vigil

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March Newport 7:30pm

#### Easter Sunday

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Spotswood 9<sup>00</sup>am

Newport 10:30am



## 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 <sup>st</sup> Collection Presbytery Offering	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.