



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

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

4th AUGUST 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
Grace Frazzica
Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti
Maureen Llewellyn
Michael Nardella
Barbara Payne

Choir

Larissa Cairns
Director

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin
9391 6262
principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge
9391 3118
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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.

REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

The so-called 'murmuring in the wilderness' stories are arresting in the way they pack a lot into what is quite a limited bundle and in their ability to touch the phobias and failures of any generation of readers. As if to try and cram as much as possible into the first example of this kind of story, there is even a rather odd mention of quails. They may be there as a signal that one can tell this kind of story either via the bread or the meat theme (cf the parallel in Numbers 11). The 'murmuring' story form provides plenty of scope for a storyteller to construct a ripping yarn and turn it to a theological purpose.

As part of the Torah, our example provides some valuable instructions on a number of issues. A key one is faith. Human beings only become interested in the notion of God (initially at least) because they hope there is something in it for them. The desire for self-improvement is admirable, it's the way we go about it that causes problems. This story portrays Israel as being prepared to follow God as long as God provides what fits Israel's notion of the good. It also describes God wanting to lead Israel beyond this limited perspective to loyal discipleship because God is God, not because of what they think God can or should provide. It presents this in three moves. In the first, God is prepared to meet the people where they stand, a fearful and demanding lot. The second is that God meets their needs in the hope that 'they will follow my law'- will they accept the context of the Torah? God gives Israel food to eat but a much more important gift is the Torah that enables Israel to gain a true perspective on themselves and God. It will free them from a distorted perception that sees slavery in Egypt as life. A complete inversion values. The third is that via obedience to the Torah, Israel will learn 'that I, the Lord, am your God'. What God seeks is a personal relationship with Israel.

In the reading from John's Gospel, this same divine purpose is unfolded via the Johannine term 'signs'. The wonders that Jesus works, such as the miracles of the loaves and fish, are signs that should point to and reveal the person who performs them. But, as Jesus admonishes the crowd, they see the signs only in relation to themselves and their needs. As God seeks to do in the Exodus story, Jesus here desires to draw the people out of their self-focused world to himself. So, we see a somewhat similar three stages in the Gospel text, from meeting the people where they are in their concern for earthly food, to a teaching about food that endures for eternal life, to an identification of this bread with Jesus himself. Once this personal relationship is established, once they 'believe in the one he has sent', everything else can find its proper place and true purpose. As the letter to the Ephesians makes clear, this enables one to put off the old self with its distorted perception of God and reality and become a new person.

This change can take place of course when we are willing and able to see our self for what it really is, and this is to accept the judgement of Jesus as to what we are. This can be a frightening prospect, on two counts. We know that we flawed creatures and there can be a deep fear of facing ourselves, and an even deeper fear of having to face others when they find out. Depending on our idea of God, we may also fear the judgement of God. But we can't hide from God and the Gospel assures us that, no matter how bad we think we are, God looks on us in love. It is this realisation of being unconditionally loved by God that gives us the confidence to hand over our flawed self to God who will recreate us 'in the goodness and holiness of truth'. Only in this way can the deep self-interest that drives so many of our thoughts/deeds be satisfactorily fulfilled.



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

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.'

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God."'

And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That,' said Moses to them, 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

Responsorial Psalm

.Ps 77

R. *The Lord gave them bread from heaven.*

1. The things we have heard and understood, the things our fathers have told us, we will tell to the next generation: the glories of the Lord and his might. **(R.)**

2. He commanded the clouds above and opened the gates of heaven. He rained down manna for their food, and gave them bread from heaven. **(R.)**

3. Mere men ate the bread of angels. He sent them abundance of food. He brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:24-35

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to

Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FIRMIO

We experience many hungers in our life-time – bodily hunger, hunger for friendship, acceptance by others, company, security, good health and hopefully, a deeper faith in God.

The people who followed Jesus must have felt a hunger of some kind – maybe for Jesus' teaching, so different from the Scribes and Pharisees; maybe for relieving their hunger for free food as Jesus accused them of. Jesus tried to open their minds to the fact that God was going to give them the true bread that gives life to the world. When the people asked to be given that bread always, Jesus replied "I am the bread of life, the one who comes to me will never be hungry". Imagine their confusion – bread was bread – how could anyone give their own body as food!

We can take the Eucharist for granted, forgetting the truth hidden in what seems a piece of bread. What are my thoughts as I put out my hands to receive "the bread of life"? Do I do this automatically? Do I really and truly believe it is the Body of Christ? Do I hunger for a deeper faith?

These Sundays are a good time to re-read the Gospel and reflect on this wondrous.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be on this weekend, 4th August at Sacred Heart Church. All children are welcome.

CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a Cuppa and Chat after 10.00am Mass Sunday 4th August at Sacred Heart Church. It's a great way to meet fellow Parishioners and catch up with friends. All welcome.

MASS OF ANOINTING

Wednesday 7th August at Sacred Heart Church 9.15am.

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL



Our Prep students are 100 days BRIGHTER 🌈 Today they celebrated all of the learning and growing they have done in their first 100 days of school! They enjoyed sharing their projects, reading their sentences, delicious donuts and time with their buddies, dancing and a special visit from Fr Binh! Special

thank you to our two wonderful Prep educators, Caitlin and Bree for putting on an amazing day for the students! Happy 100 days of school Preps.

ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

Also celebrated 100 days of prep. Seems like yesterday they were learning the alphabet and now they're practically experts on everything.

We're so proud of our preps and all they have achieved. Here's to many more days ahead of learning and fun ahead. Wishing them all the success in their future.

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL

Such an emotional day as we farewelled our beloved Fr Binh. The love and gratitude for Fr Binh was beautifully expressed today through words, song, drawings from the children and prayer. Our School Advisory Chair, Hamish, spoke of the significant role he has played in leading our school community as Parish Priest and the legacy he will leave behind. Our School Principal, Kaylene, expressed just how much Fr Binh means to our school community. Our children showed their gratitude for Fr Binh in their own special way with warm hugs and smiles. Cath baked some of her famous scones for morning tea and the Preps invited Fr Binh to join them in their 100 days celebration. We will miss you Fr Binh, but you will always be a special part of our Sacred Heart family.



ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION CALENDARS 2025

Are available to order for \$11.00 each. To place your order, please contact Ivana at the Parish Office on 3931 1201.

PARISH NEWSLETTER NOTIFICATIONS

Please submit all notifications for the newsletter e.g. sick, anniversaries, recently deceased by Thursday 5.00pm via phone, email or place a note in the letter box. Thank you for your assistance.

OUR SICK

Neil Shepherd, Romano, Serken Taylan, Jo Vassallo, Shirley Farrar, Branko Ujelac, Michelle Jenkins, Anne Sheahan-Lee, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanum, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly.

ANNIVERSARIES

Slavko Saric, Saric Family, Juric Family, Pervan Family, Carmelo Meilak, Giuseppe Acciarito, Francesco Meilak, Paul Costa.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Edna Fitzgerald

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.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL 2024

Catholic Mission thanks the parish of St Joseph's for your support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$355.00 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Cardinal Giorgio Marengo from Mongolia can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education, as well as spiritual and physical well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in need. Many thanks!

HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE IMPACT THROUGH PROJECT COMPASSION 2024

Project Compassion 2024 has wrapped up for another year, and we are filled with gratitude for the incredible commitment and compassion demonstrated by your parish throughout Lent.

We are thrilled to announce that Project Compassion 2024 has raised an astounding \$9.7 million to help vulnerable communities globally. Your parish has played a vital role in fostering hope, standing in solidarity and acting as a beacon of hope, for all future generations to come. We would like to express our sincere thanks for your active participation in Project Compassion, and we look forward to continuing on this meaningful journey together again next year. Together we are creating a legacy of compassion that resonates far beyond the walls of our parishes.

'A FATHER LOOKS AFTER HIS KIDS': FR KARMELE BORG'S 64 YEARS AS A PRIEST

Reflecting on his long journey in priestly ministry, Fr Karmele Borg says, 'It was a great gift from God to me; I didn't want to retire.' Fr Karmele was born in Malta, one of 12 kids, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1960. To continue reading, please visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-father-looks-after-his-kids-fr-karmele-borgs-67-years-as-a-priest>

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.

ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

O St Margaret Mary, through you, Jesus pours
out His abundant graces on 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.

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.	