

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

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport

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Mass Times

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 Priest

Fr Samuel Kapani PP

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong- *Chairperson*

E: newport.spotswood-PPC@cam.org.au

Parish Office Hours

Tue–Fri – 9am – 2:30pm

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson

Irene Bongetti

Carmel Crawford

Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti

Maureen Llewellyn

Michael Nardella

Tricia O'Shea

Rose Santo

Choir

Larissa Cairns – *Director*

Catholic Primary Schools

Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin

T: 9391 6262

E: principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge

T: 9391 3118

E: principal@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding

The Parish of St Joseph, Newport and Spotswood, holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children, young people and all vulnerable people/adults as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

11 MAY 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

The liturgies of the last two Sundays have led us to reflect upon the apostles' coming to faith on the Risen Lord. As they shared this faith with the first generation of Christians, the image of Jesus as 'shepherd and guardian' of God's people (1 Peter 2:25) established itself in Christian consciousness. One of the Church's first representations of the Saviour portrayed him as a youthful shepherd with a sheep on his shoulders - no doubt indicating that when they heard the parable of the lost sheep, the first Christians instinctively identified the shepherd of the parable with the Risen Lord.

The image has a long pre-history. In Old Testament times, the peoples of the Middle East, had a old tradition that spoke of a king as 'shepherd' of his people. Though these ancient rulers were all too often exploiters of their subjects, this remarkable ideal of humble service lived on in the peoples' traditions. In the outlook of old Israel, something remarkable occurred when this image was associated with the God of the covenant, the champion of the oppressed - who rebuked the nation's rulers through his prophet: 'You have failed to bring back strays or look for the lost ... I myself shall take care of my flock' (Ezekiel 34). This arresting theme is echoed in the psalms, Israel's confession of faith – in Psalm 99 used in today's liturgy, and in the familiar Psalm 23.

Against this background, the New Testament passages that speak of Jesus as 'shepherd' ('when the chief shepherd appears, you will be given an unfading crown of glory', 1 Peter 5:4; 'the God of peace brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep', Hebrews 13: 20) take on a new depth of meaning – a meaning that is fully expressed in today's short gospel reading from John.

'The Father and I are one': with these final words of the fourth gospel's long and familiar passage on the 'shepherd' theme, Jesus makes it clear that, in his role as 'shepherd', he identifies himself with the Shepherd who is the God of Israel – full expression of the Father's being. Because he speaks with the fullness of the divine authority, true believers 'listen to his voice'; he is the very Author of 'eternal life'. The first two readings complement this affirmation, by celebrating the universal nature of his flock: before the throne of the one who laid down his life for them are gathered 'people from every nation, race, tribe and language'; his 'salvation reaches the ends of the earth'.

How should we live out our faith in the Risen Lord? Let us learn from first generation of Christians who did so by owning him as their 'Good Shepherd' – by 'listening to his voice' as they pondering all that the great truths of faith offered them, and by living in the hope he brought to the world as he 'led them to springs of living water'.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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

Acts of the Apostles

13:14, 43–52

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to the synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God has given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 99:1–3, 5

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy. (R)

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R)

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. (R)

2nd Reading

Apocalypse 7:9, 14–17

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jesus said:

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

John
10:27–30

A Historical Snippet

Sacred Heart Church, Newport

1895 New Church (known as St Joseph's) built at Newport

In 1916 St. Joseph's Newport was formally announced as the Parish of Sacred Heart Newport. The following is from the Williamstown Advertiser 18 November 1916.

"St. Mary's Parish, Williamstown, has been undergoing a gradual process of sub-division. At one time it included Footscray, which was formed into a separate parish after the land boom; more recently, Werribee was cut off and formed into a parish by the inclusion of Little River, which had previously been attached to Geelong; now Newport is cut off and will be under separate government from tomorrow.

The new rector will be the Rev J. J. Cussack, parish priest at Gordons, a wealthy charge not far from Ballarat. The cold mountain air, however, has not agreed with Father Cusack and he has found a change imperative.

Father Cusack is well known in Williamstown and highly esteemed. He is a close personal friend of the parish priest at Williamstown, Rev. Father Brazil."

1917 Blessing of Sacred Heart Presbytery

1922 Blessing of Sacred Heart Convent

Parish Priests

1916-37 Fr John J. Cusack

1937-49 Fr J. L. Gorry

1949-73 Fr Leo Curran

1974-75 Fr J. Gallagher

1975-76 Fr J. B. Gwillam

1976-89 Fr Des Cameron

1989-2014 Fr Joe McMahon

2015-16 Fr Ian Ranson

2016-17 Fr Anthony Gnanapragasam

2018-24 Fr Binh Le

2024- Fr Samuel Kapani

(An extract from **Stone, Wood and Glass: Celebrating a Community of Strength, Growth and Light** compiled by Timothy Crawford, 1995)

PARISH NEWS

PARISH OFFICE

Please note: due to change of circumstances our parish office is currently unattended. However, your enquiries are important to us and will be responded to as quickly as possible. We thank you for your understanding.

PARISH MASS COUNT 2025

This year, the four weekends of 3-4 May, 10-11 May, 17-18 May and 24-25 May have been selected for the count.

FR. SAMUEL INSTALLATION MASS

Please stay after Sacred Heart Mass today to congratulate Fr. Samuel on his installation as Parish Priest. See invitation below:



GRADE 6 CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the Grade 6 students from St. Margaret Mary and Sacred Heart who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Patrick's Cathedral this week.

A BLESSING FOR MOTHERS THIS MOTHER'S DAY

Heavenly Father,

Today, we lift up every mother into Your loving care.

We thank You for the gift of mothers—those who gave us life, those who raised us, and those who have nurtured us in ways seen and unseen. Bless them with strength, joy, and peace.

We remember the mothers who now dwell in Heaven. Though their voices are silent, their love echoes in our hearts. Comfort those who miss them deeply today. Let their memory be a light that never fades. We pray for single mothers, who carry so much alone. Pour out Your grace upon them. Provide the support, rest, and courage they need each day. Bless the mothers who are grieving—a child lost, a hope unfulfilled, or a distance they cannot cross. Wrap them in Your mercy, and remind them they are never alone. We hold close the hearts of women who long to be mothers, those in waiting, and those walking through infertility or loss. May they feel seen, loved, and gently held by You. For the mothers raising children with special needs, the foster and adoptive mothers, the stepmothers, the grandmothers raising grandchildren, and every woman who mothers others through love and care—strengthen them with patience, compassion, and wisdom. And finally, bless all who are missing a mother's love, whether through absence, conflict, or loss. Be their comfort and their peace. May this day be filled with love that heals, memories that warm, and gratitude that uplifts. Let every mother feel honored today and always.

Amen.

OUR SICK

Helen Kelly

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Elias Saliba, Francesca Rundo, Michelina Basilone, Nicoletta Del Grosso, Rosaria Mangion, Concetta Basilone

INVITATION: THE VIBRANT PARISH FORMATION

Based on the Take the Way of the Gospel Framework for Parish Renewal, speakers and presenters will inspire participants to animate and strengthen the 5 characteristics of a vibrant parish: worship, evangelisation, formation, fellowship, and service.

Open to all who hope for parishes that nurture and send forth disciples. Come and connect with people from other parishes and communities and discover new opportunities for mission.

This new formation series will be held over 5 sessions:

- Wednesdays (6.30pm - 9pm): 14 May 2025, 11 June 2025, 2 July 2025, 13 August 2025, 10 September 2025
- Club Italia, 128-132 Furlong Road, Sunshine

Trybooking Link: [The Vibrant Parish Formation Series Tickets, Various Venues | TryBooking Australia](#)

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS' COLLEGE OPEN DAY

We are delighted to invite you and your family to our Open Day at Mount St. Joseph Girls' College - a wonderful opportunity to experience firsthand the vibrant learning environment, strong community spirit, and outstanding opportunities that await your child. Sunday 18 May 10:00am - 2:00pm. Please register your intention to attend.



POPE LEO XIV

Pope Leo XIV has opened his pontificate with words of peace and hope. 'Peace be with you!' the Holy Father said as he stepped out on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica. The newly elected leader of the Catholic Church greeted the faithful in his Urbi et Orbi blessing and spoke of the need to 'build bridges with dialogue and encounter' as a 'missionary church'.

To read more see link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-leo-xiv-opens-his-pontificate-with-peace>

PARISH COLLABORATION

In the spirit of continued collaboration with St. Mary's Williamstown, our two parishes will continue to share resources and work together. Fr. Greg and Fr. Samuel will continue to share pulpits and work with the Combined Parish Youth Group while discerning additional future initiatives and opportunities for the benefit of all.

The 4 combined parishes from our local area will meet again on May 27. St. Joseph members are Fr. Samuel, Marlene Monahan, and Tony Nicholson.



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 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.

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.

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 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

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

1st Collection

Supports: *Parish clergy,
Sick and retired priests,
Priests in needy Parishes,
Archbishops & auxiliary
bishops.*

2nd Collection

Supports: *Parish running costs,
Parish Pastoral initiatives,
Diocesan and various services.*

**If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program,
and receive a thanksgiving envelope no. please contact
the parish office.**

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now
have portable smart terminals available in foyer



JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

If you would like to join our parish
thanksgiving program electronically or
make a one-off gift to the church scan
this QR code and follow the prompts.
Thank you for your continued support.

