

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

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport

T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

W: www.stjosephs3015.com.au

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 Secretary

Imma Marguglio

Parish Office Hours

Wed–Fri 9am – 2:30pm

Parish Bookkeeper

Leanne Misquitta

Parish Finance Committee

Martin Kruse – *Chairperson*

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong – *Chairperson*

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

Parish Safeguarding Group

JP Eid – *Chairperson*

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

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

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

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31 AUGUST 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

'Jesus was sometimes invited to a meal by those who were curious to hear him. They were sometimes unfriendly to him we know from the gospel accounts. But most of his hosts were probably motivated by curiosity to hear what this teacher who was making such a stir had to say. This reconstruction of one such meal by Luke shows the Saviour's skills as a teacher; and the kind of challenge he brought to those who were leaders in the community. Those at table with are 'watching him closely'; he knows that he is expected to entertain them with his table talk. He uses as his starting point what has been taking place as the guests assembled. To our modern ears, it all seems rather stilted; but the scene described by Jesus was familiar to his listeners, and taken for granted by them, as the customary way to behave in a culture with rules of status and precedence that were very complex – determined by such things as age, learning, public standing and wealth. This situation provides the material of a parable that invites his listeners to see beyond these old conventions. He who is happy to make himself the servant of all and urges his followers to do the same knows how important the openness and generosity of true humility will be in the life of his disciples when his mission has been accomplished in Jerusalem – for 'God opposes the proud but gives his blessings to the humble' (James 4:6). There is a lesson here for every Christian community: the quality of the relationships that make up a community will be the measure of the blessings they receive, and the effectiveness of their missionary outreach. But Jesus has a deeper lesson to give. He uses the rapport he has established with his audience to speak to them of the revolutionary ways of God, the main burden of his preaching. 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast', he begins – not wanting to offend them by making too obvious reference to the behaviour he has observed; but also, probably, pointing to the messianic theme he will take up later, after one of the guests has commented, 'Blessed is anyone who will share the meal in the kingdom of God'. His reference to seeking the 'place of honour' is an echo of his criticism of the Pharisees for liking 'to take the seats of honour at the synagogue' (Lk 11:43). His story of 'invited guests' probably also challenges the presumption of the 'leading Pharisees' that their strict observance marked them out as the 'elect', or chosen ones, of God, certain to take part in the messianic feast. This is backed up by the parable to which we have made reference that follows on from today's reading. It tells of the guests who do not accept their invitation to the banquet, and are replaced by 'the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame'. In today's reading, Jesus has already startled his listeners by saying that God will bless those who invite these very ones to their table. These interpreters of the Law, he knows, forbade entrance to the temple to the lame and the blind.



Next Weekend's Roster – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturgy Roster
Saturday, 6 September 2025	Clare Martin	Irene Bongetti	Katherine Wong	n/a	Carmel Crawford
Sunday, 7 September 2025	Thang Nguyen	Ivan Vadjal	Bang Bui	Parish Choir	

Counting team (week beginning Sept 8): Team A – Helen, Angela, Rose

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 **Ecclesiasticus 3:17–20, 28–29**

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.
The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.
There is no cure for the proud man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 67:4–7, 10–11**

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **(R)**

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **(R)**

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **(R)**

2nd Reading **Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24**

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses:
not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or
a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice
speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no
more should be said to them. But what you have come to
is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly
Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered
for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone
is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have
come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been
placed with spirits of the saints who have been made
perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new
covenant.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle
and lowly in heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7–14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

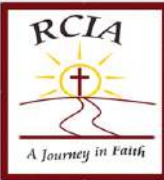
REFLECTION

Sr. Mary Fermio

Remember the days of debutante balls where the places of honour were for the official party, usually including the Priest of the Parish. They welcomed the debts and their partners, and had special tables at supper. We still have places of honour at certain events and celebrations eg weddings, 21st birthdays, State functions.

In this parable, Jesus is telling us we are all invited to the Kingdom, no matter what our standing in society. Kings and Queens will be on equal footing with the beggar on the street. And this banquet is the only one that counts. No greater tragedy can happen to us than to miss out. So, we must beware of "turning our nose up" at others whom we consider of lesser importance.

So, am I working to make sure I have a place at the banquet table? Do I go out of my way to welcome strangers at Mass? If not, why not?



At St Joseph's Parish, Newport and Spotswood we welcome people who are searching for spiritual meaning in their lives or for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. The RCIA is a process of reflection and learning for those who are not baptised and wanting to find out more about Catholic faith, and for those already baptised in another Christian tradition who now desire to further their faith journey with the Catholic Church.

A new group is beginning their journey in September 2025 and you are welcome to join us.

Please contact Fr Samuel if you are interested to find out more:
Newport.Spotswood@cam.org.au 03 9391 1201

Parishioners you can help!

Perhaps you know someone who is asking questions about faith or about becoming Catholic, you might like to invite them to contact Fr Samuel and accompany them in finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe, how we celebrate our faith and live our lives.

RECENT PPC MEETING

Our parish pastoral council met on Thursday the 21st of August. The following are some highlights from the meeting. Our parish schools are doing an amazing job in developing resilience and Catholic identity through a range of comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based activities. Our principals also had the amazing opportunity to undertake a transformative pilgrimage to many holy places that were critical to the formation of the church. Our safeguarding committee is seeking two additional volunteers to help ensure our churches are a safe place for all. We are planning for our end of year parish forum, an opportunity to come together to hear from each other.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Our Parish Safeguarding Committee is currently looking for 2 more volunteers. If you are interested in contributing to the development and implementation of safeguarding policies and are passionate about ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children in our parish community please contact Fr Samuel for more information.

ROSARY GROUP

Please join our Rosary Group on 1st September (First Monday) at 1 pm, Jubilee Centre, Newport

PARISH NEWS

Please pray for :

OUR SICK

Helen KELLY

Kristy ROBINSON

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary GRECH

Carmelo BRIFFA

Annunziata BRIFFA

Salvatore FALZON

RECENTLY DECEASED

Gerald O'HARE

Anthony WALSH



I let my joy free

Lord, I let my joy free,
like a bird, up to the sky.
The night has flown by,
and I delight in the light.
I delight in creation,
and the knowledge that you
are behind it,
and beside, and before, and above it.
And in us too.
I feel my body alive,
and give thanks.
Allelulia, Lord.



Excerpt from an African Prayer



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Please remember in your prayers the police officers killed in Porepunkah this week, as well as their families, co-workers and communities. We also offer our prayers for all those affected by the school bus crash in Geelong, that the community will rally to comfort them as they mourn the death of a child and support all those affected by this accident.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

Congratulations to all the children receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend. May they enjoy the divine presence of Jesus in their lives. May God bless and guide them always.



REQUEST FOR HELP

Do you have a treadmill at home that you no longer need and would like to re-home? Our local St. Vincent de Paul group have had a request for a simple treadmill to enable a person in need to exercise safely at home. If you can help, please contact Maria on 0430-029-975.

JOIN OUR PARISH MAILING LIST!

Stay connected with all the latest news and events from our parish. Simply scan the QR code to join our mailing list to receive our weekly Newsletter.



PARISH CALENDAR & COMMUNITY OBSERVANCES

AUGUST

30/31: First Eucharist

SEPTEMBER

4th : SMM SAC Meeting

5th : Friday Parish Morning Tea

7th : Father's Day

7th: Cuppa and Chat (SH)

18th: PFC Meeting

20th: Baptisms at Sacred Heart

20th: Cuppa and Chat (SMM)

21st: International Day of Peace



SH: Sacred Heart SMM: St Magaret Mary's PFC: Parish Finance Committee PPC: Parish Pastoral Council SAC: School Advisory Council

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting
Tuesday, 24 September 2025 19:00 – 20:00

Location: via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation.

Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison

Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au



In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2025

The 2025 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. These ministries are outlined in the campaign brochure which you will find in your pew and in the foyer today.

Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, the University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants.

Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries.

Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Caritas Australia: Gaza Pledge

By September 9, changes to registration processes for international NGOs threaten to drastically reduce the already insufficient flow of food, water, and medicine into Gaza. While Caritas Australia's locally embedded partners remain unaffected, Caritas Australia has launched a pledge to acknowledge the devastating impact of any further reduction in aid to Gaza.

To learn more and sign the pledge: caritas.org.au/gaza.

Support through signing and sharing the pledge -

closes this Sunday 31 August 2025

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

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



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

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

JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

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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.

