



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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

25th 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
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.

REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

There is a time for talking and there is a time for decision. Our talk can be illuminating and instructive but we can't cover everything that needs to be said or should be said, and our talk can't make our decisions for us or make others decide. In the end, we have to consider what we know, interpret our experience and decide what we are going to do. This is the case for discipleship in particular because the Bible words are designed to enable us to commit ourselves to God in fruitful relationship. In our first reading, Joshua has delivered two sermons to the people in chapters 23 and 24 on the good things that God has done for them and the importance of remaining loyal to the covenant relationship. But, he can't secure that loyalty. They have to be free to make the commitment, and in our reading they do just that. But one does not have to read too far beyond the book of Joshua to realise how fragile such professions of loyalty can be. A change in generations, a change in circumstances and things can fall apart. It is testimony to Israel's honesty that they did not conceal these failures. The Gospel passage brings John's account of the loaves and fish and the long dialogue with the Jews about the bread of life to a close. It's now decision time and Jesus challenges his listeners (and the readers of the Gospel) to make their decision for or against him, even though he 'knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him'. One might ask, if he knew beforehand who would not accept his teaching then why bother preaching to them? Two responses come to mind. One is that his knowledge does not presumably impinge on their freedom to decide one way or the other. As God, Jesus knows but does not coerce; rather he weeps over those who will reject him. A second response that is perhaps easier to get our heads around is that the message of truth needs to be spoken even to those who reject it. To avoid doing so would be a dereliction of his mission to humanity and of his obedience to the Father's will. God's will is that all be saved and there is always the hope that down the track, those who reject the truth will be moved to hear it again and accept it. On behalf of the twelve, Peter makes a heroic decision to stick with Jesus in the face of rejection and departure by 'many of his disciples'. It is crucial profession of faith in John's Gospel, a parallel to the profession by Peter in Matthew 16, but like its Synoptic parallel it does not guarantee their lasting loyalty. They remain flighty, fragile disciples.

Where might we find a model of the kind of discipleship that remains loyal throughout the highs and lows of human experience? The reading from the letter to the Ephesians invites us to consider married life. Such is the importance of married loyalty in the eyes of the author of the letter that it becomes a visible sign, almost a sacramental sign, of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Married life is a relationship of loyalty that has to be lived out day-by-day. Although our understanding of the way the relationship between husband and wife is to be lived out may have changed significantly over the centuries the principle which the author bases his reflections is as valid as ever – 'Give way to one another in obedience to Christ'. This principle calls for the constant sacrifice of oneself for the Christian welfare of the other, however one enacts this in different cultures and times. In living this way we are doing as Jesus does, and we are also doing it to Jesus. As he says in Matthew 25:40 'in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me'.



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

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm

.Ps 33

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord..

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. **(R.)**
3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **(R.)**
4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R.)**
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with nospeck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his

father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

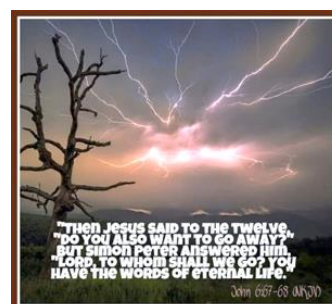
Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FIRMIO

Sometimes we can be disillusioned by the Church, leaders and people. At these times we have to make a choice. Some leave, finding their faith less important, or not strong enough; others stay, knowing we are all sinners, and we all make mistakes at times – and we are the Church.

Some of the followers of Jesus turn away and leave, because he said they would eat his flesh. Instead of trying to understand or wait for an explanation, they find it too hard. There is no sitting on the fence – you follow Jesus, or you turn away. Our faith is an encounter with our God and Peter realized this when asked "Will you too go away?" Peter in his reply called Jesus, "Lord". The Jewish people only called God "Lord", so he was acknowledging his faith in Jesus. The knowledge of what this meant grew, as he learnt more about what it meant to follow Jesus.

When following Jesus becomes difficult and calls for harder decisions, can I like Peter, dig deep and deepen my faith. Can I still call Jesus, "Lord"? We can strengthen our faith by increasing our knowledge by reading, prayer and listening to God's word.



1ST HOLY COMMUNION



Congratulations to the children at Sacred Heart School and St Margaret Mary's who will be receiving their 1st Holy Communion this weekend. May they enjoy the divine presence of Jesus in their lives. May God bless and guide them always.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy this weekend, 25th August at Sacred Heart Church due to 1st Holy Communion. Children's Liturgy will commence on Sunday 1st September.

CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a Cuppa and Chat after 10:00am Mass Sunday 1st September at Sacred Heart Church. It is a great way to meet fellow Parishioners and catch up with friends. All welcome.

ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION CALENDARS 2025

Are available to order for \$11.00 each. To place your orders please contact Ivana at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or via email. Orders will close off on the 20th Sept to ensure they arrive in time for those who have purchased calendars as Christmas gifts.

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.

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.

ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

We kickstarted Book Week with our annual Book Week Parade. It's always amazing to see the effort our students and staff put into their costumes, showing off their favourite characters. This week, we've got a range of activities lined up to keep the focus on reading and creativity. From buddy reading sessions, author visits, and even a concert, there's something for everyone



2024 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

The 2024 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. Gifts over \$2 or more are tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishops' Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priest's Retirement foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Nontax deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Project Fund and support seminarian formation and

OUR SICK

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Antonio Meilak, Carmelo & Maria D'Urso

RECENTLY DECEASED

evangelisation ministries. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift to help us continue to strengthen the Christian faith and address the needs of God's people. You can also make a gift online at <https://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign> We invite you to give generously to this important campaign.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT CALLS FOR TRUTH AND PEACE IN A VIOLENT WORLD

Australia's Catholic bishops say peace is possible if people commit to speaking the truth and redouble efforts to end war. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has released the Social Justice Statement for 2024–25, entitled Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World. Every year, in time for Social Justice Sunday—marked this year on 25 August—the bishops seek to make a substantive comment on a key social issue. This year the focus is on the promotion of peace and the need for truth in public life. 'Words are never enough to make peace—action is required,' writes Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB in the foreword to the statement. 'Words such as those found in this statement can help us understand the current situation and how we might work together to create a world which better matches both human desire and the divine plan.' The statement examines rising tensions around the world, the nature of truth. To continue reading, please visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/social-justice-statement-calls-for-truth-and-peace-in-a-violent-world>

FR FRANKIE MULGREW: 'GOD WANTS US TO HAVE JOY'

Have you ever doubted the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist? At some point in our lives, many of us have asked the question: 'Jesus, is it really you?' It's certainly a question Fr Frankie Mulgrew, Chaplain at the Mission House in Argyll, Scotland, has asked himself. He had been practising the faith for three years when he attended a retreat and, during Mass, had the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. Longing to know if it was really Jesus, he remembers praying, 'Show me, because I'm completely open.' 'When I received Holy Communion,' Fr Frankie explains, it felt like someone was 'reaching into your chest, pulling out your heart, opening your heart, placing lots and lots of lit candles into your heart and then closing your heart once it's full of all this fire.' God had worked miracles in Fr Frankie's life before, healing and freeing him from an unbearable burden To continue reading please visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/fr-frankie-mulgrew-god-wants-us-to-have-joy>

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

| 1 st Collection Presbytery Offering | 2 nd 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 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.