



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

Parish Office

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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 Administrator

Father Samuel Kapani PA

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong- *Chairperson*

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

Secretary

Enes Bowen

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.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

23 March 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THRONHILL sm

As we settle into our Lenten journey, the first two readings of today's liturgy remind us of our destination. And the gospel reading brings us the advice of Jesus to be alert, ready to enjoy the blessings that can be ours at the end of the journey.

The reading from Exodus is one of the most significant texts of the Old Testament – a graphic summary, in fact, of old Israel's faith. That faith derived its definitive shape under the leadership of Moses; in the name of God, he led the people out of slavery; as a prophet called by God, he made them aware that this deliverance was the work of the living God, revealed to them as the champion of the oppressed – in stark contrast to the gods of other peoples, venerated as the patrons of oppressive regimes. This break-through revelation is summed up in the divine name, Yahweh ('I AM WHO I AM'). The divine being affirmed in this name is an active-being-present ('I will be with you; I will express all that I am in what I shall do for you'). The call of Moses takes place at the Mountain of Horeb (another name for Sinai), where God's covenant with the liberated people will be solemnised – calling them to bring to the whole world the good news of God's generous and merciful ways.

Thirteen centuries later, standing in the fullness of light brought by the Paschal Mystery, Paul writes to the Corinthians, confidently interpreting the Exodus and Covenant of old Israel as a foreshadowing – or type – of the final liberation of humanity in the Risen Lord. And he initiates a Christian tradition that finds this foreshadowing in the details of the Old Testament story: passing through the sea to freedom – a foreshadowing of Baptism; the miraculous food and drink provided in the wilderness – a foreshadowing of the Eucharist; the rock providing miraculous water – a symbol of Christ. This dramatic interpretation Paul uses, however, as the lead-up to an admonition: those whom God liberated in the first Exodus 'failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert'. Their fate is a 'warning' to the Corinthian community – torn apart by disputes.

Paul's admonition serves as an introduction to the down to earth advice the Lord himself has for us in the gospel reading. News of catastrophes leads thoughtful people to reflect upon the meaning of life. Jesus warns against the common temptation to interpret the designs of God in such events. They should be a reminder to put our lives in order: 'Unless you repent you will all perish'.

Another Lent! How many Lenten journeys have we made – and with what profit to show? How many Lents will we see in the future? Luke – sensitive to the fullness of the Good News brought by the Saviour – links Jesus' call to conversion with the parable of the barren fig tree. As we ponder Lent's call to a more generous Christian commitment, we do so in the presence of the compassionate and patient God revealed to us in Jesus Christ: 'Leave it; it may bear fruit'.

The Feast of St Joseph Spotswood & Newport Reflection on Children Mass

*All springs are sprung
when lights of flood file in,
hands held together.
shushed a thousand times,
telling the finger held high
figuring them to be silent.
But oh what goodness there
myriad of stars they shine,
so many the faces
of innocence. No trial this
to see such sweetness,
just simple joy would make
the old in us weep
for all our complications.*

*The ready rolling
of the Mass,
begun, ending,
'and with your spirit'.
Such souls as these
not yet birthed to
crucibles of adolescence,
multitudes of light
filing in and out
- so many stars.*

by George Abrams

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

Exodus 3:1–8, 13–15

'Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slavedrivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1–4, 6–8, 11

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R)

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R)

I The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R)

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10–12

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them?

Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none.

He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."



PARISH NEWS

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy, Sunday the 30 of March at Sacred Heart Church at the 10am mass. Please also find copies of our children's newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to be able to drive fellow Parishioners to the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, if you can help contact the Parish office.

BAPTISMS

We congratulate and pray for the Aditya, Cunningham, Floros, Kennedy, Shelly, and Wong Yu families whose children were baptised at Sacred Heart last weekend. May the children and their families always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community.

ST JOSEPH PARISH FEAST DAY



As we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph this weekend, we will thank and bless all those who serve our community at our 10 am Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart.

We hope you will also stay and join us for a shared morning tea in the Sacred Heart school hall after 10am Mass. All welcome.

JOIN OUR PARISH MAILING LIST!

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



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Save the Date

Are you interested in becoming a Lector or Special Minister at Mass?

Please join us for a brief training and information session at Sacred Heart church on Thursday April 3 at 6.30 pm.

All new, and current, lectors and special ministers welcome.

COMBINED PARISH YOUTH GATHERING

Our next Combined Parish youth Gathering will be held Saturday 5th of April at 7:00pm-8:30pm.

We invite all Youth aged 13-18 years old to come and join us for a fun evening with pizza, religious talk reflecting on the mass readings and games. The youth will also be volunteering for this Saturday's mass at St Mary's Church (Williamstown) at 6pm.

Address for Youth Gathering:

St Mary's Parish Centre, 116 Cecil Street, Williamstown.

OUR SICK

Helen Kelly

RECENTLY DECEASED

Jela Juric, Anto & Mira Saric and Elizabet Kovac

ANNIVERSARIES

Maria & Joseph Galea

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us for the Stations of the Cross this year, a time of shared fellowship and prayer with our local parishes. Weeks 1 and 6: We will gather as a parish at Sacred Heart, Newport, and St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood. Weeks 2 to 5: We will be visiting other churches and joining them in their services. We hope this shared reflective fellowship will help us prepare for Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Friday, 28 March, 6pm St Leo the Great, Altona North

Friday, 04 April, 6pm St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Williamstown

Friday, 11 April, 6pm St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood



Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.

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,
please contact the parish office for more information.***

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.

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 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