

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 Office Hours

Tue, Thu, Fri 9am – 2:30pm

Parish Staff

Leanne Misquitta (Bookkeeper)
Jill Dooley (Secretary)

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
Agnes Pak
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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 February 2026

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

In today's long gospel reading we continue the 'Sermon on the Mount'. As we have seen, in this discourse Matthew gathers fundamental teachings of Jesus which constitute a charter for the 'Kingdom'. Since Matthew's gospel was written for a community of Jewish converts, it is not surprising that this charter includes teaching concerning the attitude of Jesus to the traditions of old Israel. Understanding this teaching is important for Christians of later generations if we are to understand how we, as the new people of God, are related to the old Israel, and how we should understand the scriptures of the Old Testament. During his earthly life, Jesus was a faithful observer of Old Testament customs – though he was critical of the narrow interpretation given them by the leaders of the Jewish people. Clearly, the challenge he brought to the scribes and Pharisees led to confrontations in which he made it clear that he did not seek an abolition of the traditions of old Israel: his words, 'not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law' were spoken, no doubt, in such a debate. But the words which follow – 'until its purpose is achieved' – help us to understand what he meant when he declared, 'I have not come to abolish the Law and the prophets (i.e. the Old Testament scriptures and the traditions they fostered), but to complete them'.

The Old Testament was an expression of the Word of God, but it was an expression that was to give way to the absolutely final expression of the divine Word, in the life, death and resurrection of the one who was the divine Word Incarnate. The Old Testament gave witness to the eternal truth of God and God's designs for humanity, but it was only a witness in hints and shadows, giving rise to boundless expectations concerning the future. These expectations were fulfilled in Jesus Christ; but as Paul tells us in the second reading, this fulfilment was to be a stumbling block to those whose hopes were shaped by expectations of an earthly triumph of God's people – God's final self-expressions in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery was something greater, a 'hidden wisdom that God predestined to be our glory before the ages began'. The New Law, that 'completes' and 'achieves the purpose' of the Old Testament's hints and shadows, must, of course, be promulgated by the divine Lawgiver himself. Jesus intimates this in the remarkable series of instructions he gives to his followers. Referring to the divine commands of the Old Law ('you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors') he goes on to declare, as a Lawgiver of the same authority, 'But I say this to you'. The first Christians loved the Old Testament – its hints and shadows gave them a fuller understanding of what God did for the world in Christ.

Next Weekend's Roster – 1st Sunday of Lent

Ash Wednesday	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician
18th Feb - SH Newport 9.15 am	TBC Robert Spoljar	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
18th Feb - SMM S'wood 11.30 am	School Community	School Community	School Community	School Community
18th Feb - SH Newport 6.00 pm	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturg Roster
Saturday 21 Feb 2026	Clare Martin	Sr Lorraine	Lilly Mullins	n/a	Katherine Wong
Sunday 22 Feb 2026	Maria Main	Bang Bui	Branka Briffa	Martin Briffa	

Counting team (week beginning 22nd Feb): Team A – Helen, Angela, Rose

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Parish of St. Joseph, Newport and Spotswood, acknowledges the Yalukit-willam people of the Bunorong 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 15:15–20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you;

put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him;

whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;

he is almighty and all-seeing.

His eyes are on those who fear him,

he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless,

he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:1–2, 4–5, 17–18, 33–34

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R)

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R)

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R)

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R)

2nd Reading

Corinthians 2:6–10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:17–37

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

‘For] I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court [; if a man calls his brother “Fool” he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him “Renegade” he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny].

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

‘It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.]

‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all [, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black]. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

Reflection by Mary Fermio

We are all familiar with the scene in a classroom of children sitting around the teacher. A very good way of getting their full attention, and attentive listening.

Jesus gathers his disciples around him and teaches them as part of Israel's traditional method of teaching. Jesus's way of life was not just living according to the rules eg the commandments, and he assures them he is not abolishing their scriptures. Jesus' teaching confirms the teaching of Moses but takes it further. It is a matter of having a right heart and living virtuously, living up to the ideals of love, forgiveness and generosity – not just keeping the rules!

At the end of the day, I could ask: Do I need to forgive someone? Was I generous to those in need whom I met? Did I make someone's life better today? For Jesus, we do the best we can.

PARISH NEWS

2025 Annual Parish Forum

The Parish held its Annual Parish Forum on November 23 last year, followed by our Parishioner Luncheon. We thank all those who attended and all those who contribute to the life of our Parish. We had 58 parishioners in attendance and it was a wonderful opportunity to get together as a Parish, celebrate the vibrancy of our Parish, and plan for our future.

Following the forum, the Parish Pastoral Council Constitution and Guidelines were updated following a 3 year review and parishioner approval of modifications. This update is now available on our website: <https://www.stjosephs3015.com.au/resources>.

FROM LENT TO LIFE - Walking the way of Faith

Walking the way of Faith with Fr. Elio Capra - Salesians of Don Bosco Priest & Lecturer at Catholic Theological College Melbourne

Sat 21st February - 9.30 am till 3.00 pm
\$20 - Morning Tea & Lunch & Lenten gift bag
St. Peter Apostle Mission Parish,
38 Guinane Avenue, Hoppers Crossing.

Please register here -



Please pray for : RECENT DEATH

Maria GUSMAN

ANNIVERSARY

Addie GREEN

Rosaria MANGION

Rita & Pasquale

SARAGOZZA

Nicola NARDO

Frank FRANZE

SICK

John

Charles

Maree WALSH

Michelle NEWMAN

Helen KELLY

Kristy ROBINSON



Prayer to Prepare for Lent

Father, my heart longs to focus on you, to be fully yours as we remember the amazing gift of your son, Jesus Christ. Search me, Know me, Find everything in me that is fighting against fully surrendering to you. I need you, I need your cleansing, your forgiveness, I need your presence and your love.

Wash me with the blood of Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice given for my sins. Wash me so you see His righteousness when you look at me, instead of the stain of my sin and guilt. Give me a fresh start, making me whole and pure so I can come into your presence, be in fellowship with you. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



St Margaret Mary's Primary School - Spotswood

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Sunshine, live music and beautiful connections. ☀️
So lovely to see new and existing families, friends and staff coming together at our Welcome Picnic.

Thank you to Frasers Property (Bradmill) for sponsoring the bubble entertainment and supporting our community.

bradmillyarraville Frasers Property Home
#stmargaretmarysspotwood #smmsspotwood
#spotwoodshiddengem

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

FEBRUARY:

- 17th: Lunar New Year
- 12th: PFC Meeting
- 14th: Cuppa and Chat (SMM)
- 17th: Safeguarding Committee Meeting
- 18th: Ash Wednesday

- 18th: Project Compassion Begins
- 19th: PPC Meeting

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



NEWS/UPDATES

Parish Welcome for our New School Staff

During the week, Marlene presented a letter of welcome to new staff members who have joined our schools, on behalf of Fr Samuel and the Parish Belonging group. The Parish-School relationship continues to flourish at our schools and within the Parish of St. Joseph.

Thank you to Marlene and the Belonging group, and we offer a very warm welcome to the following new staff:
St. Margaret Mary's: Emily, Julia, Kristen, Mackenzie, Simon, Shannay, Chase and Evie
Sacred Heart: Laura, Eleanor, Bree, Brigid



VOLUNTEER REQUEST

We are looking for any volunteers who can assist with the "Live Stream" for Sunday Masses at Sacred Heart Church. There will also be training available. Anyone who are interested please email the Parish Office - Thursdays & Fridays 9.00 am till 2.30 pm
Thank you

Archdiocese Special Collections 2026

- 18 Feb-4 April
- 3 April
- 3 May
- 7 June-26 July
- 7 June

- Lent - Project Compassion
- Good Friday - Holy Places
- CatholicCare - Sunday Appeal
- Propagation of the Faith
- Winter Appeal - St Vincent de Paul Society

- 28 June
- 9-23 August

- Peter's Pence
- The Archbishop's Campaign

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.

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



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.

