



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

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

12th NOVEMBER 2023

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

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 Clergy

Father Binh Le PP

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong
Chairperson

Secretary & Safeguarding Officer

Ivana Toulmin
Tuesday & Friday: 9am – 5pm

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 are a number of passages in the gospels in which Jesus exhorts the disciples to 'stay awake' because he will come at an hour they do not expect. Reflection upon them in their respective contexts shows – to me at least – that they are not all to be understood in the same sense. The call to 'stay awake' can take on different shades of meaning depending on context and I comment on the other occurrences in their respective contexts. What then of its occurrence in the famous parable of the bridesmaids with their lamps? A clue to how to read the command to 'stay awake' is that all ten had a good nap while they waited for the bridegroom's arrival. The point of the parable is not to literally stay awake because this would mean censure for the wise bridesmaids as well as the foolish ones. The mention of 'wise' provides a second clue to the meaning of staying awake. The wise ones had made the best preparations they could (even though they had fallen asleep as they waited). Translate the parable into the language of Christian vocation and it is designed to remind us of our complete dependence on God our beginning and our goal. If we have this perspective we are wise indeed and well prepared for whatever eventuates.

Talk of being wise turns our attention to the first reading from the book of Wisdom. We can see here an Old Testament version of the play on the meaning of words and phrases that characterises a number of Jesus' sayings in the gospels. The writer lavishly celebrates the benefits Wisdom but there are a number of important caveats that caution those who think they may have it or perhaps have been disappointed in their search for it. The first is that one must love her; then she will be found. But when can you say you love wisdom? An invitation to reflection. The second is that one must watch for her early, which may well mean that learning wisdom from God involves a life-long commitment. Finally, the writer claims that Wisdom seeks 'those who are worth of her', but who would claim to be worthy? Perhaps to proclaim one's unworthiness is a sign of being worthy in the eyes of Wisdom.

While this writer is rightly celebrating the importance of wisdom he is gently but firmly hosing down expectations that it provides ready answers or quick fixes. Perhaps the author of Psalm 73 catches the Old Testament to wisdom well. This is a psalm by a person who after a long and bitter search for answers that would explain and satisfy his questions about good and evil came to see that the most important thing was the faith conviction that 'my flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever'. Psalm 63:3 says simply yet powerfully 'your steadfast love is better than life'.

The passage from 1 Thessalonians provides another angle on staying awake. Understandably, there was a strong expectation in the early church that the 'second coming' of Jesus would occur soon. This led to the conviction among some that those 'awake' at the time would be better off – they would see Jesus in his glory and receive their reward as he promised. Did this mean that the death of members of their community in the 'between time' was some sign of failure on their part as Christians or a judgement against them? It seems members of the community were worrying and grieving about their dead. Paul seeks to ease their anxiety by assuring them that being 'awake' when the Lord comes is no advantage over those who had died. All will enjoy the resurrection, those who are 'awake' and watching when the Lord comes (that is, being faithful disciples according to their vocation) and the dead, as long as they 'died in Jesus' (that is, as long as they 'stayed awake' by being faithful disciples during their lives).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Parish of St Joseph, Newport & Spotswood, acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the churches of Sacred Heart & 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

Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

4. On my bed I remember you.

On you I muse through the night

for you have been my help;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell

asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: HE IS HERE

Running throughout the readings this Sunday are themes of longing, seeking, and purposeful attentiveness. We are encouraged to remain alert to the presence of the Lord, who comes to us in every moment, and to be ready to welcome his second coming.

The First Reading describes how the spirit of Wisdom is eager to enter into our lives. She is always close by, sitting at our gates, waiting for us to greet her, so that she may richly bless our lives. Today's Psalm is a joyful prayer of desire for the Lord. The love of the Lord is better than life itself, and those who seek the Lord will be filled forever, as with a banquet.

In the Second Reading, the Christian community is reassured that our hope in the resurrection is not in vain. The longing and desire that we feel for God will be fulfilled both in life and in death.

Jesus uses a cautionary yet humorous parable to stress the importance of remaining prepared and hopeful for the coming of the Lord into our lives (Gospel). We are all invited to the banquet of the Lord, and yet we can become complacent about the abundant richness that our faith can bring. God is here with us now, but sometimes we may not be ready or do not have the light to see his presence amongst us.

This week, let us pray for a spirit of hopeful, joyful longing for the Lord, so that we may be fully ready to greet him when he comes into our life.

ST ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY AND LETTING OURSELVES BE LOVED

In the burning furnace of our faith is the fire of love for God and love of neighbour. These are the two hinges on which turns the whole Christian life. They are the two great commandments that Jesus distilled from all the many prescriptions and prohibitions of the law (Cf. Matt. 22:34-40). Loving God comes first followed by loving everyone and everything in his name. It's that beautiful, To continue reading visit: <https://www.thehookoffaith.com/single-post/st-elizabeth-of-the-trinity-and-letting-ourselves-be-loved>



CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa next Saturday 18th November after 5.30pm mass at St Margaret Marys Church. We look forward to seeing you.



ANNUAL PARISH FORUM & END OF YEAR LUNCHEON

We will hold our Annual Parish forum directly after 10.00am, Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 26th November. This will be followed by a full Sunday lunch for all Parishioners to be served in the Sacred Heart school hall. Please RSVP numbers(adults and Children) to the parish office by Thursday 16th November. All are Welcome.

COMBINED PARISHES YOUTH GATHERING

ALL YOUTH AGED FROM 13 TO 18 YEARS OLD, WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO COME AND JOIN OUR FIRST

YOUTH GATHERING!

A FUN EVENING INCLUDING:

- GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER
- FUN GAMES
- PIZZA

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 7.00-8.30PM

WHERE: ST MARY'S PARISH CENTRE (116 CECIL ST WILLIAMSTOWN)

An illustration of three young people, two men and one woman, standing together and smiling.

DEAF APPEAL 2023

This weekend there will be an extra collection for The John Pierce Deaf Centre. For more information please visit: <https://www.ipc.org.au/about-jpc/>

SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB: PARTY FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS

When: Saturday 18 November 2023 (8.00pm–10.00pm)
Where: School Hall, St Scholastica Church, 348 Burwood Highway, Bennettswood

The Southern Stars Social Club will be hosting a party for single Catholics between 28-60 years old at St Scholastica's, Bennettswood. All welcome!

Price: \$13 (includes supper and lucky door prize).

For more information, call Peter on 9885 2167.

CROATIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS IN SPRINGVALE

The Croatian Catholic community in Springvale marked its 40th anniversary last weekend, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli joining local chaplain Fr Vedran Lesic for a special Mass and dinner at the Croatian Centre of the Holy Spirit in Braeside. To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/croatian-catholic-community-celebrates-40-years-in-springvale>



OUR SICK

Anthony Peter Watt, Tibor, Luca Barun, Helen Kelly, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba, John, Anna.

ANNIVERSARIES

Carmelo Saviero, Peter Saviero, Giralomo Bisbano, Francis Ellarinas, Dan Murphy

RECENTLY DECEASED

Jim Sheedy

WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY DO WE WANT TO BE? ETHOS 2023 PANEL EXPLORES ETHICAL RESPONSES TO THE HOUSING CRISIS

As part of their Ethos 2023 series of events, the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the PM Glynn Institute recently hosted a thought-provoking panel discussion on how to achieve ethical housing policies. The evening also provided an opportunity to officially open ACU's new Julien O'Connell Lecture Theatre and to celebrate the man in whose honour it is named. To continue reading, visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/what-sort-of-society-do-we-want-to-be-ethos-2023-panel-explores-ethical-responses-to-the-housing-crisis>

PROCLAIM 2023: INSPIRING AND EQUIPPING CATHOLICS FOR MISSION

The inaugural Archdiocesan conference, Proclaim 2023, promises to be an inspiring and formative three-day event, with powerful keynote speakers and practical workshops to help you bring the joy of the Gospel to your local communities. To continue reading visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/proclaim-2023-inspiring-and-equipping-catholics-for-mission>

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD, ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Saturday 25 November 2023
10.00am–11.30am

On Saturday 25 November, three deacons will be ordained to the priesthood: Rev Tien Van Tran, Rev Doan Ngoc (Peter) Nguyen and Rev Thomas William Christie.



Jean-Sébastien Géry will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. Please pray for them as they embark on their priestly ministry in the service of God's people in the Archdiocese.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

We give thanks to all the Men and Women in our Armed Services who fought gallantly for our freedom in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations since. It is a time to not only remember those who have given their lives in service, but also to reflect on the historical events that led to this day of international significance.



MOVEMBER

Our Parishioner Anton Messina has been raising money for Movember since 2013. It's a great cause for men who are struggling with Mental Health issues. For those who would like to help Anton reach his target, please go to <https://au.movember.com/mospace/8658521>

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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish clergy• Sick and retired priests• Priests in needy parishes• Archbishop & auxiliary bishops	To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 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.