

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.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

6 April 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

Today's gospel reading, the story of how the enemies of Jesus – 'looking for something to use against him' – brought before him an unfortunate woman guilty of adultery, is one of the most memorable incidents recorded in the gospels – full of encouragement for us as we come towards the end of our Lenten journey. As we have recalled more than once, the four gospels of the New Testament bring together many small stories current in early Christian preaching. Today's gospel is a story that survived independently of the canonical gospels - to be incorporated in the text of John's gospel in about the third century. Scholars judge that it probably came originally from the pen of Luke. It is an appropriate choice for our Lenten liturgy. As we listen to the story, we are invited to join the crowd around Jesus witnessing the woman's humiliation. If we have been guilty of serious failures, we are invited to meet the merciful love of God – a realistic love that invites the woman to acknowledge her 'sin'; but at the same time sends her away with a new sense of her own worth: 'Neither do I condemn you, go away and don't sin anymore'. As the amazing story of how Jesus challenged those who dragged the unfortunate woman before him unfolds, each of us is invited to identify with God's compassionate ways – perhaps, our complacency is making us blind to our hidden selfishness.

Today's first reading comes from the time of exile. In the midst of apparent failure, the prophet – in the name of God – has an astounding message of hope. A 'new' intervention of God, like a new Exodus, is promised. As a consequence, the people God has made his own will 'sing his praises'.

As is so often the case in the Church's liturgy, the reading from Paul is a celebration of fulfilment – what was promised and foreshadowed in the Old Testament reading has been realised! This reading brings together – simply but very effectively – some of the principal themes of Paul's teaching. It can give a focus to our reflections in the last stage of our journey towards the Easter celebration. Paul speaks of achieving 'perfection'. We will be misled by this term if we do not recognise that it belongs to the language of old Israel. Before his conversion, Paul sought to serve God by perfect observance of the prescriptions of the Law – 'the perfection that comes from the Law, by my own efforts'. His conversion has made him realise that true 'perfection' – the right relationship with God that he calls in other places 'justification' – is a gift of God, found 'through faith in Jesus Christ'. This powerful text helps us to appreciate all that this 'faith' implies for Paul. Far more than merely assenting to the right truths, it means 'knowing Christ Jesus my Lord' – a 'knowing' that is born of profound personal experience (as when someone says 'I have known success and failure'). 'Knowing' Christ, Paul says is sharing his very life, 'having a place in him'. Thus he 'shares Christ's sufferings' and 'the pattern of his death'. But through his faith in the Paschal Mystery, Paul 'knows' already 'the power of Christ's resurrection'; and his life is henceforth a 'straining ahead' to all that is promised to those who are faithful.

CONGRATULATIONS SR EMMA

On Friday 21 March, Sr Emma Llewellyn RSM (MEdTheol, GCDiv, GCRM 2025) delivered the valedictory address at a graduation ceremony for the University of Divinity held at St Patrick's Cathedral. To read Emma's speech, see the following link:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/shining-lamps-a-graduating-students-valedictory-message>

Congratulations Emma and we continue to keep you in our prayers.



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

Isaiah 43:16–21

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the
field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing
a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.
The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for
myself will sing my praises.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R)

The heathens themselves said: What marvels
the Lord worked for them!
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R)

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R)

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R)

2nd Reading

Philippians 3:8–14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme
advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have
accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so
much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in
him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the
perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the
perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God
and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of
his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the
pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place
in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect
yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture
the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you
my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I
can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still
to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God
calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

John 8:1–11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared
in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he
sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had
been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there
in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this
woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and
Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this
to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him
this as a test, looking for something to use against him.
But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with
his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up
and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be
the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and
wrote on the ground again.

When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning
with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman,
who remained standing there. He looked up and said,
'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'
'No one, sir,' she replied.
'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't
sin any more.'



REFLECTION SR MARY FERMIO

Have you ever been asked to do something you considered
stupid, a waste of time, utterly ridiculous? That you knew
differently! The wrong place, the wrong time, wrong person.
Peter must have felt like that when Jesus suggested they
go fishing in the daylight – didn't he know you fished at
night? Oh, well, let's play along – the fish won't be around.
How surprised he must have been, after risking his
reputation, to have the net filled with fish. How his mouth
must have gaped open. Realising this was Jesus' doing, a
miracle, he acknowledged his unworthiness. Peter's whole
way of life changed. He took a risk and followed Jesus.
What might Jesus call you to?
Can you trust Jesus enough to embark on a new or
different venture? A way of praying? A stranger to help? A
new neighbour?

PARISH NEWS

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will resume after School holidays on, Sunday 27 April at Sacred Heart Church at the 10am mass. Please also find copies of our children's newsletter.

LECTORS AND SPECIAL MINISTERS

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the lectors and special ministers who attended our information evening on Thursday, April 3rd. We hope the session was both informative and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. Your presence and participation are greatly appreciated.

Holy Week Program

Stations of the Cross

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 12 April Spotswood 5:30pm
Sunday 13 April Newport 10:00am

Holy Thursday, 17 April

The Lord's Supper Spotswood 7:00pm

Good Friday, 18 April

Passion of the Lord Newport 3:00pm

Holy Saturday, 19 April

Easter Vigil Newport 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, 20 April

Spotswood 8:30am
Newport 10:00am



OUR SICK

Helen Kelly

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES



Fifth Sunday of Lent

5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent

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

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.



Please see below Holy Week Rosters, thanks to all our volunteers who have signed up to serve the community. We still need x1 Lector for SHC 19/04 and PowerPoint operator for SHC 13/04 and 18/04, please contact the parish office if you can help out.

HOLY WEEK									
					Lectors	Special Minister	Ppoint	Choir/Music	Liturgy
Saturday	12/04/2025	5:30pm	SMMC	PALM SUNDAY	Khim Yap (L)	Ante Dragovic	Melissa Yap		
Sunday	13/04/2025	10:00am	SHC		Lucy Pace	Lucy Pace	X1		Katherine Wong
Thursday	17/04/2025	7:00pm	SMMC	LORD'S SUPPER	Janice Adams (L)	Ivan Vадnjаl	Bang Bui	Parish Choir	Katherine Wong
Friday	18/04/2025	3:00pm	SHC	PASSION of the LORD	Janice Adams & Lucia Pace (Passion Readers)	Ivan Vадnjаl	X1	Parish Choir	n/a
Saturday	19/04/2025	7:00pm	SHC	HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL	Maria Main(L) +1	Ivan Vадnjаl + Bang Bui	Bang Bui	Parish Choir	n/a Katherine Wong
Sunday	20/04/2025	8:30am	SMMC	RESURRECTION SUNDAY	Maureen Llewellyn	Irene Bongetti	Melissa Yap		Katherine Wong
Sunday	20/04/2025	10:00am	SHC		Carmel Crawford (L)	Lorriane Robinson	Neil Solomon	Henry Solomon	n/a

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 APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God,

the Father Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the

Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

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.

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

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



JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

→
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.

