



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

12th May 2024

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au
www.stjosephs3015.com.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 – 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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR B

REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

In the Gospel of John, the notions of resurrection, ascension and gift of the Spirit are condensed, as it were, into one act. The risen Jesus says to Mary, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father'. This rising and ascending Lord breathes the Holy Spirit on the disciples. And it all happens on one day of what is a 'new creation', the first day of the week, a clear echo of the first verses of Genesis. One might gain the impression that John is singling this 'day' and setting it apart from all other time. In one sense this is true but in another sense it isn't. Or rather, John claims that all time is now suffused with the divine presence manifested in this extraordinary moment. The divine, timeless one fills all time. The assurance of this is the gift of the Spirit to the ongoing community. Thankfully, there is no sense that one must give an account of every moment of our time that is now suffused with the divine presence. We don't have to be anxious to 'fill' it because God does that for us. Jesus takes whatever time is needed to meet the needs of the doubting Thomas.

For Luke, Jesus is also the 'mid-point' or apex of time but in a somewhat different way: there is the time leading up to the Jesus event and there is the time of the Church (the Holy Spirit) that follows the climax of the Jesus event (his death and resurrection). In order to show connections between the time of Jesus and the time of the Church, Luke lays out the resurrection, ascension and gift of the Spirit in what we might call a 'horizontal' schema, in contrast to John's more 'vertical' one. The presence of the resurrected Jesus among the disciples prompts them to ask 'Lord, has the time come?' This no doubt reflects speculation among certain groups in the early Church. If Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies then his appearance as the risen Lord must signal the onset of the end time. But, rather than the end time, Jesus tells the disciples of a 'new time', which will commence when they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, the disciples will become his witnesses on earth; in short, they and their successors will be Christ on earth through all the 'times and dates that the Father has decided by his own authority'. This statement by Jesus leads logically to Luke's presentation of the ascension. In a sense it is necessary, or perhaps better fitting, to have Jesus ascend, to leave our earthly realm. The ascension serves as an important assurance for faith that Jesus is truly our cosmic Lord, able to be present to all time and place just as he was present to the disciples after the resurrection. To have ongoing appearances of the risen Jesus to this or that individual or group would have led to conflicting claims and divisions Christianity (cf the competing claims over the holy places of Christianity). But, as the ascended Lord of history and creation, Jesus is able to be present to each and everyone at any time, any place. In traditional theological terminology, the transcendent one is able to be completely immanent without losing anything of transcendence.

Jesus also promises the disciples that they will receive power from the Holy Spirit. We human beings are creatures of limited power but acutely aware of how power can enable us to transcend our limitations. The Bible virtually begins with a story about power: 'eat this' the serpent urges and you will transcend your creaturely limitations and be like God. But so often, as we know to our cost in the modern world, our grab for power ends up being destructive rather than 'empowering'. The kind of power the Holy Spirit confers does not take us magically out of time (take this pill and live for 200 years!) or place (you can go anywhere you like!). Instead it inserts us more firmly, more incarnationally, into our world of time and place. As Jesus trudged the length and breadth of Palestine for days and weeks and years witnessing to the Good News so, promises Jesus, 'you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria and indeed to the ends of the earth'. And, as the reading from Mark emphasises, in the process they will be dealing with all kinds of individuals and will experience a corresponding mix of successes and failures.

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.

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@smmspotswood.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.

THE WORD OF GOD

First reading

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46

R. *God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Ephesians 4:1-13

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all. Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men. When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the

earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:9-17

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: GO OUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!

I come to pray the texts for the feast of the Ascension and ask the Lord for a deeper understanding of this mystery of Christ. Throughout the Eastertide readings, we have watched the disciples grow and mature in faith – I wish to do the same.

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles marks the end of Jesus's earthly ministry as he returns to the Father and promises to send the Holy Spirit. The Psalm is a joyful prayer of praise and an acclamation of Christ's victory. He is Lord of all people, of the universe.

St Paul describes the meaning of the Ascension – the Father has raised Jesus above all powers and made him Lord of creation. The gifts of the Spirit are given for the good of all, to lead us to full maturity in Christ. (Second Reading) In the Gospel, Jesus ascends to heaven and continues to work with his disciples as they preach the Good News. The signs he works confirm their message. This week, we might want to pray for the opportunity to proclaim the Good News to as many people as possible.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



At St Joseph's Parish, Newport and Spotswood, we welcome people who are searching for spiritual meaning in their lives or for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. The RCIA is a process of reflection and learning for those who are not baptised and wanting to find out

more about Catholic faith and for those already baptised in another Christian tradition who now desire to further their faith journey with the Catholic Church.

A new group is beginning their journey in May 2024 and you are welcome to join us.

Please contact Fr Binh if you are interested for further details or email to newport.spotswood@cam.org.au or call (03) 9391 1201.

Parishioners you can help!

Perhaps you know someone who is asking questions about faith or about becoming Catholic, you might like to invite them to contact Fr Binh and accompany them in finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe, how we celebrate our faith and live our lives.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY PETER HANSBY



May God bless you with good health, peace and joy as you celebrate this special day with loved ones, family and friends.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children Liturgy will be on this weekend, 12th May at Sacred Heart Church. All children are welcome.

ANNUAL PARISH MASS COUNT

This year, the four weekends of 4/5, 11/12, 18/19 and 25/26 May have been selected for the count. This annual count taken in May is important for pastoral planning activities and allows for comparisons to be made across the years.

PARISH CENSUS IN MAY

Throughout the last three weekends of 11/12, 18/19 and 25/25 May, our parish will undertake a census. Its aim is to accurately record and update parishioners' information for effective pastoral care, strategic planning, and resource distribution. This endeavour seeks to strengthen our parish's vitality, vibrancy and viability for the years ahead.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



"Lord God, we lift up all mothers to You. Grant them the strength to face the daily challenges with courage and the wisdom to guide their children towards a life of faith and service. Encourage them when they are weary and inspire them when they feel overwhelmed. Bless them with Your peace and love,

now and forever. Happy Mothers to all Mother's, Stepmothers, Grandmothers and all those who play an important role in a child's life.

OUR SICK

Edna Fitzgerald, Jett Guy, Kevin Foley, Anne Sheahan-Lee, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanam, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly and Barbara Boonzaayer.

ANNIVERSARIES

Melissa Boonzaayer, Michelina Basilone, Rosaria Mangion, Concetta Basilone, Nicoletta Del Grosso, Peter Jones

RECENTLY DECEASED

Xavier Affouye

BISHOP GREG BENNET ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) has a new vice-president after elections in Sydney. Bishop of Sale Greg Bennet will take on the role after Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher retired from the position at the end of the maximum three two-year terms. Archbishop of Perth, Timothy Costelloe, was re-elected president of the ACBC.



To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/bishop-greg-bennet-elected-vice-president-of-acbc>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY, ONLINE PHOTO EXHIBITION – VOTE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

To mark the 60th anniversary of Caritas Australia, we have compiled a selection of our favourite 60 photos. Vote for your favourite photo to go into the draw to win a beautiful Indigenous Australian artwork from Djilpin Arts, our First Australian partner in the Northern Territory. The artwork is a painting by Harry Malibirr which depicts five dreaming stories. Simply visit our website at <https://www.caritas.org.au/faces-of-caritas-australia-60th-anniversary>, choose a photo from the gallery and vote via the online form. Entries close 30 June 2024

CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

For those that still have Catholic Care Victoria appeal envelopes can you please return at Mass this weekend. The Mission provides care and support for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community and is grateful for all the support that you provide.

FR JUDE PIROTTA MSSP, CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Fr Jude Pirotta MSSP recently celebrated 40 years of priesthood, being surprised by a special celebration at the Easter Vigil Mass at his parish of 19 years, St James the Apostle in Hoppers Crossing North. In a spirit of deep gratitude, Fr Jude shares his recollections of his life of faith and service, which was inspired by the love of his parents, and particularly the example of his remarkable mother. To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/mr-jude-pirotta-mssp-celebrating-40-years-of-priesthood>

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.

Amen.

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 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.