



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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

27th AUGUST 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 CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

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

In Matthew's Gospel, there are seven statements that Jesus makes in reply to Peter's confession that 'you are the Christ, the son of the living God'. Each statement says something not only about Peter and his role but also about the church – hence about ourselves.

The first statement is the proclamation that 'you are a happy man'. The use of the Greek 'makarios' which is translated as 'happy' or 'blessed' suggests that in making this profession of faith by Peter, Jesus is implying that Peter has been singled out by God for God's work is blessed indeed. As Deuteronomy 7 says, God did not choose Israel because it was better than other nations but because God loved Israel and had a particular purpose for it in the divine scheme of things. So it is with Peter, so it is with each one of us.

Jesus' second statement is about the revelation of 'my Father' and emphasises that there is no separation between Jesus and his Father. When taken in conjunction with the first statement, the intimate presence of the Father - the grace of God enhances the humanity of Peter.

The third statement involves the change of name. By virtue of God's grace Simon, as in baptism, becomes a new man with a new name. The fourth statement links his new name with his unique vocation, to be the 'rock'. Each vocation is a sign of God's trust and confidence in us.

The fifth statement focuses on the church's battle against the forces of evil. These seek to enslave people in sin but the church built on the 'rock' will provide a safe haven of freedom for all those within its gates. The metaphor of a rock and of an impregnable fortress with gates can create a somewhat static impression of the church and the vocation of Peter.

As if to provide a balance, the sixth statement is providing Peter with the keys of the kingdom of heaven. He is empowered to step out confidently from the fortress, the forces of evil reduce3d to impotence, and lead the faithful to their ultimate goal, the gates of the kingdom of heaven. But this kingdom is not some distant place; in Matthew's Gospel the kingdom of heaven is a circumlocution for the presence of God. Peter and the church usher people, freed from slavery, into the freedom of the presence of God.

The final statement respects a key feature without which the vocation of Peter and the church would not be truly human – decisions will have to be made and they will have to be made for the whole church, otherwise things would grind to a paralysing halt. To give Peter and the church the confidence to make decisions that at times may be painful and difficult, Jesus promises that the decisions will be ratified in heaven. This does not mean that they will automatically be the best or perfect decisions. But God accepts the honest decision that the church and indeed any Christian makes because they are part of a vocation of discipleship, part of being remade in the image and likeness of God.

If this passage is lifted out of context, it can give the impression that Peter and the church will live a charmed life. As we know from the gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, and our own history, this is not the case. Our passage is immediately followed by the one in which Jesus reprimands Peter and calls him 'Satan'. To go from a rock to a Satan in a few verses is almost as amazing as the reverse – the trust and confidence that God places in us poor human beings. But, as Paul says 'who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?' Only a God who loves in a way that we cannot fathom can keep trusting and forgiving those who continually fail; we certainly cannot.

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

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137

R. *Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered.
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in

heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

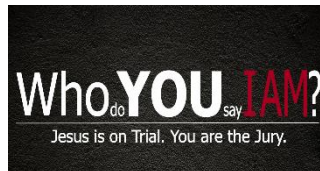
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Today's readings focus on the way God looks on the lowly, the ones who need help. The Gospel encourages us to reflect on our own faith in Jesus. As we seek to answer truthfully Jesus's question about his identity, we may also ponder on Peter, a simple fisherman, who is given the keys of the Kingdom and entrusted to build the Lord's Church.

In the First Reading, a lowly servant is also given keys. He is entrusted with authority and will become a father to the nations. The key of the house of David is on his shoulder. The Psalm expresses the gratitude of a lowly person. In their distress they call and the Lord answers, giving them the strength, they need. St Paul, in the Second Reading, asks several questions that no one can really answer. Thereby he leads us to realise the omnipotence, benevolence and wisdom of God.

This week, like St Paul, we might also want to give glory to the Lord. Through our prayer we trust that God will help and empower the lowly and the needy, whether near at hand or further afield.

POPE FRANCIS



'Brothers and sisters, what happened in a unique way in St Peter, also happens in every Christian who develops a sincere faith in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Today's Gospel passage also asks each of us, is your faith good? Each one answer in his or her heart. Is my faith good? How does the Lord find our hearts? A heart that is firm as a rock, or a heart like sand, that is doubtful, diffident, disbelieving? It will do us good to think about this throughout the day today. If the Lord finds in our heart, I don't say a perfect, but sincere, genuine faith, then He also sees in us living stones with which to build his community. This community's foundation stone is Christ, the unique cornerstone. On his side, Peter is the rock, the visible foundation of the Church's unity; but every baptized person is called to offer Jesus his or her lowly but sincere faith, so that He may continue to build his Church, today, in every part of the world.

Even today, so many people think Jesus may be a great prophet, knowledgeable teacher, a model of justice... And even today Jesus asks his disciples, that is, all of us: "Who do you say that I am?". What do we answer? Let us think about this. But above all, let us pray to God the Father, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary; let us pray that He grant us the grace to respond, with a sincere heart: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". This is a confession of faith, this is really "the Creed". Let us repeat it together three times: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after 10.00am Mass this , 3rd September , at Sacred Heart Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

FATHER'S DAY COLLECTION APPEAL

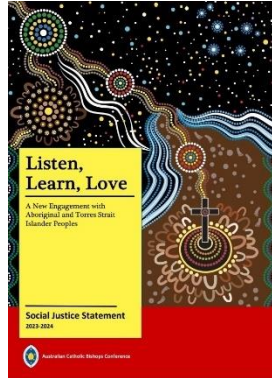
Father's Day collection Appeal is Sunday 3rd Sept, is for the Priests Retirement Foundation who cares for our Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of by logging on to: www.melbournecatholic.org.au/foundation and make your donation through PayPal. Thank you for your generous support of the Retired Priests. Melbourne. Please donate using the envelopes on the pews or electronically.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION

We pray with and congratulate the Bilaver, Gooch, Nastoska, Pendergast, Revelman, Vincent, Zabakly, families whose children will be receiving 1st Holy Communion this Saturday, Agius, Brown, Davern, Dinh, Gazeas, Greenham, Hanigan, Kennedy, Kummrow. C, Kummrow. M, Pratt, Princiotto, Scolaro, Smedley, Thomas, families whose children will be receiving 1st Holy Communion this Sunday. May you experience God's love and become more like Jesus so that your life will give glory to God the Father by the love you show to others.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

The title of the Social Justice Statement 2023-24 is [Listen, Learn, Love: A new engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples](#). It includes experiences and views shared by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) and calls for the Church – and society more widely – to listen to, engage and address the pain of First Nations Peoples in new ways, in order to bring an end to centuries of injustice.



A COMING TOGETHER OF DIFFERENT WORLDS: CATHEDRAL TO HOST MUSIC FESTIVAL

From 15 to 17 September, St Patrick's Cathedral is hosting a special weekend music festival that will feature a range of genres, from medieval plainchant to extravagant choral pieces, First Nations songs, folk music and organ classics. Director of Music Dr Philip Matthias sees the weekend as an opportunity for people to come together and to celebrate the role that music plays in creating a space for meaningful dialogue and goodwill in the community. 'We want the festival to have breadth ... There's something for everyone.'



To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-coming-together-of-different-worlds-cathedral-to-host-music-festival>

OUR SICK

Mia Ryan, John, Teresa Mustica, Carmelo Briffa, Elizabeth Sundanam, Eric Moore, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Bozo Madzar, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Rosalind Vincent, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba

ANNIVERSARIES

Carmelo D'Urso, Mary Grech, Angelo Prestipino, Jack Squires and Annunziata Briffa

RECENTLY DECEASED

Eric Moore

Online launch to celebrate the Season of Creation 2023

When: Monday, September 4, 2023 (6:00pm – 7:00pm)

Venue: Online

To celebrate the Season of Creation, Caritas Australia invites Catholic communities nationwide to attend an online launch, offering participants an enriching and informative experience through its Catholic Earthcare program.



With this year's theme being 'Let Justice and Peace Flow', participants at the launch event will have the opportunity to learn about creating a Laudato si' Action Plan and to join a community of mutual support.

They will also gain access to the Australian Guide to Laudato Si' Action Planning, designed to help users initiate practical, meaningful change within their own parish, school, household or organisation.

For further information, email aline.peres@caritas.org.au.

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWPORT

Congratulations to our Year 4 students who made their First Holy Communion this the weekend. We are so proud of you and we wish you all the best in your faith journey.



• May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of His love and the joy of His life is with you •

ST MARGARET MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was wonderful to celebrate our annual Book Week costume parade this morning. The weather wasn't being helpful but it couldn't spoil our fun! Thank you to all of our families that make this day such a success. 📖 😊



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.

Amen.

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.