



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

**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B**

**3RD MARCH 2024**

### Parish Office

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[www.stjosephs3015.com.au](http://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 – 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](mailto:principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au)

#### St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge  
9391 3118  
[principal@sम्मspotswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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

We are called to walk the path of discipleship, which at times may seem daunting and obscure, even difficult. But the Bible does not leave us without guidelines to help us on our way. The ten commandments provide a concise introduction to the laws that accompany the Sinai covenant. While there are separate commands about one's conduct before God and neighbour, they are all designed to secure and manifest one thing – loyalty to God. Loving one's neighbour is an act of obedience – being a loyal disciple by loving as God loves. Within the Sinai covenant, one's life is not divided up into the sacred and social or secular bits. Each command is a sign of one's loyalty to God and of one's status as a member of the covenant community. The divine and human are, as it were, bonded together.

Some think that our modern separation between sacred and the secular would have been unthinkable to the theologians behind the Torah. Perhaps, I prefer to think that they were only too aware of our tendency to compartmentalise things to suit ourselves and they sought to counter this as best as they could with their legislation. Old Testament prophets frequently criticised Israel for separating the worship of God from social responsibilities.

Jesus stands squarely in this prophetic tradition with his dramatic cleansing of the temple. The very place that should be a key sign of the unity between one's relationship to God and one's relationship to neighbour has become a damaging counter sign. The authorities with whom Jesus is in conflict may think that temple trade is a legitimate part of the cult – it is where people can purchase their animals for sacrifice, exchange money for cultic gifts and so on. But in Jesus' eyes this sacred space has been profaned because what is taking place is no longer out of obedience and loyalty to God but in obedience to the laws of the market. And the two can appear the same. One can 'keep the commandments'; that is, refrain from stealing, lying, committing adultery and murder but without any sense that these are integral elements of one's relationship with God. Or, one can see the personal 'profit' they can bring as a sign that all is right between myself and God; a distorted perception of reality.

The desecration of the sacred space of the temple can also be a manifestation of the deeper divide within – the temples of God that we are meant to be. Our human side becomes absorbed or overwhelmed with what John calls 'the world' and we no longer see the divine in ourselves or in our neighbour. The way John crafts this Gospel scene, the cleansing of the temple leaves Jesus standing alone as the one in whom there is no such divide. In him the divine and human are perfectly united. In accordance with the Torah Decalogue, all Jesus' actions are signs of obedience to the Father, whose perfect disciple he is. Equally, they are signs of perfect love because Jesus' perfect loyalty enables him to love as the Father loves. In Jesus there is no tension between love and obedience: they are one. Those who try to divide the divine from the human in Jesus by denying the divine in him or by nailing the human to a cross fail, just as those who try to divide him from other human beings fail. His death and resurrection exposes their failure and the triumph of loyalty that is love.

The path and goal of our discipleship is to become temples of the Holy Spirit, like Jesus. The Torah provides us with essential commands and the reason, indeed the ultimate reason, for obeying these commands – because God commanded us to do so. John presents Jesus as our model of loyalty to the Father; if we follow this model we are assured of arriving at our goal.

### 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.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### First reading Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18

*R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **(R.)**

4. They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

### 2nd Reading

Corinthians 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether

they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: CHRIST, THE POWER AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

As we enter this third week of Lent, our readings remind us of God's love for us, soon to be witnessed in the suffering and death of Christ Jesus. In the First Reading, God speaks to the people of Israel after their release from slavery in Egypt. The Ten Commandments show his people how to freely live in service of the One who has liberated them. The Psalm speaks of the gifts the law of God brings in terms of wisdom, truth and life. St Paul reflects on the way in which those who are called to follow Jesus see the crucified Christ. For those early Christians, and ourselves, this is not a sign of God's foolishness or weakness, but a demonstration to the world of God's power and wisdom. (Second Reading) In this week's Gospel, we see Jesus sweep away the buyers and sellers from the Temple, which should be revered as the house of God. We are reminded that it is through Christ's suffering and death that salvation will come, and the power and wisdom of God will be revealed. This week, perhaps we can pray for all those areas of the world where places of holiness and sanctuary are debased and de-valued. We pray too, for all people who are prevented from worshipping openly, and from practising their faith in freedom.



## CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa this Sunday 3rd March after 10:00am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Newport. We look forward to seeing you. All welcome.



## COMBINED PARISHES STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be held at the four Parishes on Fridays at 7:00pm as follows:

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** St Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
16 Cecil St, Williamstown

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** Sacred Heart Church, Newport

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>** St Leo the Great Church  
387 Mason St, Altona North

## COMBINED PARISHES YOUTH GROUP

**Who:** 13-18 years old

**When:** 2nd March 2024

**Where:** St Mary's Parish centre  
116 Cecil Street, Williamstown

**Time:** 7:00-8:30pm

Please encourage young people to participate.

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FEAST DAY



Sacred Heart church  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
10.00am Mass, followed by Lunch  
In the school hall.



Dear Parishioners,

For our parish Feast Day of St Joseph, there won't be an evening Mass on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of March.

Once a year, our parish feast day provides us with a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate as a community.

I encourage you to join other parishioners as we celebrate this significant occasion.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Warm regards,

Fr Binh

## PARISH DONATIONS

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available at our Mass's for Thanksgiving/Donations.



All you need to do is select the amount or select custom to donate a different amount, tap your card and you are good to go.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.

## OUR SICK

Kata Duvnjak, Bob Cairns, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Lam Tuong, Gusman Felice, Teresa Menichelli, Vincenzo Falzon, Gusman Luigi, Gusman Antonietta, Milka Spoljar, Jack Crawford, Marie Kearney, Effie Murray

## RECENTLY DECEASED

## INAUGURAL MERCY MELBOURNE NIGHT

On Tuesday 19 March, the feast of St Joseph, a host of churches across Melbourne will be open for an evening of prayer and the sacrament of Reconciliation as part of the inaugural 'Mercy Melbourne' event. We speak with Fr Dean Mathieson, who is helping coordinate the event, about why this sacrament matters and how parishes can get involved. To continue reading, visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/inaugural-mercy-melbourne-night-to-witness-to-the-power-of-forgiveness>

## 'MERCY MELBOURNE' AT ST MARGARET MARY'S, SPOTSWOOD

**When:** Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Where:** St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood

**Time:** 6:00pm-9:00pm

**Details:** An evening of healing, quiet prayer in the presence of the Lord, followed by Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## LENT PROJECT COMPASSION



In Samoa, many families face difficulties accessing clean drinking water. Leaia, along with her family, struggled with this issue on the island of Upolu. They relied on rainwater collected in old fridges and had to walk to a neighbor's house when their supply ran out. With the help of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. Now, they have a reliable source of clean water, and next year, they will also have a toilet built, improving their health and living conditions. Leaia expressed gratitude for the water tank, which has greatly eased their daily life.

You can donate through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes or by visiting: <https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or call 1800 024 413.

## PRAYING OUR WAY THROUGH LENT: RETURNING TO GOD OUR FATHER

As we travel through the season of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has offered some reflections on the simple but powerful words that Jesus taught us through the Our Father.



It follows the Archbishop's earlier reflections on how to enter into this Year of Prayer. In his latest video reflection, the Archbishop draws on the words spoken by the prophet Joel, which marked the beginning of our Lenten journey: 'come back to me, with all your heart' (Joel 2:12). To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/praying-our-way-through-lent-returning-to-god-our-father>

## 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<sup>st</sup> Collection

Presbytery Offering

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.