



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

**PALM SUNDAY, YEAR B**

**24th MARCH 2024**

**Parish Office**

9 Newcastle Street, Newport  
T: 9391 1201

E: [newport.spotswood@cam.org.au](mailto:newport.spotswood@cam.org.au)  
[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

**Reflection by Rev Mark O'Brien OP**

We have been presented with the Gospel's challenge to make God the centre of our lives because God makes us the centre of divine life by loving us unconditionally. According to the Gospel, this is the relationship that all human beings need (and really desire?) and gives meaning and fulfillment to all other relationships. In the account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the people seem to be doing exactly this – they are making Jesus the centre of their lives. They throw a great welcome party for him as he enters Jerusalem. We know from the Gospels that Jesus was always happy to join a party, whether thrown by disciples, his rivals the Pharisees, tax collectors and sinners. Life is meant to be a celebration. But the definitive welcome party in Jerusalem goes horribly wrong; celebration and unity are replaced by violence and division and Jesus ends up being nailed to a cross. What went wrong? A number of things no doubt but the people's cry 'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David' provides one clue. The 'our' suggests the people's focus has shifted pretty quickly from 'the Lord' to what might be in it for them. On entering Jerusalem, Jesus does not initiate a rebellion nor does he parade or review his troops nor hold court like a king. Is Jesus coming to establish a kingdom, if so what kind of kingdom?

We can see parallels to the Gospel scene in our modern life. Suburban and rural communities can turn into rival 'gangs' that seeks to settle scores that often end in a bloodbath (one 'nails' the enemy to the wall). All that society seems able to do against this violence is create more laws that seem to exacerbate the divisions within the society. The Gospels teach that Jesus comes between society and rival 'gangs' with love for those on all sides. This kind of love can get a person killed but it is the only kind of love that can, in the end, overcome intractable divisions and hatred and enable people to look at themselves and the others in another light. When one sees Jesus as the centre of love radiating out to all, no matter how divided they may be, there is the chance things can change.

As we come to see in faith divine love radiating out from the crucified Jesus as its centre we are perceive something more. Jesus is doing all that he does out of love of the Father. God is the centre of his life. Paradoxically, the moment that seems, from the human point of view, to deny this truth – his being nailed to a tree, powerless and reviled by society – is the moment he confirms it. The centurion, the complete outsider and one of Jesus' executioners, proclaims 'Truly this man was God's Son!' If it is true that God is fully within Jesus when he cries 'my God, my God, why have you abandoned me', then there can be no moment in human life when God is not at the centre of our lives, no matter how absent God may 'appear' to be. Therefore there can be no more fitting response from one who has become aware of this truth than to make God the centre of one's life.

The passage from Isaiah adds some important features to this portrait as the loyal messenger of God. It lays down three key requirements for a messenger/teacher of God. The first is that he/she must be a disciple: in order to teach others one must first be taught by God. The second requirement is that the disciple must persevere in his/her mission despite rejection and insult. The third requirement is that the disciple must trust completely in God and God's deliverance (the Lord comes to my help').

The passage from Isaiah provides the broad context within which Philippians identifies the unique status of Jesus that completely transforms what it means to be a disciple. But how do the conditions of slavery and death represent the living and liberating God? Ah, we may reply, read the next bit that proclaims the resurrection from the dead. Well and good, but Paul seems to be implying that slavery and death are also in their own way an authentic manifestation of the presence of God – at least in the figure of Jesus. We are called to follow Jesus in his passion, death and resurrection.

**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@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.

**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

**Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 21**

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him:  
let him release him if this is his friend'. **(R.)**

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet,  
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**

3. They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Philippians 2:6-11**

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raise him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

**Mark 14:1-15; 47**

Please refer to separate booklet

## REFLECTION: THE LORD GOD COMES TO MY HELP

Today marks the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. The readings focus on Jesus's sacrifice for us and express confidence in God's faithfulness.



St Paul (Second Reading) highlights the humility of Jesus, who emptied himself of the glory that was his as Son of

God. He gives himself away totally in love, coming among us as the suffering servant described by Isaiah in the First Reading. Jesus puts others before himself rather than seeking power or honour. Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus shows us his way is one of love, compassion, mercy, humility, and service. We hear the crowds welcome him excitedly, shouting 'Hosanna', wanting to make Jesus into the king who will save them from Rome. (Procession Gospel)

In the main Gospel, we see the same crowds turn against Jesus, calling for his arrest. He is mocked, beaten, condemned, crucified, and placed in a tomb. Jesus is betrayed by one of his own disciples, denied by another, and abandoned by most. The Psalm describes this humiliation. On the cross Jesus prays the psalm's response: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' We are invited to walk with Jesus through Holy Week. Jesus, in turn, wants to be with us in our experience of this journey. Lord, help us to walk with you, to be strengthened by your example and teaching.

## A LIGHT FOR THOSE WHO YEARN: ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI DELIVERS 2024 PATRICK ORATION

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli delivered the 2024 Patrick Oration, mapping out possibilities for inviting people into a life with Christ. Speaking at the Greg Craven Centre in Australian Catholic University's new Kolkata Building, he addressed civic, religious, and community leaders, highlighting the importance of embracing faith and renewal.

Drawing parallels from Nick Cave to Six30 Holy Hour and Gen Z's quest for meaning, Archbishop Comensoli emphasized the relevance of Christ's journey and the need for spiritual connection. He reflected on the significance of St Patrick's Cathedral as a beacon of faith, welcoming diverse communities seeking solace and guidance.

Acknowledging societal shifts towards spirituality, Archbishop Comensoli emphasized the distinction between spirituality and religious faith, advocating for a deeper engagement with religious practice. He underscored the importance of creating inclusive spaces where all can encounter Christ and find direction.

Looking ahead, Archbishop Comensoli emphasized the need for renewal and structural improvements at St Patrick's Cathedral, envisioning it as a dynamic hub for faith and community engagement. He urged individuals to embody Christ's message and extend a welcoming invitation to all, especially younger generations seeking meaning and belonging.

Reflecting on Archbishop Comensoli's oration, attendees expressed resonance with his insights and highlighted the Cathedral's pivotal role in Melbourne's spiritual landscape. They emphasized the importance of adapting to the evolving needs of younger generations and fostering an inclusive environment where everyone can find solace and purpose in Christ.

To read the full version, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/archbishop-comensoli-delivers-2024-patrick-oration>

## THANK YOU!!!

We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to making our Parish Feast Day celebration a joyful, faith-filled, and hopeful event. It was heartening to witness the participation of both longstanding members and newcomers as we gathered for Mass and shared stories over a meal.

The presence of the Spirit of the Lord was palpable among us, leading us to embody the compassion of God and discover grace in one another.

May we be continually inspired and empowered by the spirit of humility, contemplative silence, and service exemplified by St. Joseph, welcoming all to experience the living presence of Jesus Christ.

*Parish Pastoral Council*

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

The PPC will convene for a half-day formation and planning session at St. Mary's Parish Centre, Williamstown on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. Please keep the PPC in your prayers as they discern strategies to enhance the viability, sustainability, and vitality of our parish.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Every Sunday at 10.00am Parish Mass, Sacred Heart Church. All children are welcome to attend.



## HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Spotswood	5:30pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Newport	10:00am

### THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

#### Holy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March

The Lord's Supper	Spotswood	7:30pm
-------------------	-----------	--------

#### Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March

Stations of the Cross	Spotswood	10:30am
Passion of the Lord	Newport	3:00pm

#### Holy Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Vigil	Newport	7:30pm
--------------	---------	--------

#### Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March

Sunday of the Resurrection	Spotswood	8:30am
	Newport	10:00am

## LENT PROJECT COMPASSION

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, when we share the passion story from Mark's Gospel. It's the most intense account of Jesus' trial, torture, and death. One moment of light in this darkness is when Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross. We're all called to be like Simon, assisting those bearing burdens in our world today. This is what Caritas represents - a love that stands by the cross and encounters the empty tomb. If you'd like to support Project Compassion, please visit: <https://www.caritas.org.au> or call 1800 024 413 to donate.

## PARISH DONATIONS

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available for Thanksgiving/Donations. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.



## OUR SICK

Doug Cue, Carmine Camerlengo, Michelle Jenkins, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanam, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly, Bob Cairns

## ANNIVERSARIES

Sam Conidi

## RECENTLY DECEASED

## SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity - it's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Our beautiful LOTE educator, Rosaria, organised a wonderful celebration for our school this week. We have represented our family stories through artwork and shared them with our special community this week.



## ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

We celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph! Together with Sacred Heart, Newport we are part of the Parish of St. Joseph and are guided by St Joseph in our journey of faith and education.



Embrace excellence, compassion, respect, and integrity



Let's take a moment to reflect on his virtues of humility, strength, and unwavering devotion.

Exciting news! Our school was recently highlighted in the Star Weekly. Check out the article here:

<https://maribyrronghobsonsby.starweekly.com.au/digital.../>

## UPCOMING WEBINAR SERIES TO SUPPORT LAUNCH OF NEW SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FRAMEWORK

The Safeguarding Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne will be hosting a series of webinars for clergy, parish leadership teams and safeguarding committees this April following the release of version 2.0 of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Children and Young People (SCYP) Framework. The new suite of documents have been redesigned to make them more accessible and to foster a shared understanding of—and commitment to—safeguarding within the Archdiocese.



## 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.