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**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*

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**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

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**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 John Thornhill sm

Good leadership is essential, if human associations are to achieve their goals. God’s ultimate designs for the human family are carried forward by the human communities called to be God’s collaborators – first, the people of old Israel, and now the Church, the New Israel. The readings of today’s liturgy remind us that many problems in the history of God’s people have been caused by flawed leadership. The corrupt rule of the kings of old Israel and their disregard of God’s covenant are notorious in Old Testament history. In our first reading, the 5th century B.C. prophet, Malachi reproaches the priests of the temple for the scandal they are giving the people – showing partiality; offering ‘stolen, lame and diseased animals’ in sacrifice (Malachi, 1:13). The conflict that will lead to the rejection and execution of Jesus is provoked by leaders who are blind to the truth he brings. Paul’s concern to leave an example of selfless leadership in his ministry to the Thessalonians was motivated by his knowledge that the Church would suffer if its leaders did not exercise a leadership that was inspired by the Saviour’s example Today’s gospel reading tells us how the community for whom Matthew wrote recalled the Saviour’s teaching concerning leadership of God’s people. The leadership Jesus criticised was the outcome of a complex development. There was no single authority that interpreted the faith of old Israel. The Law of Moses, the ‘torah’, was handed down in the biblical traditions as the expression of God’s authority. The priests of the temple were the traditional custodians of the rituals that gave expression to the people’s covenant obligations. The teaching of the prophets was a spontaneous expression of guidance, like a conscience of the nation. The scribes were students of the Law who interpreted its contents. The Pharisees formed a popular movement seeking to revive the nation’s religious practice. Jesus acknowledged that it is these various groups who ‘occupy the chair of Moses’ – if the Law is to be interpreted faithfully, it is only these various authorities who can provide this interpretation. He criticised them, however, because they ‘do not practice what they preach’. His criticism echoed the age-old teaching of the prophet. If they had the true spirit of the covenant (that should have been the very soul of Israel’s faith) they would not interpret what the covenant required of God’s people in a way that made it next to impossible for the common people to give faithful observance. Though they should have helped the nation to be one family under their ‘one Father in heaven’, they interpreted the Law in such a way that their elaborate observance gave them an elite status - which they celebrated by wearing the trappings self-importance and seeing themselves as deserving the admiration of the common people they despised.

In the stern words of Jesus we have another example of a peculiarity of the Aramaic idiom that is puzzling to our ears – its lack of a manner of expressing a qualified negative. Clearly, Jesus is not denying the role of ‘fathers’ and ‘teachers’ in our human life. He is condemning the elitist pretensions currently being associated with such terms by the scribes and the Pharisees. Heeding the teaching of Christ, God’s people will recognise their fundamental equality before their common Father. Those called to positions of leadership among them will make themselves ‘the last of all and the servants of all’ (Mk 9:35); and all those who claim to be committed followers of the Lord must be on their guard against the spirit of self-importance that can be so damaging to the life of the Christian community.

**31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 5th NOVEMBER 2023**

**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 Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10**

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

  Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 130

***R.*** *In you, Lord, I have found my peace.*

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud

nor haughty my eyes.

I have not gone after things too great

nor marvels beyond me. **(R.)**

2. Truly I have set my soul

in silence and peace.

A weaned child on its mother’s breast,

even so is my soul. **(R.)**

3. O Israel, hope in the Lord

both now and for ever. **(R.)**

**2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13**

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God’s Good News to you.

  Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God’s message, you accepted it for what it really is, God’s message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;

you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Matthew 23:1-12**

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do:since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

  ‘You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.’

# Scripture reflection: Did not one God create us?

In our readings today, we hear how easy it is for human pride and laxity to diminish or even falsify God’s message. Instead, let us follow the invitation to honour God in humility, sincerity and truth. In the First Reading, the prophet Malachi does not mince his words. His message is hard-hitting: the priests are reproached for their spiritual negligence and failure to instruct the people properly, as well as for their half-hearted service of God. Religious leaders are also criticised in the Gospel. Jesus castigates their hypocrisy: they are more concerned with drawing attention to themselves and exploiting their social position, rather than committing themselves to the message they preach. This type of self-aggrandisement and pride is the exact opposite of what the followers of Jesus should aspire to. Jesus himself is our role model: he teaches us that the route to leadership is through service of God in all things.

In contrast, the Second Reading presents Paul as a truly devoted pastor: enthusiastic, hard-working, full of love for his people; endlessly sharing the living word of God with this community. To follow Christ is to serve him humbly; and humility, together with complete trust in God, is the theme of today’s Psalm.

Let us pray this week: Lord God, you are both Father and Mother to us. We beg you: help us to be sincere and joyful in our practice of faith and prayer; to serve you in our daily lives; and to be even more alert and awake to your presence in nature all around us.

## Popes prayer intention for November for the Pope himself

Pope Francis explains that “the fact that someone is Pope doesn’t mean they lose their humanity.” On the contrary, “being Pope is also a process” in which “the person becomes aware of what it means to be a pastor.” For this reason, he invites us to ask the Lord to bless him. And to pray “that the Pope, whoever he might be, today it is my turn, may receive the help of the Holy Spirit, that he may be docile to that help.” To continue reading, visit;

<https://www.thehookoffaith.com/single-post/pope-s-prayer-intention-for-november-for-the-pope-himself>

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| Our SickNatasha Nicholson, Luca Barun, Helen Kelly, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba, John, Anna.AnniversariesAnton Mijic, Marija Mijic, John Boutros, Filippo Solano, Anna Wegrzynowski, Angelo Basilone, Ivan Cegec, Natalino Giuseppe Concetta, Vittorio Fabiola Farrugia, Amabile Margherita, Elena Falzonrecently deceasedJordane Saric |

## A calendar with a painting of angels  Description automatically generated2024 Columban Art Calendar

If you are interested in purchasing a 2024 Columban Art Calendars, can you please advise the office by Friday 10th November to ensure the order is placed and delivered prior to Christmas. The cost of the calendar is 10.00ea.

## Annual Parish Forum & End of Year Luncheon

We will hold our Annual Parish forum directly after 10.00am, Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 26th November. This will be followed by a **full Sunday lunch for all Parishioners to be served in the Sacred Heart school hall**. **Please RSVP numbers(adults and Children) to the parish office by Thursday 16th November.** All are Welcome.

**ROSARY GROUP**

Please join us this Monday 6th November, at 1.00pm Jubilee Room, Newcastle st, Newport for our Monday Rosary Group. Let us continue to pray together for each other.

## Night of the Witnesses

****SAVE THE DATE! Night of the Witnesses – 22 November 2023, 7pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us. For more information please visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/notw](http://www.aidtochurch.org/notw)

## Caritas Australia’s Gaza Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia’s Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413

## Vatican Secretary for relations with States to visit Melbourne

This year marks 50 years since the beginning of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Australia. To mark the occasion, His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher (Vatican Secretary for Relations with States) will be spending time in Australia this month, including a visit to Melbourne on Thursday 9 NovemberTo continue reading visit;

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/vatican-secretary-for-relations-with-states-to-visit-melbourne>

## Praise and Lamentations: A concert of sacred choral music

**When:** Saturday 11 November 2023 (6.00pm–7.00pm)

**Where:** St Aloysius Catholic Church, 233 Balaclava Road, Caulfield North The Parish Choirs of Melbourne invite you to a sacred choral music concert featuring pieces by Mozart, Lotto, Tchaikovsky and more. Bookings essential. Concert entry by donation, with a wine and cheese reception afterwards (optional). Entry to the reception is $10 (children enter free). For more info, contact secretary@newmanparish.org or phone (03) 9532 7922.

## Synod concludes with call for a Church that ‘welcomes, serves, loves, forgives’

To reform the church is to put God first and adore him, and to love and serve others, Pope Francis said at the Mass marking the conclusion of the first session of the Synod of Bishops on synodality.

‘This is the Church we are called to “dream”: a Church that is the servant of all, the servant of the least of our brothers and sisters; a Church that never demands an attestation of “good behaviour” but welcomes, serves, loves, forgives; a Church with open doors that is a haven of mercy,’ he said. To continue reading, visit

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/synod-concludes-with-call-for-a-church-that-welcomes-serves-loves-forgives>

## Combined Parishes Youth Gathering



# 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.

# 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.

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| Weekly Collections |
| **1st Collection**Presbytery Offering | **2nd 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.

# 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.