

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

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport

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Mass Times

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 Administrator

Father Samuel Kapani PA

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong- *Chairperson*

E: newport.spotswood-PPC@cam.org.au

Secretary

Enes Bowen

Tue–Fri – 9am – 2:30pm

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson

Irene Bongetti

Carmel Crawford

Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti

Maureen Llewellyn

Michael Nardella

Tircia O'Shea

Rose Santo

Choir

Larissa Cairns – *Director*

Catholic Primary Schools

Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin

T: 9391 6262

E: principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge

T: 9391 3118

E: principal@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding

The Parish of St Joseph, Newport and Spotswood, holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children, young people and all vulnerable people/adults as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

2nd March 2025

REFLECTION

Once more, to appreciate what Luke intends to convey in today's gospel reading, we must hear it as a continuation of the passage we have reflected upon the last two Sundays.

The parables of Jesus recalled in this reading are so familiar that they have become proverbial: the blind leading the blind; the splinter in the brother's eye, a tree known by its fruits. Luke wants us to recognise that - as part of the teaching of Jesus - these parables are far more than the expression of homely truths.

They certainly do express truths that are applicable to every human situation - continuing the wisdom tradition of old Israel, so wonderfully expressed in the reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus. But the Good News of the Kingdom brought by Jesus (expressed in the teaching to the disciples we have already reflected upon) brings a truth far greater than has ever been expressed before. It is the promise of a new kind of existence, to be found by identifying with the ways of the living God - after the example of the One who is the revelation of the Father.

Luke invites us to find this deeper meaning that these parables had for Jesus. In the light of Jesus' teaching concerning true happiness this deeper meaning is not difficult to grasp. The 'blindness' Jesus warns against, especially for those who are leaders and guides in the community of disciples, is the blindness of those who assume the role of leadership although they have not owned the Saviour as the Light of the world and committed themselves to the new order he has inaugurated with his Law of Love. Disciples who have not made this conversion will see living according to their old ways – placing selfish limits on their practical love for their neighbour - as no more than a tiny 'splinter' obscuring their vision. Such people do not recognise that presenting themselves as disciples of the Lord is kind of 'hypocrisy' – they make this clear by their readiness to point out the more obvious failings of their brothers and sisters. Genuine disciples will be known by their 'fruits': not in clever words or orations but in the witness of the quiet convictions that shape their lives – as, through the gift of Christ's Spirit, the disciple grows 'like his teacher'.

'The good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart'. Again, when related to the central message of the teaching of Jesus, these words are more than wise advice about the conduct of our lives. Jesus is speaking of the hearts of disciples - transformed by their acceptance of the ways of God after the example of Jesus, and putting no selfish limits to the love, or practical good will, they have towards their fellow human beings. The 'examination of conscience' has long been part of the practice of a dedicated Christian life. Today's gospel helps us to find the life-giving measure against which, as the Lord's disciples, we should review our lives. Those who have found the joy of true discipleship will recognise that something of the 'victory' Paul speaks of can already be ours, even in this present life.

JOHN THRONHILL sm



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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

Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the
quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 91(92):2-3,13-16

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High,
To proclaim your kindness at dawn
and your faithfulness throughout the night.(R)

The just one shall flourish like the palm tree,
like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow.
They that are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God.(R)

They shall bear fruit even in old age;
vigorous and sturdy shall they be,
Declaring how just is the LORD,
my rock, in whom there is no wrong.(R)

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on
imperishability, and when this mortal nature has
put on immortality, then the words of scripture will
come true: Death is swallowed up in victory.
Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your
sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets
its power from the Law. So let us thank God for
giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus
Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never
admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work
always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be
labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one
blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into
a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher;
the fully trained disciple will always be like his
teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your
brother's eye and never notice the plank in your
own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother,
let me take out the splinter that is in your eye,"
when you cannot see the plank in your own?
Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye
first, and then you will see clearly enough to take
out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten
fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound
fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit:
people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather
grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is
good from the store of goodness in his heart; a
bad man draws what is bad from the store of
badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills
his heart.'



REFLECTION SR MARY FERMIO

At one place where I lived, I had a lovely orange tree, and I
spent many Saturday afternoons making marmalade. One
year it had a huge crop of smaller fruit, and the next year it
died. A deadly moth had attacked it.

Jesus likens us to a fruit tree and the kind of fruit it produces.
It is the goodness within us and revealed in our actions and
words that determine the kind of person we are. Sometimes
we can't see faults in ourselves, but we criticise the same
faults in others. Jesus calls us hypocrites for ignoring our
larger faults but criticising the smaller faults in others. We
need to carefully examine our own actions and thoughts to
see what kind of person we are. A Daily Examen has always
been recommended by spiritual directors, so that we can
check up on ourselves and our day.

As a tree is judged by the quality of its fruit, so will we be
judged on the quality of our lives.

What kind of fruit am I producing? How would Jesus describe
my life?

PARISH NEWS

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will resume this Sunday the 2nd of March at Sacred Heart Church at the 10am mass. Please also find copies of our children's newsletter.

CUPPA AFTER MASS



Join us for a cuppa after the 10:00am mass at Sacred Heart this week, and fellowship as a community.

ROSARY GROUP

Meets Monday 3 March, 1pm in the Jubilee Room, 9 Newcastle Street across from Sacred Heart Church. All Welcome



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Sacred Heart Church 9:15am
St Margaret Mary's Church 11:30am
Sacred Heart Church 6:30pm

COMBINED STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us for the Stations of the Cross this year, a time of shared fellowship and prayer with our local parishes. Weeks 1 and 6: We will gather as a parish at Sacred Heart, Newport, and St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood. Weeks 2 to 5: We will be visiting other churches and joining them in their services.

Stations of the Cross locations and dates are as follows:

- Week 1 Fri, 07 March, 6pm** - Sacred Heart, Newport
- Week 2 -Fri, 14 March, 6pm** - Mary, Help of Christians, Altona
- Week 3 -Fri, 21 March, 6pm** - Sacred Heart, Newport
- Week 4 -Fri, 28 March, 6pm** - St Leo the Great, Altona North
- Week 5 -Fri, 04 April, 6pm** - St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Williamstown
- Week 5 -Fri, 11 April, 6pm** - St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood

We hope this shared reflective fellowship will help us prepare for Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

PARISH DONATIONS

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available in our Churches. 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

Rita Galea, Edith Begovic, Helen Kelly

RECENTLY DECEASED

Romano Cammarano, Robyn Francis

ANNIVERSARIES

Douglas Cue, Maria D'Urso, Antun Mijic, Marija Mijic, Tommaso & Filomena Penna, Concetto & Teresa Bohbaci, Ciriaco & Concetta Basile and Ian Nason Hunter.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Vatican released a message written by the Pope for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer on 23 February, but did not say what day the Pope wrote it.

'I am confidently continuing my hospitalisation,' the Pope wrote, 'carrying on with the necessary treatment; and rest is also part of the therapy!'

Thank you for this closeness and for the prayers of comfort I have received from all over the world.

Pope Francis thanked the doctors and health care workers for their care and also thanked people for the 'many messages of affection' that he has received, particularly the letters and drawings sent by children.

'Thank you for this closeness and for the prayers of comfort I have received from all over the world,' he wrote.

Many of those prayers have come from people who gather in the courtyard beneath his suite of rooms at the hospital. The immense stone statue of St John Paul II is the focal point where visitors gravitate to pray and leave flowers, candles, rosaries, cards, drawings and notes. To read more go to:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/rest-part-of-therapy-pope-francis-sends-cheerful-angelus-message-from-hospital-bed>

COMBINED PARISH YOUTH GATHERING

Our next Combined Parish youth Gathering will be held this **Saturday 1st of March at 7:00pm-8:30pm.**

We invite all Youth aged **13-18 years old** to come and join us for a fun evening with pizza, religious talk reflecting on the mass readings and games.

The youth will also be volunteering for this Saturday's mass at St Mary's Church (Williamstown) at 6pm.

Address for Youth Gathering:

St Mary's Parish Centre, 116 Cecil Street Williamstown.

JOIN OUR PARISH MAILING LIST!

Stay connected with all the latest news and events from our parish. Simply scan the QR code below to join our mailing list to receive our weekly Newsletter.

If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office. We look forward to keeping in touch with you!



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.

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

1st Collection

Presbytery Offering

Supports: *Parish clergy, Sick and retired priests, Priests in needy Parishes, Archbishops & auxiliary bishops.*

2nd Collection

Thanksgiving Offering

Supports: *Parish running costs, Parish Pastoral initiatives, Diocesan and various services.*

If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program, please contact the parish office. for more information.

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.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

O St Margaret Mary, through you, Jesus pours Out His abundant graces o 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