



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

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

30th JULY 2023

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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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

Last Sunday's parables emphasises the presence and initiative of God that is the foundational principle of the kingdom of heaven. This Sunday's readings explore the various ways in which we human beings encounter the kingdom. The first one envisages someone stumbling on the kingdom 'by chance' like someone stumbling on treasure in a field. We can be cruising through life quite comfortably and something happens, we meet someone or have an experience and our lives are changed forever. On reflection, we discern the presence of God in the encounter. We have stumbled on the kingdom 'by chance'? The gospel is inviting us to think whether our encounter with the kingdom can ever be just by chance. We might think so initially but, as they say, God works in strange ways.

Of course, the apparent chance encounter with the kingdom may not be many peoples' experience. What of the person who searches and longs for an encounter with God, some reassuring experience of the divine, and never has it? The second parable about the merchant searching for fine pearls is designed to assure the seekers that 'seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you'. The kingdom is worth struggling and searching for because it is like precious pearls. Once again, we might add that God always finds and meets the genuine searcher: he or she will not be left stranded or empty handed.

Both of these parables speak of the kingdom as something marvellous and wonderful. When you come across it you are so struck with delight and wonder that it absorbs your whole life. You will give up everything else to have it. But what of those who find that living the kingdom of heaven can often be ambiguous and confusing, full of difficult decisions? The third parable can be seen to respond to them by portraying the painstaking work of fishermen who must sift carefully through their catch and separate what they judge to be good fish from those that are of no use. But their painstaking work is rewarded and they take home a catch of fish. The value of this seemingly ordinary and even arduous living of the kingdom is emphasised by the way Jesus says that it mirrors the work of the angels at the end of time. They will take great care to ensure that the good are singled out and only the wicked thrown away.

Parables are an ingenious way of teaching but, like all literary forms, they are limited. No one knew this better than Jesus, In the final section of the gospel he passes the mantle of speaking parables to the disciples. They will pass on the parables proclaimed by Jesus but also compose new ones and even new forms of teaching to meet new situations. This is an important aspect of being a disciple of Jesus, of loyally carrying out his work. In terms of Paul's letter, it is according to the purpose of God and God will co-operate with those who love him and turn their work to a good purpose. God will give us the grace to proclaim the gospel in ways both new and old. The old here is not something out-of-date; rather the way Jesus taught and the things that he taught become the foundation on which disciples of subsequent generations build.

Once can be graced as a wise preacher and teacher but one can also lose or abuse the gift, just as one can lose the treasure of the kingdom or fail to follow up on a peak experience of God. The first reading from 1 Kings provides a reminder of this with Solomon. According to the text, he prayed at Gibeon and was given the gift of a 'heart wise and shrewd as none before you'. For a while Solomon used the gift well but he later abused the gift; the outcome was the schism in the united kingdom of David, a rift that was never healed and ended up contributing to the collapse of monarchy altogether

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

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118

R. Lord, I love your commands

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth means more to me Than silver and gold. **(R.)**

2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **(R.)**

3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **(R.)**

4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good, God cooperates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: A PEARL BEYOND PRICE



The Readings for this week focus on the themes of wisdom, treasure and joy.

In the First reading, when asked in a dream what he desires from God, Solomon chooses 'a heart to

understand how to discern between good and evil.' God is pleased that Solomon does not seek riches or a long life, so gives him the gift of wisdom.

The Psalmist asks the Lord for his consoling love. God's law means more to him than precious metals. In the Second Reading, St Paul explains that the plan now unfolding has been there from the beginning. God chose and called us all to become 'true images of his Son'. God wants all who love him and follow his teaching to share in his glory.

In the Gospel Jesus offers three images for God's kingdom: a treasure we find unexpectedly; a pearl for which we search diligently; a net that gathers us in. They illustrate the priceless value and importance of the kingdom to which all are invited. Jesus also reminds us to hold on to treasures both old and new as we seek God's kingdom.

This week, we ponder God's gift of wisdom. We pray that it will guide us to the 'treasure': the delight of knowing and loving Jesus, and the riches this brings. We ask God's help to share that with those we encounter, however we can.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

Saint John Paul II used to say that "if you live with young people you become young yourself." The Church needs young people so it doesn't grow old. Dear Pope Francis, why did you choose the theme "Mary arose and went with haste" for this WYD? Because as soon as Mary knew she was going to be the mother of God, she didn't stay there taking a selfie or showing off. The first thing she did was to set out on a journey, in haste, to serve, to help. You too have to learn from her to set out on a journey to help others.

Click [here](#) to watch the video.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after the 10:00am Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 6th of August. We look forward to seeing you there.



INVITATION TO WELCOMING MINISTRY

♥ Calling All Kind Hearts! Join Our Ministry of Welcome! ♥

Feedback from our community consultations indicated a need to ensure that all people coming to Mass feel welcome.



We are seeking compassionate volunteers to join our Welcoming Ministry! Be a beacon of warmth and love, ensuring every parishioner feels embraced in our faith community. Share a friendly smile, offer guidance, and extend a helping hand as we open our hearts to those seeking solace and spiritual connection.

Please consider joining this important team - your role could include coming to Mass 15 minutes earlier and greeting people as they arrive. You might be able to assist every week, or less frequently.

Together, let's create a vibrant atmosphere of belonging and hospitality. Join us in spreading God's love and make a lasting impact on the lives of all our members.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our Ministry of Welcome please speak to us or contact us at the presbytery, or via StJosephVicPPC@gmail.com. Your presence matters!

PARISH WEBPAGE



📢 Help us create a digital sanctuary where faith, community, and technology intertwine!

🙏 If you have the skills to help revitalise our website, to make our faith community

more vibrant, connected, informed, and engaged we would love to hear from you.

Contact Us: If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us at the presbytery, or via StJosephVicPPC@gmail.com.

TREASURING OUR LATER YEARS

- Where:** St Joseph's by the sea
16 Esplanade Williamstown
- When:** Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th August
- Topics:** Accomplishment, Relationships, Spirituality, Limitations, Legacy
- Presenter:** Nicole Rotaru RSM
- Cost:** \$20 per session
- Registration:** admin.sjbtsw@sosj.com.au or 9397 6012

OUR SICK

Megan Le, Thuy Tran, Teresa Mustica, Carmelo Briffa, Elizabeth Sundanum, Eric Moore, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Bozo Madzar, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Rosalind Vincent, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba

ANNIVERSARIES

Chooi Lan, Lucrezio Falzon, Giuseppe & Maria Falzon, Francesco Meilak, Carmelo Meilak

RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr Desmond Panton, Ivan Cegec, Judith Frith, Anne Warway,

'THE LORD IS ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE': POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS WITH MELBOURNE PILGRIMS

Pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Melbourne met the Holy Father in Rome on Wednesday 26 July, in a special private audience as part of the lead-up to World Youth Day Lisbon. During the meeting, Pope Francis encouraged the pilgrims in their faith journey and happily answered questions on topics ranging from education to evangelisation, the environment and caring for our common home.



To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-francis-speaks-with-melbourne-pilgrims>

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL



Thank you to our Grandparents and Grandfriends who joined us on this Feast of St Anne and St Joachim, the Grandparents of Jesus. It was very special having you join us for mass, a classroom visit and having morning tea with you 🙏



"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above" Daniel 12:3

Thanks be to God for all our beautiful Grandparents and Grandfriends who are wise and are like stars who light up our life! How lucky are we 😊

ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

Last week the year 5 / 6 students had an incredible time at CYC Phillip Island school camp site. A big thank you to the teachers who made this school camp possible. The students learned so much during the outdoor activities and team-building games. It was an unforgettable experience that they're sure to cherish forever! 😊



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.