



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

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

19th NOVEMBER 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@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.

Reflection by John Thornhill sm

The parable in today's gospel reading is so well known, that the word, 'talent', has become part of our language. The original story of Jesus, however, had a far more serious message than the development of natural gifts. The 'talent' Jesus refers to was an enormous quantity of precious metal (26 kgs of gold or silver). The immensity of the wealth entrusted to the servants was far beyond the experience of Jesus' hearers. The parable challenges them to recognise that God's immense blessings bring great responsibilities.

The sharp edge of the parable, as Matthew reports it, seems to indicate a background of controversy. It may well be that the original parable of Jesus was a challenge to the Sadducees – the conservative Temple establishment who were not open to wholesome developments that had taken place in the biblical tradition, and were opposed, therefore, to the mission of Jesus. Scholars find grounds for this in the wording of the parable. The master 'hands over' the talents; this term was associated in old Israel with the passing on of the traditions of God's people. The term 'gained' - applied to the profits made by the servants - was associated with the winning of converts. In their self-centred conservatism, the Sadducees had no concern to carry forward Israel's mission to be 'a light to the nations'. As the parable was recalled in Matthew's community, however, it may have been directed against the dangers of complacency in that community - that settled for the minimum requirements of life as the Lord's disciples and was not ready to set out upon the great adventure of putting into practice the program of the Sermon on the Mount. The conclusion, 'To anyone who has will be given more; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away' – a saying of Jesus that appears several times in the gospels – was probably added by Matthew, to drive home the point of the parable. Its meaning for Jesus was that one who is spiritually open will enjoy God's on-going blessings; whereas one who is closed will miss the opportunities offered them. Matthew emphasises the seriousness of the parable's lesson by concluding his narrative – as he does in other places - with reference to the 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' in store for those who have no place in the Kingdom.

The parable of Jesus points to the 'Day of the Lord' when God's people will be called to account for the responsibilities brought by the great blessings they have received. In today's reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, Paul continues his instruction concerning the Lord's return, echoing the imagery used by Jesus in the gospels. Life must go on; it is not given to us to know the 'times and seasons' of the final reckoning; the 'Day of the Lord' will come 'like a thief in the night'; God's people must 'stay awake and sober', living as 'children of the light'. It is not difficult to see that these themes provide the background of today's parable. The master is a long time in coming, and arrives unexpectedly to 'go through the servants' accounts'. The servants who have administered well the wealth entrusted to them are to be entrusted with 'greater things'; they will share in 'their master's happiness' – a clear reference, for those who have ears to hear, of the blessings of the final Kingdom. If we appreciate the greatness of the blessings brought by faith in Christ, we will be aware of the responsibilities they bring.

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 Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20, 30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **(R.)**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a

hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." 'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." 'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

The readings in this final week of Ordinary Time Year A remind us again of the need to be always prepared for the coming of Christ by the way we live our lives. In the First Reading, the writer extols the virtues of the perfect wife. Although using language which reflects the practice and culture of biblical times, the passage speaks powerfully of the value and dignity of manual work, the importance of charity, and respect for all, whatever their role in life.

The Psalm speaks again of the dignity of work, of being self-sufficient, providing for one's family, and living in awe of the Lord. St Paul reminds us in the Second Reading that if we live our lives in the light of Christ, we have no need to fear the coming of the reign of God. In the Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the talents to show the importance of making best use of what we have been given for the benefit of others.

This week, we might pray for those who struggle to realise where their own talents lie, and those who lack the opportunity to be recognised, valued and celebrated. We also continue to pray for peace across the world.



CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa Saturday 18th November after 5.30pm mass at St Margaret Marys Church. We look forward to seeing you. All welcome



BAPTISM

We pray and congratulate the **Rahme** and **Bannister** families whose children will be Baptised this weekend. May the children and their families always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community



November

Our Parishioner Anton Messina has been raising money for Movember since 2013. It's a great cause for men who are struggling with Mental Health issues. For those who would like to help Anton reach his target, please go to <https://au.movember.com/mospace/8658521>

Annual Parish Forum

We will hold our Annual Parish forum directly after 10.00am, Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 26th November. Followed by end of year Luncheon. All Parishioners are Welcome to attend. Please advise office by Sunday 19th November.

Caritas Gaza Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.' 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 or phone 1800 024 413

Combined Parishes Youth Gathering

ALL YOUTH AGED FROM 13 TO 18 YEARS OLD, WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO COME AND JOIN OUR FIRST

YOUTH GATHERING!

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 7.00-8.30PM

WHERE: ST MARY'S PARISH CENTRE (116 CECIL ST WILLIAMSTOWN)

A FUN EVENING INCLUDING:

- GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER
- FUN GAMES
- PIZZA

OUR SICK

Anthony Peter Watt, Tibor, Luca Barun, Helen Kelly, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba, John, Anna.

ANNIVERSARIES

Gabriella Perri, Angelo Perri, Elisabetta Lammardo, Giulia Caligiuri, Enrico, Antonia, Carmelo, Salvino, Gwen Meilak, Robert Firth, Sarah Montesano, Giuseppe, Concetta, Carmelo, Victorio, Natelino, Fabiola Farrugia, Mehmet & Nedine R, Agostinho Fernades, Ldurecinha Fernades.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Paul Buttigieg.

ST MARGARET MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Year 3 and 4 students had an incredible time at camp. As they return this back to school we know they'll be tired but full of stories to share



In staffing news, I am delighted to announce our 2024 Specialist teachers: Emma McGuirk – art teacher, Chelsea Graham – will take P.E., Grant Tasca – AUSLAN and Natalie Monteleone– our new S.T.E.M. whiz connecting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths

ST VINNIES FAMILY GATHERS FOR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS

More than 100 candles were lit at St Francis' Church in Melbourne on Tuesday 14 November, each representing members, volunteers, benefactors and staff of the St Vincent de Paul Society (Victoria) who passed away in the last 12 months. The Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Anthony Ireland, is one of the society's most important annual events, with hundreds of members from local conferences gathering with families of the deceased during this memorial month of November. To continue reading: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/vinnies-family-gathers-for-annual-thanksgiving-mass>

Ordination to the Priesthood, St Patricks Cathedral

Saturday 25 November 2023
10.00am–11.30am

On Saturday 25 November, three deacons will be ordained to the priesthood: Rev Tien Van Tran, Rev Doan Ngoc (Peter) Nguyen and Rev Thomas William Christie.



Jean-Sébastien Géry will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. Please pray for them as they embark on their priestly ministry in the service of God's people in the Archdiocese.

2023 SUMMERFEST

Thursday 30 November 2023
6.30pm–9.00pm

Come and join the young people of Melbourne as Archbishop Peter A Comensoli leads this special Six30 Holy Hour at St Patrick's Cathedral, to be followed by a summer barbecue, More Info, please visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/events/2023-summerfest>

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.

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.