

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 Priest

Fr Samuel Kapani PP

Parish Office Hours

Tue–Fri – 9am – 2:30pm

Parish Finance Committee

Martin Kruse – Chairperson

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong – Chairperson

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

Parish Safeguarding Group

JP Eid – Chairperson

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

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

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson

Irene Bongetti

Carmel Crawford

Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti

Maureen Llewellyn

Michael Nardella

Tricia 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

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Ascension of the Lord

1 JUNE 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

In today's liturgy we have two readings from Luke, the conclusion of his gospel, and the opening passage of the Acts of the Apostles. Comparing them can give us an insight into how Luke tells the story of the origins of our faith. In the concluding passage of the gospel, Jesus, on the evening of his resurrection day, 'withdraws' from the eleven and their fellow disciples, and 'is carried up to heaven'. John's gospel paints a similar picture – the Risen Lord, we recall, tells Mary Magdalene on the morning of his resurrection, 'Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to my Father'. In fact, we do not find in any of the gospels – Luke's included – the sequence in Acts with which we are so familiar: Resurrection; Ascension (after 40 days); Pentecost (after 50 days).

Skilful teacher that he is, Luke wants, in these two accounts, to spell out for his readers different aspects of the Saviour's Paschal Mystery. The gospel account is, before all else, an affirmation of the faith and worship given by the apostles to the Risen Lord: brother of us all in his wounded humanity, whose sufferings are to be recognised as according to the preordained plan of God, sending the disciples to give witness to the whole world, promising his Spirit, blessing them and receiving their worship, now gone to the Father and no longer with them as before.

The gospel is the story of the Saviour. Luke's second volume, Acts of the Apostles is the story of the Church's beginnings. So Luke tells this second story in a way that emphasises the sure foundations of the Church's faith – what the disciples learned from the Risen Lord, who 'for forty days, continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God'. As we have seen in the past weeks, all the gospels imply this learning process, making reference to the initial doubts and hesitations of the disciples in their encounters with Christ after his resurrection. Of course, Luke may have his own factual basis for his account – there was certainly a large influx of pilgrims to Jerusalem on the feast of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover; on the other hand, as we know, 40 is used by biblical writers, as a round number. Through the gift of the Christ's own Spirit at Pentecost this foundation laid by the Saviour will shape the Church's mission: 'not many days from now you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit'. Luke, in Acts, tells the story of the early Church as the work of the Holy Spirit.

Luke's presentation of the Ascension brings out something else of great moment in the life of the pilgrim Church. 'I am going away', Jesus had said to the disciples more than once. Gone to the right hand of the Father he will be present in a new and more intimate way: 'I am with you always; yes, to the end of time' (Matthew 28). In one of his homilies Pope Leo the Great wrote: 'The visible presence of our Redeemer passed over into the sacraments. For, in a mysterious way, once he had returned to the glory of his Father's majesty, the Son of Man began to be more present'.

Next Weekend's Roster – Pentecost

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturgy Roster
Saturday, 7 June 2025	Jean Pierre Eid	Lidia Cammanaro	Lilly Mullins		Des Devlin
Sunday, 8 June 2025	Joy McCarten	Ivan Vadjnal	Branka Briffa	Martin Briffa	

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

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R)**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

2nd Reading

**Hebrews 9:24-28;
10:19-23**

It is not as though Christ has entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him. In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he had opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our mind sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you,
and your hearts will be full of joy.
Alleluia!

Gospel

**Luke
24:46-53**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

PARISH OFFICE

Please note: due to change of circumstances our parish office is currently unattended. However, your enquiries are important to us and will be responded to as quickly as possible. We thank you for your understanding.

ROSARY

Rosary will be held on Monday, June 2, at 1:00 pm at the Jubilee centre.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a hot cuppa and chat on Sunday, June 1, at Sacred Heart Church, after the 10am Mass. All welcome.



FEEDBACK

Dear Parishioners,
As you will have noticed, we have been making some changes to our weekly bulletin. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please send your feedback through to newport.spotswood@cam.org.au or contact the parish office. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The next children's liturgy mass will be at 10am, on Sunday, June 22 at Sacred Heart's.



Please Pray For

OUR SICK

Helen Kelly, Kristy Robinson

RECENTLY DECEASED

Joseph Kade

Funeral Mass to be held on Thursday, June 5 at 10:30am at Sacred Heart Church, Newport followed by burial at 12pm, Altona Memorial Park, Altona North

ANNIVERSARIES

Gerardine Green, Maria Meilak

PARISH MASS COUNT MAY 2025

In May, an average of **181** parishioners joined us for weekend mass across both churches - 120 at Sacred Heart, Newport and 61 at St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood. Thank you for being part of our faith community.



SCHOOL NEWS

St Margaret Mary's Primary School - Spotswood

A Beautiful Evening of Prayer!

We had a fantastic turnout for our very first Prep to Year 2 Prayer Evening, beautifully guided by Samantha O'Dwyer, a well-known presenter in Religious Education and former teacher here at St Margaret Mary's.

Sam introduced us to new and reflective ways of praying—encouraging us to look inward, reflect quietly, and listen with our hearts to God. It was a wonderful evening of community connection and spiritual growth.

Thanks to all our families and teachers who came along and made the night truly special!

#Community #PrayerEvening #ListeningWithHearts
#StMargaretMarys



PARISH CALENDAR & COMMUNITY OBSERVANCES



JUNE

June 1: Ascension of the Lord, Cuppa & Chat (SH)
June 6 - 10: Eid al Adha
June 7: Combined Parish Youth Gathering (7-8:30pm)
June 8: Pentecost
June 12: SMM SAC Meeting

June 14: Cuppa & Chat (SMM)
June 15: Most Holy Trinity
June 17: SH SAC Meeting
June 19: PFC Meeting
June 20: World Refugee Day
June 21: Baptisms (SMM)

SH: Sacred Heart SMM: St Margaret Mary's PFC: Parish Finance Committee PPC: Parish Pastoral Council SAC: School Advisory Council

Maternal Health in rural Zambia

A Project of Catholic Mission

In rural Zambia, many mothers walk for hours while in labour to reach basic care.

In parts of rural Zambia, this is the reality for many expectant mothers who face long journeys to access basic healthcare. With fewer than three doctors per 10,000 people, facilities are often stretched and under-resourced—a stark contrast to Australia's 40+ doctors per 10,000, highlighting the global disparity in access to maternal healthcare.

"A mother's life... shouldn't be left to chance"

Presented by Abraham Muma
Health Services Coordinator Chilonga Mission Hospital, Zambia

Thursday June 5th, 7 PM

St Peter's Parish Centre
581 Toorak Rd, Toorak

Light refreshments will be provided.
Entry is free – donations welcome on the night.



Register here



DIOCESE NEWS

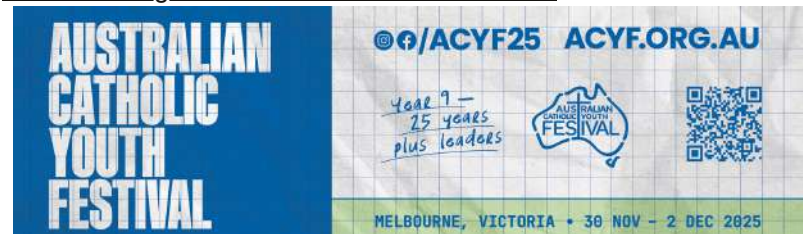


Melbourne prepares to host Australia's largest Catholic event this December

Preparations are ramping up as Melbourne prepares to welcome more than 10,000 young people later this year for the fifth Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), the largest event on the Australian Catholic calendar. Taking place from 30 November to 2 December at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, this year's festival marks a special homecoming, with the very first ACYF held in Melbourne back in 2013. Diocesan and school leaders from across the country recently gathered at the Convention and Exhibition Centre for a national briefing, which included a tour of the venue and a glimpse at the festival spaces.

To read more see link:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/melbourne-prepares-to-host-australias-largest-catholic-event-this-december>



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 APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God,

the Father Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the

Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

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.

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 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

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

1st Collection

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

2nd Collection

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

If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program, and receive a thanksgiving envelope no. please contact the parish office.

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



JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

→
If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program electronically or make a one-off gift to the church scan this QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your continued support.

