



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

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

10th SEPTEMBER 2023

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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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

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

Everything that we humans do or say operates within a context. Without a context within which we can relate and assess things we would be completely lost. If we take on (for example, children in a family) or are assigned responsibilities (for example, being appointed a parish priest), we need to know the context in which these responsibilities operate. Another way of putting this might be to say that where there are responsibilities there are rights and vice-versa. God's instructions to Ezekiel in our first reading are about his responsibilities as a prophet.

Given that Ezekiel accepts the responsibilities, he has a right to know to what extent they oblige him. Once the prophet has done his duty therefore by warning the sinner, the text implies that God will step in: the sinner will die but Ezekiel will save his life. It is a bit uncertain as to whether the theologian behind this text is appealing to what is called the reward – retribution schema. This is a faith claim and the great mistake is to try and prove it from experience : Job and Ecclesiastes warn us of our inability to do this.

If the book of Ezekiel deals with specific responsibilities, Paul in Romans sets up a general principle ('If you love your fellow men you have carried out all your obligations'). Yet Paul knows only too well that however noble this principle is, it needs to be rooted in specific actions, otherwise his readers will not have an appropriate context. In a typical Pauline flourish, he meets the need for something specific by listing the commandments and then shows that by keeping each one of them his readers are fulfilling the general principle. He cannot be faulted because the general command to 'love your neighbour' is in the Torah along with specific commands (cf Leviticus 19:18). The limitation of the theology in Ezekiel is that one may equate righteousness with fulfilling obligations. Paul does not throw away the notion of obligation because it is too central to the gospel: we are commanded to love (be loyal to) our neighbour as we love God. However, he proclaims that this love of our neighbour, guided by the commands, should have a deep and unpayable debt as its goal: the debt (dependence may be a better translation) of mutual love. We human beings love to be in control, even when doing good to others. According to Paul, this is not what it is about, we should end up being happily dependent on the love of those to whom we have done good rather than exercise control over them by having them ever dependent on us.

As I read the gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus initially seems to follow the Ezekiel model by outlining one's responsibilities to one's brother and then by setting boundaries (the three occurrences of 'if he refuses to listen'). But it is the final phrase that catches my attention: 'treat him like a pagan or a tax collector'. This is quite different to Ezekiel's 'he shall die for his sin'. When one looks at the larger context of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus instruction in this matter becomes clearer and it effectively blows out of the water any neat notion of boundaries in our responsibilities towards our neighbour. First Matthew is a tax collector – how did Jesus treat him? He called him to discipleship. Second, at the end of the gospel Jesus instructs his disciples not to reject pagans but to invite them to become children of God through baptism. It looks as though Jesus is admonishing us never to 'close the case' on anyone who is in conflict with the church community. No rejection can be regarded as final; at least not in this life. We are meant to be disciples of Christ and Jesus never gives up on any of his sheep, particularly the lost ones.

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

Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94

R. *O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed

in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

REFLECTION: YOU MUST LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously on your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance

I come to my quiet place and begin to become still, slowing down any chatter in my mind. I consciously place myself in God's presence and take a few deep breaths. I breathe in God's love for me and breathe out God's love into the world.

How am I today? However I feel, I trust in the Lord's infinite love for me. I am in his care. I ask the Holy Spirit to guide my prayer. I take as long as I need to settle . . . there is no rush. When ready, I read the passage through slowly, two or three times.

What am I noticing? What words or phrases resonate for me? Perhaps I am drawn to 'commandments' . . . 'yourself' . . . 'neighbour' . . . 'debt of mutual love' . . . 'obligations' . . . or something else? Why is this touching my heart? How is it speaking to me? I mull it over, and speak to the Lord freely about it. Pausing, I listen quietly for whatever he may say to me. Maybe I ponder how I 'love myself'.

God knows my strengths and weaknesses, and loves me just as I am, his loved and forgiven child. What do I need from God to love myself in this same way? 'Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour'. Is God asking me to love my neighbours in more varied ways?

I reflect on how I might be a channel for God's love in this world. What grace do I need from God to enable me to do this? When ready, I give thanks for this time, and close my prayer slowly. Perhaps I tell my Lord God of my love for him. Glory be . . .

POPE FRANCIS



The Gospel this Sunday speaks of fraternal correction - that is the invitation of Jesus for us to have

courageous conversations with people about the things that keep us apart. This is a tricky challenge because we either prefer to avoid the person with whom we have issues or we talk to them with anger, convinced that they are wrong and we are right. In an extract from a talk below given in 2021 Pope Francis offers us wise and prudent advice on how we help each other grow in holiness and maturity.

RECONCILIATION

There will be no Reconciliation at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday 9th Sept at 10.00am.

FR BINH'S AWAY

Fr Binh is away this week returning on the 16th September. Fr George Hogarty SSC will be celebrating Mass and speak to us about his missionary works as a Columban priest and his current work of promoting the Far East Magazine.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2023

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:

www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

'TOWARDS A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYBODY': NEW SAFEGUARDING DIRECTOR LOOKS TO THE FUTURE



Rachel Averbukh, the new Director of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Unit, believes that 'the values of safeguarding align so beautifully with the values of the Catholic Church.' She talks to

us about her long and varied career supporting vulnerable people and communities, and about the ways she and her team are working towards a 'bright future' for safeguarding in the Archdiocese.

To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/towards-a-safe-environment-for-everybody-new-safeguarding-director-looks-to-the-future>

'All are welcome': St Ambrose's, Brunswick, getting ready for 150 years celebration

On Sunday 19 November 2023, St Ambrose's Catholic Church in Brunswick will be celebrating a momentous occasion: 150 years since the church was completed. We talk with Fr Linh Pham and one of the celebration coordinators about the parish community, the history of the church and some of the exciting changes St Ambrose's has embraced in recent years as it has taken the 'Take the Way of the Gospel' journey.

To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/all-are-welcome-st-ambroses-brunswick-getting-ready-for-150-years-celebration>



OUR SICK

Joe Attard, Luca Barun, Graeme Bain, Carmen Vella, Helen Kelly, Mia Ryan, John, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Bozo Madzar, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba

ANNIVERSARIES

Caterina Conidi

RECENTLY DECEASED

GANGLAND TO PROMISED LAND: JOHN PRIDMORE MELBOURNE TOUR (CORIO AND LARA

When: Monday, September 11, 2023

7:30pm to Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:30pm

Venue: St Francis Xavier Corio and Lara Parish, 143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio

John Pridmore was a serious face in London's East End, living the 'high life' until he found himself nearly killing a man. What happened next can only be called extraordinary.

While in Melbourne, he will deliver a series of parish missions across the Archdiocese. In each parish, over three nights, John will share his story, interspersed with music, Scripture readings and a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

For more information, visit: jpmelb.com.au.



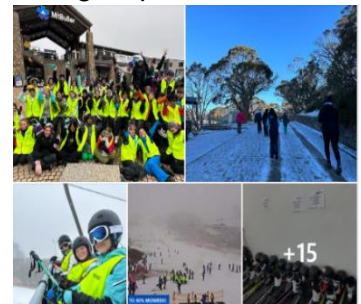
ST MARGARET MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPOTSWOOD

Happy Father's Day to the awesome dads of St. Margaret Mary's Primary School! Your love and support light up our community. Enjoy your special day filled with love and laughter.



SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWPORT

We woke to a Winter Wonderland on Mt Buller this morning. There is something very special about being on a majestic mountain with the snow falling. After a hearty breakfast, we hit the slopes. We are so very proud of each one of the children for their strength, persistence and support of one another as they learned the new skill of skiing in an environment many had not experienced before. It's no wonder our Year 6 students are sound asleep by 9.30pm. Well done to each and every one of you.



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.