

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



11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

## Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport  
T: 9391 1201

E: [newport.spotswood@cam.org.au](mailto:newport.spotswood@cam.org.au)  
[www.stjosephs3015.com.au](http://www.stjosephs3015.com.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 – 4pm

## 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](mailto:principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au)

### St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge  
9391 3118  
[principal@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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 REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

The reading from Ezekiel is the second part of an extended allegory in which eagles represent the superpowers of his day, presumably Babylon and Egypt, and the twigs and seeds that the eagles pluck up and plant represent the minor players such as the kings of Judah whose fate seems to lie in the hands/claws of the mighty ones. But the way human beings think history is unfolding may be deceptive because according to the Bible, God is the Lord of history and God's plans can confound those of any emperor or superpower. The second part of the allegory proclaims that the real 'eagle', God has plans for the establishment of a king (a shoot) in Israel that will make the plans of the superpowers look puny and transient. Such will be the tree (the kingdom) that sprouts from this shoot on the high mountain of Israel that all the birds (including the mighty eagles?) will acknowledge it and 'rest in the shade of its branches'. It is an eschatological vision of peace and well-being that only the Lord can bring about. One can see here an Old Testament anticipation of Jesus' parables about the kingdom of God.

The two parables about the kingdom in Mark's Gospel are more down to earth than Ezekiel's soaring eagles. But they make two essential points about the kingdom. The first is the most important. The crop that God sows like a farmer throwing seed on the land will bear a rich harvest and it will go to the one who sowed it. No one can steal the harvest of the kingdom from God. That is assured. And the assurance applies to all stages of the emergence of the kingdom, the growth of the crop. The parable seems to combine God and God's workers, the preachers of the Good News, in the figure of the farmer. God of course knows every stage of the growth of the kingdom but we mortals, like farmers of Jesus' day, cannot see or understand all the workings of God. The key thing is that the kingdom of God is a crop that does not and cannot fail. If this is the focus of the first parable, the second one about the mustard seed assures us of the impact that the kingdom will have. Rather like Ezekiel's allegory, the kingdom of God may look paltry by normal standards (the tiny seed) but it is our true home where all can find shelter and welcome (the birds in its branches). Hopefully without forcing things, one could link the two by saying the kingdom that belongs to God is provided for our benefit. In general, the Gospels juxtapose Jesus' parables without combining or summarising their meaning or adjudicating between them. They are food for thought, as Jesus sometimes says after telling a parable, 'listen, anyone who has ears to hear'. In contemporary idiom, something like 'think about it folks'. It can be difficult at times to see connections between the Gospel readings and the second readings because each follows its own sequence. However, I think we can link today's passage from Second Corinthians by noting how Paul is in a sense caught between two desires. On the one hand he wants to be exile from the body (this earthly life) and make his home with the Lord. He belongs to God and desires above all to be with God as part of the harvest. On the other hand he realises that, as a member of the kingdom of God, he is there for the benefit of others and this is God's purpose.

Hence he must preach the Good News so that people will find their true home in Christ – and this as long as God wants. So Paul looks towards the fulfilment of his life as a disciple from seed to shoot to plant to harvest and being with the Lord. But he also accepts that part of God's purpose in calling him to preach the Good News is that he brings as many others as he can to their true home in the kingdom. The overriding principle must be, as Paul says, to be 'intent on leasing him'.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT 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

**Ezekiel 17:22-24**

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 91**

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

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Mark 4:26-34**

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he

explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION – BY SR MARY FERMIO, ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B,

Years ago, I planted some carrot seeds, marvelling at how a large carrot could grow from such a tiny seed and at the potential within to grow and provide food for us. Jesus may have planted seeds himself during his years with his mother, so it would have been natural for him to use this as an example of how God works in our lives. The seed of faith planted in us by parents, teachers, friends; watered by prayer, reading and sharing. Jesus calls this "the Kingdom of God" which grows, often unseen, until it is ready for harvest, for the fruits to be shared and reaped in our actions towards others. All our lives God plants, nourishes and tends what has been planted, so that we may bear fruit. But all this takes time and patient gardening.

Parents sow seeds in the lives of their children – seeds of faith, respect, love, work, kindness... Only time will reveal whether their sowing has been fruitful.

What seeds did my parents plant in my life? What seeds am I planting in my life each day? The smallest action can plant a seed in another's life!



## THIS IS WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.

## MUSIC TEACHES HARMONY WITH OTHERS, SELF AND CHURCH, POPE SAYS

The Catholic Church should function like a choir where every member contributes his or her unique part to create a harmonious whole, Pope Francis said.

Just as, in a choir or an orchestra, 'one needs the others' to create harmony, each person in the Church 'is called to do his or her part well for the benefit of the whole community', the Pope told choir members on 8 June.

Pope Francis met in the Paul VI Audience Hall with scores of members of parish and diocesan choirs, choir directors and musicians gathered in Rome for an international meeting of choirs to mark the 40th anniversary of the choir of the diocese of Rome.

Music 'creates harmony' through its impact on people, the Pope said, such as by 'consoling those who are suffering, restoring enthusiasm to those who are discouraged and making bloom. To continue reading, please visit:'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/music-teaches-harmony-with-others-self-and-church-pope-says>

## EMMANUEL COLLEGE

We welcome Dr. Janine Biggin, College Principal, along with her leadership team and students, to our 10:00 AM Parish Mass at Newport. Dr. Biggin will share insights about the college's life and future plans, and the students will assist during the Mass.

## FAITH FORMATION SURVEY

Parishioner feedback has expressed interest in attending Parish Faith Formation sessions. This week end we are circulating a survey asking feedback regarding specific programs that would be of interest. The survey is being emailed to Parishioners who digitally receive a copy of the bulletin and will also be available in paper form at each Mass. Completed forms can be emailed or returned to Mass next week or left at the Parish Schools or the Presbytery

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be on this weekend, 16<sup>th</sup> June at Sacred Heart Church. All children are welcome.

## CUPPA AND A CHAT

Cuppa and a Chat will be cancelled this weekend at St Margaret Mary's Church on Saturday evening due to unforeseen circumstances. Apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause.

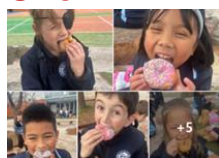
## 2024 PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL – 15<sup>TH</sup>/16<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE

This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. Lack of access and social stigma mean that some of the most vulnerable people are not getting the support they require. The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require. This week, we are called to "Invite others to the banquet", and we will invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, or going online at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/see-our-work-in-action/mongolia> or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.

SCAN ME



## SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL



Mmmmmm donuts... thank you to everyone who supported the Year 6 Fundraiser on National Donut Day!

## LOCAL CATHOLICS RECOGNISED IN KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

In the King's Birthday honours list for 2024, a number of people from the Catholic community in Victoria have been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for outstanding service in the areas of religion, health care, education,



## OUR SICK

Jo Vassallo, Shirley Farrar, Edna Fitzgerald, Branko Ujelac, Michelle Jenkins, Anne Sheahan-Lee, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanam, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Green, Ottorino Basilone, Raymond Cassar and Robert Costa, Maria Camilleri.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr Brendan Michael Dillon, Gesualda Spiteri.

social welfare, and governance and advocacy. Among them are Veronica Blair and Gwen Fitzgerald of St Anthony's Parish Glen Huntly, who have been offering free meals and warm hospitality to the broader community for more than 31 years. To continue reading visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/local-catholics-recognised-in-kings-birthday-honours>

## MISSION: TRANSFORMS THEIRS AND OURS

Have you been considering whether an overseas professional placement with Palms is for you? Wanting to share your skills to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions while living authentically in another culture? Come to Palms' Discovery information session Meet Soraya and returned Palms participants to discover more about Assignments Aboard.

Venue: Mary Help of Christians Church Hall

Address: 97 Railway St N, Altona VIC 3018

Date: Thursday 11th July 2024

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

0422 472 567 or visit [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)

## PARISH DONATIONS

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available at our Mass's for Thanksgiving/Donations. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.



## HEART OF HEARTS

The Sacred Heart of Jesus—for many Catholics, it's a phrase so common that we might simply rattle it off as part of a prayer or hear it as the name of a school or a parish, without appreciating its depth. Pause, though, and we will be struck by the wonder of it: something sacred is something worthy of worship and reverence, something precious. The heart has long been seen as the source of love, the essence of being. The Sacred Heart of Jesus can be seen, then, as the essence of God Incarnate, source of all love, complete and everlasting, undefinably precious—and we are given complete access to this.

The image of the Sacred Heart includes a flaming heart (God's burning love for us), pierced by a lance (that of the soldier during crucifixion), encircled by the crown of thorns, on a cross, and bleeding (wounded for us).

The Sacred Heart of Jesus was brought to our attention predominantly through visions experienced by St Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Catholic nun and mystic in France in the mid-17th century, when Jesus is believed to have appeared to her several times to remind us all of God's infinite love for the human race, a love that draws us to reciprocate this love. To continue reading, please visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/heart-of-hearts>

## 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

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Collection Presbytery Offering	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection Thanksgiving Offering
To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish clergy</li><li>• Sick and retired priests</li><li>• Priests in needy parishes</li><li>• Archbishop &amp; auxiliary bishops</li></ul>	To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish running costs</li><li>• Parish pastoral initiatives</li><li>• Diocesan and various services</li></ul>
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.