



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

13th AUGUST 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@smmspotswood.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

We all hanker for that definitive experience of God that will lift us out of the rut of our daily lives, clarify the direction we should take for the future and resolve those pressing and seemingly intractable questions. There is nothing wrong with this; both the Old and New Testament contain stories of those who encounter God, are freed from sin or sickness and find new purpose in their lives. However, the encounter with God may not go according to expectations or hopes and depending on where we are in our lives, it may be more important. Not the kind of experience we want perhaps but the one we need.

The story of Elijah's experience of God at Mount Horeb might have been expected to follow the one of Israel's encounter with God at Sinai/Horeb, where a spectacular son et lumiere is followed by the establishment of a privileged relationship with God in the covenant. Not so. Elijah steps forward to meet his God and is asked a question 'what are you doing here Elijah?' The prophet proclaims he is the only faithful one left but is corrected by God who says there are five thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Elijah receives commissions that he never gets to carry out and an instruction to anoint Elisha as his successor. It is a very intense and intimate encounter with God but it effectively signals the end of Elijah as prophet. Yet Elijah is celebrated as one of the great prophets because he accepts his place in God's scheme of things, however unpalatable and disappointing it might seem.

In the second reading, Paul pours out his sorrows over 'my brothers of Israel' to his Roman readers. It is a measure of how much Paul hoped that his own conversion and preaching of the gospel might tough and convert his fellow Jews. But it was not to be. No doubt Paul was completely committed to the Gentile mission and saw it as his calling from God. But his success in this arena seems only to have heightened his sense of failure in the other. Did Paul hope that his work might be crowned by some dramatic breakthrough with his fellow Jews? It did not happen. Paul had to be content to pray for his fellow Jews and hope for them, but without the satisfaction of seeing their 'conversion'. One's vocation is about fulfilling the purpose that God has for us, not about our personal satisfaction.

We find a somewhat similar theme in the gospel passage. Peter asks to experience Jesus' power over water and is invited to step out of the boat. But the experience does not elevate Peter to another realm, beyond that of his fellow disciples. Walking with Jesus on land or water does not mean that one is magically transported beyond one's fears, hatreds, weaknesses or strengths. If anything, it sharpens one's awareness of these. In Peter's case, it is fear; more than responding to Jesus' invitation to walk on water, he needs to respond to Jesus' words 'do not fear'. The experience challenges Peter and the disciples to face and overcome, not the forces of nature, but the things that make us afraid to live our lives fully as Christians with all their joys and sorrows, because we do not trust God completely.

A number of commentators hold that this passage was designed to send a message to the struggling early church beset with difficulties, persecution and fear. Jesus is there to help them but they need to trust him completely, even when the powers set against them seem overwhelming. Those, who like Peter, fail are rebuked but as long as they cry to the Lord in their weakness – again, like Peter – Jesus will not abandon them. The story serves as a call to those who have fallen by the wayside to avail of God's mercy and walk again in company with the Lord.

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 19:9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they

said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: A VOICE THAT SPEAKS OF PEACE

Our Sunday readings this week reiterate the need to listen to God's voice in all the circumstances of our lives, especially in times of trial. Thereby we might become artisans of peace in our world.

In the First Reading, God appears to a despondent Elijah in the voice of a gentle breeze, and the prophet gains courage to face his mission. The Psalm could be Elijah's prayer: the psalmist is eager to hear what the Lord has to say.

The disciples are also disheartened in the gospel, and slow to recognize the Lord in the midst of the storm. They worship him as he reaches out to save them. In the Second Reading, St Paul, writing to the Romans, is saddened that the Jewish people have not recognized Jesus. He is willing to put his own salvation on the line to help his people.

May we remind ourselves this week that Christ, our peace, is always with us, and with our world, amid the storms and difficulties of our lives.

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY



August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, commemorating the assumption of our Blessed Mother into heaven, body and soul.

The Blessed Virgin Mary was born without the stain of original sin and did not suffer its consequences,

among them death.

She carried the Church in the person of Christ and at the completion of her earthly life, Mary was assumed into heaven by God. Mary's assumption to heaven was given to her as a divine gift.

No saint in history as enjoyed the same privilege because none had the same intimate relationship with Christ as Mary did, carrying him in her womb, caring for him and witnessing his death upon the cross.

Spared from the pain, suffering and death of Christ, her assumption symbolises God's promise that through the sacrifice of Our Lord, we will one day join him in heaven.

The tradition of Mary being assumed into heaven goes back to the very beginnings of the Church although it was only defined as a dogma in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

CATHOLIC CARE

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your compassionate generosity will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

PARISH FORUM

Sacred Heart Sunday 13th August @ 11.00am

Alternatively, you could email your comments to StJosephVICPPC@gmail.com.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

“Holy Days of Obligation” are special occasions on which Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. Aside from every Sunday of the year, there are two “Holy Days of Obligation” in Australia. These are Christmas Day (25 December) and the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August). These two holy days are to be observed each year, regardless of the day of the week on which they fall.

Spotswood 9:15am Mass with students from St Margaret Mary’s Parish School

Newport 11:30am Mass with students from Sacred Heart Parish School

7:00pm Mass

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

Registration: admin.sjbtsw@sosj.com.au or 9397 6012

NEXT WYD IN SEOUL! POPE FRANCIS CLOSED WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

The 16th international World Youth Day officially came to a close on Sunday with a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on the Campo da Graça, the Field of Grace, where he encouraged the huge crowd to ‘be not afraid.’ We hear from Melbourne’s pilgrims about their incredible WYD experiences, and a Melbourne priest from Seoul, South Korea, shares his excitement for WYD 2027.

To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/next-wyd-seoul-pope-francis-closes-world-youth-day-2023>



OUR SICK

Mia Ryan, 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

Margerita Cini, Antonia Cini, Salvatore Rundo,

RECENTLY DECEASED

EMMA LLEWELLYN, ‘AT HOME’ WITH THE SISTERS OF MERCY

Having taken first vows with the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) in January 2020, Emma Llewellyn renewed her vows in November last year—her second significant milestone. While she is still in the process of initial formation and discernment towards making her final vows in the next few years, Emma already feels ‘completely at home with the sisters’.



To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/emma-llewellyn-at-home-with-the-sisters-of-mercy>

ST MARGARET MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPOTSWOOD

Yesterday we celebrated the Feast day of St Mary MacKillop with Mass together, and later our Prep & Year 6 students shared their thoughts of St Mary MacKillop through image and word. She teaches us to find happiness in making others happy and to never see a need without doing something about it.



SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWPORT

As we continue to celebrate the life of Mary MacKillop this week, our Deputy Principal, Erin, shares how the words and actions of Mary influences her life.

‘Find happiness in making others happy’

“I believe it is a great privilege to watch our children interact with each other in joy and happiness. Joy fosters connection and when we can support our children to find joy and happiness, we then find happiness in ourselves. We find happiness in making others happy. Mary lived her life



making others happy. Her inspirational work and her courage is a constant source of inspiration to me as a leader in education.” Erin

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.