



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood



Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

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

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

9th JULY 2023

REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

If we can, we like to be in control of things and even other people. It has become almost an obsession in our modern highly individualistic societies where I must plan my life and have it all unfold according to plan, even if this may involve trumping the plan of others. A theme that runs through the Bible is that the more we try to take control of our lives, to have things on our terms, the more entrapped we become.

In our first reading, the prophet Zechariah sees the arrival of a king who will free the warring kingdoms of Ephraim and Jerusalem into which they and other nations have fallen. Ephraim and Jerusalem are completely trapped by the weapons they have made and the wars they have waged. Only someone completely free of this trap, the humble peace-bearing king, riding a donkey, not in a chariot or on a warhorse, can free them. He will not return violence with violence. If they do not cede 'control' to this king, they will remain trapped.

The reading from Paul's letter to the Romans is about our futile attempts to control our personal lives and to have things on our terms. Paul knows that we will go to any lengths to try and banish the fear of death from our lives; it is after all the ultimate sign that we do not have control of life and eventually it comes to an end no matter how hard we fight against it. Our desperate attempts to thwart death lead, according to Paul, to unspiritual lives. Living such lives 'you are doomed to die'. Paul is not just talking about physical death here but the death of our spiritual self that is the fruit of unspiritual lives. The antidote is to welcome the Spirit of God who has made a home in us and to recognise that it is the presence of this Spirit in us that alone can enable us to escape the clutches of both physical and spiritual death. Paul's conviction that the Spirit has made its home in us reminds me of Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary. Like Mary, we should sit and listen to the teaching of the Spirit about how to live our lives, rather than try and control things on our terms like Martha.

The gospel passage tackles our obsession with being in control in three moves. The first identifies the ones who can freely and openly receive Jesus' teaching. They are not the learned and clever who think they are in control but those who like children, accept that they need to learn from 'the other'. The second identifies Jesus as the sole source of the teaching; the knowledge of the Father that alone can save. To whom does Jesus choose to reveal the Father? The answer comes in the third move where Jesus invites 'all you who labour and are overburdened'.

Within the context of the interpretation here, the overburdened are not so much those who are crushed by others (although they not excluded) but those of us who try to take control of our lives on our terms and who therefore have to keep acquiring more and consuming more. In fact we become trapped and in order to be free of this yoke we need to take on the yoke of Jesus. Taking his yoke does not mean that he unloads his burden onto us, rather we form a team with him. The image that comes to mind is of a team of oxen yoked together and ploughing the land. Paradoxically, by taking on the yoke of Jesus, what looks to be the oddest team of all – myself the sinner and the Son of God – becomes the perfect team. What looks impossible becomes easy to bear (because Jesus is with us sharing the yoke) and gives rest and refreshment rather than exhaustion. The yoke of the cross that was imposed on Christ by his apparent victors – the forces of evil – becomes the sign and instrument of his victory over these forces and salvation for all the overburdened and oppressed.

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.

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this:

Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144

R. I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Romans 8:9, 11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been

entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: COME TO ME, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST

The First Reading from Zechariah describes how God will defeat his enemies and establish himself as king – not through war and aggression, but with humility and peace.



The Psalm is a great hymn of praise, central to the Jewish faith. It speaks of God's kindness and compassion to all, and offers us the reassurance that the Lord will always be faithful and loving, ready to support and raise us up when we fall.

In the Second Reading, Paul reminds the Romans, and ourselves, of what the suffering and death of Jesus has achieved for us. He speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

In today's Gospel, through his own prayer to his Father in heaven, Jesus reminds us that he is the one who will reveal God to us. Humility and gentleness are the virtues he emphasises; rest and freedom from burdens are the gifts he promises.

This week we pray anew for the people whose lives are burdened by war and violence, especially in Ukraine, Sudan and other troubled areas of the world. With the help of our prayers, may they know the love and peace of Christ.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY



Pope Francis' prayer intention for July is that the Eucharist be at the heart of every Catholic Christian's life. He begins with the question - Why go to Mass on Sunday?

Certainly not just to follow a ritual. As Pope Francis says, "If you are the same at the end of Mass as you were at the beginning, something is wrong." This is because "the Eucharist is the presence of Jesus," who "comes and must transform you." What's more, the Pope continues, "it is a way of opening ourselves to the world as He taught us." By going to Mass, we find the courage "to go out of ourselves, and to open ourselves to others with love." Let us join the Pope in prayer so that "Catholics place at the center of their lives the Eucharistic Celebration."

To watch the video, visit: <https://youtu.be/luckJcd1kc0>

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to share with you the outline of our Strategic Plan. This includes the Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles that were approved by parishioners at our recent forums. We have also taken the feedback that was provided to help develop some Priorities which will guide our actions in the coming years. We look forward to discussing this proposed Strategic Plan with you at a Parish Forum in August.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after 5:30pm Mass at St Margaret Mary's on Saturday July 15th. We look forward to seeing you there.



INVITATION TO WELCOMING MINISTRY

♥ Calling All Kind Hearts! Join Our Ministry of Welcome! ♥

Feedback from our community consultations indicated a need to ensure that all people coming to Mass feel welcome.

We are seeking compassionate volunteers to join our Welcoming Ministry! Be a beacon of warmth and love, ensuring every parishioner feels embraced in our faith community. Share a

friendly smile, offer guidance, and extend a helping hand as we open our hearts to those seeking solace and spiritual connection.

Please consider joining this important team - your role could include coming to Mass 15 minutes earlier and greeting people as they arrive. You might be able to assist every week, or less frequently.

Together, let's create a vibrant atmosphere of belonging and hospitality. Join us in spreading God's love and make a lasting impact on the lives of all our members.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our Ministry of Welcome please speak to us or contact us at the presbytery, or via StJosephVicPPC@gmail.com. Your presence matters!

WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS

One of our young teachers at Sacred Heart Parish School, Vivian Do, will be joining the WYD pilgrimage to Lisbon this year. Vivian will also be participating in an extension of the program with other Catholic educators, starting in Rome to develop leadership identity through self-reflection and spiritual discernment and in Assisi for a retreat experience.



Congratulations to Vivian and the Sacred Heart Parish School Community!

OUR SICK

Finka Stipic, Teresa Mustica, Carmelo Briffa, Anda Rados, Anto Barun, Elizabeth Sundanum, Eric Moore, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Bozo Madzar, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Kay Conlin, Rosalind Vincent, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba

ANNIVERSARIES

John Kennedy, Michael O'Shea, Amira Saliba, Concetta Giarusso, Maria Vu Thi Thuyet, Maria Tran Thi Nam, Joseph Nguyen Van Kha

RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr Austin Cooper, Janina Skowronski, Teresa Penna, John Conlan

TREASURING OUR LATER YEARS

Where: St Joseph's by the sea
16 Esplanade Willimastown

When: Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th August

Topics: Accomplishment, Relationships, Spirituality, Limitations, Legacy

Presenter: Nicole Rotaru RSM

Cost: \$20 per session

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

ST JAMES - FAITH FORMATION SERIES

Led by three priest-theologians from Catholic Theological College – Rev. Dr. Max Vodola, Rev. Dr. Brendan Reed, Rev. Dr. Jake Mudge – this faith formation series will allow us to delve deeper into Pope Francis's vision of the universal Church 'walking together', continuing the reception of Vatican II, and embracing the ecclesiological challenges of our time. By exploring these themes, we hope that we come to a better understanding of the Church's mission and be better equipped to foster a listening and synodal parish that nurtures growth and unity.

When: Wednesdays, July 5th, 12th, 19th

Topics: The Legacy of Vatican II
Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes
Imagining the Church Today: A Synodal Church as a Pilgrim

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: 336 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing

Registration: <https://www.trybooking.com/CJKFP>

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Last weekend, we launched the 2023 Vinnies Winter Appeal—for volunteers to join our conference, financial assistance and your prayers. Thank you to all parishioners for your support, it is only with your help and care that we are able to offer a hand up to those in need in our local community.

If you would like to donate to the appeal, please scan the QR code to donate online, or use the envelopes available in the Church.

Want to find out more about our local conference? Get in contact with Conference President Clare on 0421 164 091.



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.