



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

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport

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E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

W: www.stjosephs3015.com.au

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 Administrator

Father Samuel Kapani PA

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong- *Chairperson*

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

Secretary

Enes Bowen

Tue–Fri – 9am – 2:30pm

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

E: principal@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding

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

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

30 March 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THRONHILL sm

Traditionally, the liturgy of the fourth Sunday of Lent has sounded a joyous note – encouraging us as we reach the mid-point of our Lenten journey; inviting us to recognize the joy that will be ours if we are wholehearted in our turning to God. The joy to be found in our faith is a theme running through Luke's gospel. In one passage, he puts together three parables of Jesus describing the joy of finding what was lost – the lost sheep, the lost coin, the son who was lost – as the response of Jesus to the criticism that he sat down with sinners. Though we have listened to it countless times, the story of the father whose loving reception of his wayward son gave him a new life moves us deeply every time we hear it. It is not surprising that it is chosen as today's gospel reading.

This parable has different levels of meaning. Jesus made it clear that his first concern was to call old Israel to its true role in the generous designs of God (cf. Mt 10:6 etc). Against this background, the parable can be seen as referring to the whole drama of Old Testament history. The lost son stands for the covenanted people who have lost their way. The father in the story stands for the God of the covenant. The people's failure to find new life – by entering into the divine love that inspired the covenant – has meant that their history has been filled with failure and frustration, even exile among foreigners. Not having learned the ways of God's generous love, they are like mercenaries – like the prodigal, who thinks that he has lost his father's love and can only hope to live with the household slaves; like the elder brother (standing for those who should have been guides for the people) who thinks he can earn the love of his father by 'never disobeying his orders'. Like all genuine love, the love that inspires the God of the covenant is a mysterious gift; it can never be earned in the first place, and having been given will never be taken back: 'You are with me always and all I have is yours'. As it concludes, the parable invites us to see the life of the wayward son as being changed for ever: as he comes, for the first time, to know the love that is in his father's heart, and begins to share in all that that love inspires. At the personal level, the story told by Jesus invites us to take up our Lenten journey with renewed eagerness, reflecting that the selfless divine love that shapes God's dealings with us is the ultimate mystery of our human existence: expressed already in the old covenant; shaping the whole story of creation; and finding its ultimate revelation in the Passover Mystery the Church is soon to celebrate.

One of the most memorable passages of Paul's letters provides our second reading. The parable of Jesus called God's people to be reconciled. Paul announces the final 'reconciliation' achieved by God in Christ. And he reminds us who have been united to God in Christ that we have a great responsibility towards our troubled world, to bring to it the Good News of this reconciliation: 'We are ambassadors for Christ', he tells us. Today's first reading, continuing the story of Old Testament events, tells of the entry into the Promised Land: described as a new Passover – a reminder of the Pascal Mystery's centrality to the whole story of the Scriptures.

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

Joshua 5:9–12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2–7

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R)

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name,
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R)

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.(R)

2nd Reading

Corinthians 5:17–21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

PARISH NEWS

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy, Sunday the 30 of March at Sacred Heart Church at the 10am mass. Please also find copies of our children's newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to be able to drive fellow Parishioners to the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, if you can help contact the Parish office.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Save the Date

Are you interested in becoming a Lector or Special Minister at Mass?

Please join us for a brief training and information session at Sacred Heart church on:

Thursday April 3 at 6.30 pm

All new, and current, lectors and special ministers' welcome.

LECTORS AND SPECIAL MINISTERS

We are currently contacting all our Lectors and Special Ministers to ensure our Parish Volunteer Records are up to date. If you are a Lector or Special Minister and haven't received an email regarding your preferred Masses, please contact Katherine

(at Katherine.Wong@cam.org.au) or the Parish Office. Thanks.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with the Parish Feast and Commissioning Mass last weekend.

A special thanks to all the volunteers and teachers who attended, and to everyone who helped prepare and bring along morning tea. Your efforts and dedication made the event a great success!

COMBINED PARISH YOUTH GATHERING

Our next Combined Parish youth Gathering will be held Saturday 5th of April at 7:00pm-8:30pm.

We invite all Youth aged 13-18 years old to come and join us for a fun evening with pizza, religious talk reflecting on the mass readings and games. The youth will also be volunteering for this Saturday's mass at St Mary's Church (Williamstown) at 6pm.

Address for Youth Gathering:

St Mary's Parish Centre, 116 Cecil Street, Williamstown.

COMBINED PARISH MEETING

A combined parish meeting will be held on April 1st in Altona. This meeting will cover updates and important matters concerning our community.

Please pray for the mission of our churches as we prepare for this important meeting. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

OUR SICK

Helen Kelly

RECENTLY DECEASED

Cristino Simiele

ANNIVERSARIES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us for the Stations of the Cross this year, a time of shared fellowship and prayer with our local parishes.

Weeks 1 and 6: We gathered as a parish at Sacred Heart, Newport, and St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood.

Weeks 2 to 5: We visited other churches and joined them in their services. We hope this shared reflective fellowship has helped us prepare for Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, 04 April, 6pm at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Williamstown

Friday, 11 April, 6pm at St Margaret Mary's, Spotswood



Fifth Sunday of Lent
5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

JOIN OUR PARISH MAILING LIST!

Stay connected with all the latest news and events from our parish. Simply scan the QR code below to join our mailing list to receive our weekly Newsletter.



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.

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.

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,
please contact the parish office for more information.***

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



THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 the life everlasting. 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 o 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