



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

11TH FEBRUARY 2024

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au
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 – 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

Reflection by John Thornhill sm

Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom, by preaching and by the healings that signalled the Kingdom's mysterious coming in his own person.

Critical studies of the miracle narratives of the four gospels have produced important conclusions. They concern a relatively small number of events – about 30 in all. These narratives offer a distinct contrast to the characteristics of typical 'wonder stories'. Though part of the Christian message from the beginning, they are constantly associated with a concern that they not give rise to a superficial popular enthusiasm, but be understood as signs of the coming of the Kingdom. We have already recognised the importance of this concern of Mark. His account of the healing of the leper, as Jesus begins his Galilean ministry presses home the point.

What a magnificent encounter with which to introduce the missionary journeys of Jesus. It would be hard to find a more telling symbol of the human miseries that Jesus was sent to overcome, than the plight of the leper who threw himself at the feet of Jesus – 'If you want to you can cure me'. It was a situation produced in large part by human ignorance and fear, accentuated by traditions of ritual cleanness. Our first reading from Leviticus describes this pathetic condition in graphic detail – obliged to wear torn clothes, with hair dishevelled, and sounding the warning cry, 'Unclean!', that ostracised the leper from normal society. What the biblical writings called 'leprosy' included not only the dread Hansen's disease, but many other skin disorders, many of which modern medicine recognises not to be contagious.

As the Saviour is moved with compassion in the presence of this human misery, we are reminded that the Servant of God of the late Isaian writings, who embodied God's saving designs, by 'bearing the sorrows' of the people, is described as assuming the condition of a leper – 'Despised, familiar with suffering, one from whom we averted our gaze' (Is 53:3). In fact, Jesus made an astounding gesture of solidarity with the man in his misery. As he healed the leper with his word of prophetic authority, he 'stretched out his hand and touched him'. In doing so, according to the Law, he had made himself ritually unclean.

Those who claimed the power of healing were not uncommon in the world in which Jesus lived. Being seen as one of their number could seriously compromise the evangelising mission that had been so tellingly expressed in the healing of the leper. Jesus urged the man, therefore, to go off quietly, fulfilling the Law's prescription by having the priests verify his cure. But the man who had been cured could not contain himself. So important, however was it to Jesus – that the notoriety his healing had attracted be minimised – that he was forced to keep away from the towns. Nevertheless, the people were still drawn to him – Who is this man?



Say nothing to anyone,
but go and show yourself to the priests

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 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.

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

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 31

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

THE LEPER

The painting below by Ron Cianni shows the despair and alienation the leper must have felt and the transformation that Jesus offers. A brief commentary on the painting:

"A simple story told over only a few verses packs an enormous message for anyone who ever came to the Savior needing His touch. Ron DiCianni gives viewers a glimpse into those verses and how the life of one of society's cast outs was changed forever. While studying *The Leper*, notice the position the leper took when he confronted Christ. He fell on his face. He had no options left in his life, no bargaining power – he assumed the only position left. His need made him realize the Savior was his only hope. Also, see the Savior doing what every hopeless case longs for. He did the unthinkable in that day and age...He touched the leper. That would have been a giant mistake for any human not just because of the law, but for the simple reason that this dreaded disease was highly contagious. No problem though for the one who holds in His hands the "sun of righteousness...with healing in its wings" (Malachi 4:2). Lastly, note the hand that Jesus is holding. New, healthy skin is starting to spread over his body. The leper reached out to the One who heals, and he was a leper no more." Artist's note: "The Leper is a mostly literal interpretation of that moment of healing with a couple of twists. I purposely avoided showing Christ's face because I don't want to bring Christ down to a merely human level. It is the "Spirit" of Christ I wanted to represent in my work and not just the historical. The little "stars" appearing at Christ's touch heralds the magical moment of healing. Notice the difference of color in the healed hand from his other, as the healing begins to travel throughout his body. The clouds in back of Jesus are beginning to spread out to form a cross – the ever-present reminder of the price of this leper's healing. The small spray of flowers poking out of the hard ground is symbolic of the new life emerging from the leper's diseased body."



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES, 14.02.24



9:15am Newport
with Students from Parish
School

11:30am Spotswood
with Students from Parish
School

7:00pm Spotswood

CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa next Saturday 17th February after 5.30pm Mass at St Margaret Marys Church. We look forward to seeing you.



ST MARGARET MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SPOTSWOOD

Yesterday we welcomed in the new school year by celebrating mass with Fr Binh. As a community we especially welcomed our new staff and students. We acknowledged and blessed our school leaders for 2024. We look forward to another wonderful year.



THE POOR ARE OUR MASTERS: THE ORDER OF MALTA

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest religious orders in the world. Having been in existence for about 974 years, they continue to draw on their inspiring origins to keep the spirit of Christian chivalry alive, serving the poor and sick as their true 'lords and ladies'. To continue reading, visit:



<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-poor-are-our-masters-the-order-of-malta>

THIS LENT, DON'T FORGET ABOUT EASTER

At the first Theology at the Pub event of the new year, Fr Michael Buck, chaplain at the Melbourne campus of Australian Catholic University (ACU), reflected on the swiftly approaching season of Lent and how we might engage more fruitfully with it. He outlined some common temptations we face, and how to keep the season's connection to Easter and to Baptism alive. To continue reading, visit:



<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/this-lent-dont-forget-about-easter>

OUR SICK

Kata Duvnjak, Bob Cairns, Kristy Robinson, John.

ANNIVERSARIES

Eddie Green, Umberto Bencich, Vesna Coric, Olga Karacic, Vinko Karacic, Niko Karacic, Pera Vucic, Jozo Vucic.

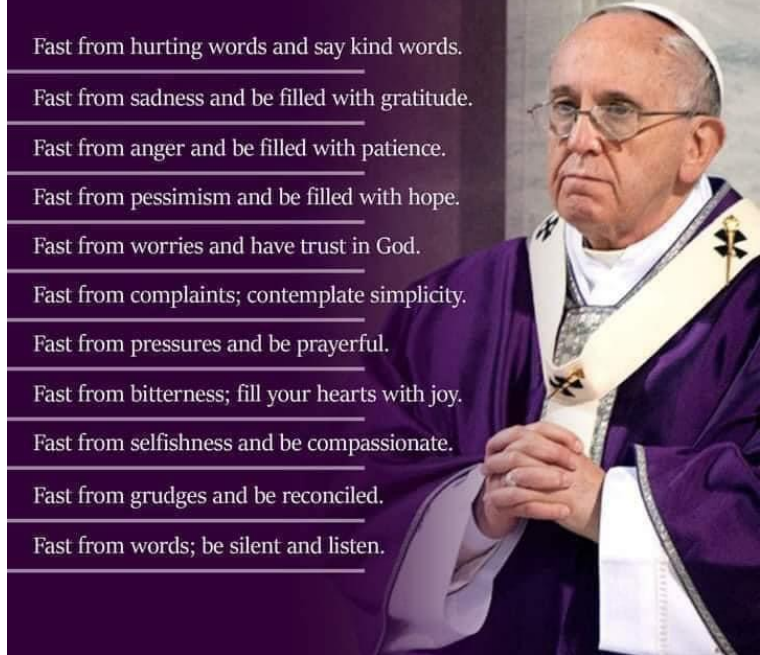
RECENTLY DECEASED

Helen Callinan.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.



COMBINES PARISHES STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be held at the four Parishes on Fridays at 7:00pm as follows:

- February 23rd Mary Help of Christians Church
95 Railway St Nth, Altona
- March 8th St Mary of the Immaculate Conception
116 Cecil St, Williamstown
- March 15th Sacred Heart Church, Newport
- March 22nd St Leo the Great Church
387 Mason St, Altona North

GOD'S MESSAGE 'IS ALWAYS ONE OF FREEDOM': POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2024

On Thursday 1 February, two weeks out from Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis released his annual message for the Lenten season, reflecting on the gift of Christian freedom and how the desert is a time for maturing in that gift. 'When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom,' he said. To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/gods-message-is-always-one-of-freedom-pope-francis-for-lent-2024>



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 Joseph, pray for 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.