



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

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

25TH FEBRUARY 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 – 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](mailto:principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au)

#### St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge  
9391 3118  
[principal@sम्मspotswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sम्मspotswood.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 readings for the First Sunday of Lent present God's unconditional commitment to us flawed human beings, to transform us into the divine image and likeness. However, the question inevitably arises as to what such a transformation involves! The readings for this Second Sunday provide us with some material to do just that.

The first reading in which Abraham is told to sacrifice Isaac is a powerful yet disturbing story and readers have struggled with it over the centuries, offering a variety of interpretations. For this reflection we will explore the understanding of Abraham that can be drawn from considering the passage within the larger context of the story of Abraham and Sarah. In Genesis 12:1-3 Abraham is called by God to become a great nation and bring blessing to 'all the families of the earth'. Nevertheless, he is initially portrayed as an untrusting character: passing his wife off as his sister to protect his skin (12:10-20), complaining to God (15:1-5), and readily agreeing to Sarah's own plans for an heir (16). Yet in Genesis 22 he obeys God's seemingly terrible command without question; an astonishing transformation has taken place. He is now a worthy father-in-faith – as the angel announces: 'now I know that you fear God'.

There is another aspect of Abraham and his relationship with God that one can explore. God's command is a challenge that Abraham is free to accept or reject. His acceptance is appropriate for the theology that the book of Genesis is developing. But the story of Abraham, and indeed the larger Bible, allows one to ask what God would have done if Abraham had refused? The preceding account of Abraham and Sarah provides ample evidence that God does not abandon them in favour of other ancestor despite their failures and foibles. Presumably therefore, one could tell a version of the story in which Abraham refuses God's command, yet God would not destroy or abandon Abraham. To do so would create a contradiction with the merciful and patient God. God's mercy is aimed at ultimately bringing about a right relationship between Abraham and his God and this would involve acknowledgement of his failures. Abraham's story is after all, part of the larger story of God's enduring commitment to a flawed Israel and humanity.

The transfiguration sense in Mark is set within the context of Jesus rebuking Peter because he tries to dissuade Jesus from the path of suffering and death and his teaching about the price of discipleship. Jesus then warns that those who are ashamed of him and his teaching will themselves be shamed when he comes in the 'glory of his Father'. At this moment of Peter's failure and tension over discipleship, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain for an exclusive and intimate experience of the glory of the Father. Like Abraham in the lead up to Genesis 22, like us, Peter fails to heed the message but Jesus never flags in his loyalty to Peter and the other disciples. The transfiguration is a sign of Jesus and the Father's complete commitment to the disciples (and through them to humanity), despite their flaws and misunderstandings. An integral part of this commitment is to lead them back down the mountain to our troubled world and on the path of true discipleship. Much of this path is hidden; the disciples cannot foresee all its twists and turns except that, Jesus forewarns them, the journey will involve losing their old life. Only in this way will they be able to arrive at the new life, their share in the glory of the Father.

Jesus is always standing at God's right hand to plead for us. How can we hesitate to cast our lot with God when we have an advocate like Jesus completely devoted to winning the case for us hopeless cases?

### 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 **Genesis 22:1- 2, 9-13, 15-18**

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115

*R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

1. I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading **Romans 8:31-34**

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel

**Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

Trust in the Lord is the theme that links all this week's readings. As we continue our Lenten journey, we are reminded of the extent of the Lord's love and generosity – if we but listen to his voice and place our trust in him.

In the First Reading we see the depth of Abraham's trust in God as he is asked to sacrifice his beloved son. Abraham's faithfulness is rewarded with more blessings than he could ever have imagined. The Psalmist gives thanks and praise to the Lord who has freed him, reminding us that he trusted God even when sorely afflicted. Like him, we can rejoice as we walk in the presence of the Lord.



In the echoing the story of Abraham and Isaac, St Paul challenges us to recall the immensity of God's love for the world in giving up his Son. With Jesus standing at the right hand of God pleading for us, we can have confidence in placing all our trust in him. (Second Reading) In the Gospel, Jesus asks Peter, James and John to trust him, without speaking of the wonder they have witnessed on the mountain top.

This week, we pray for the grace to trust and to listen ever more closely to the voice of the Lord, so that we, too, might walk in his presence.

## ROSARY GROUP

Monday Rosary Group commences Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, at 1.00pm Jubilee Room, Newcastle St, Newport Please join us. All welcome.



## COMBINED PARISHES STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

- March 8<sup>th</sup>** St Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
16 Cecil St, Williamstown
- March 15<sup>th</sup>** Sacred Heart Church, Newport  
Newcastle St, Newport
- March 22<sup>nd</sup>** St Leo the Great Church  
387 Mason St, Altona North

## COMBINED PARISH YOUTH GROUP

**Who:** 13-18 years old

**When:** 2nd March 2024

**Where:** St Mary's Parish centre  
116 Cecil Street, Williamstown

**Time:** 7:00-8:30pm

Please encourage our young people to participate.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Will commence next Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Sacred Heart Church. All children are welcome to attend.

## PARISH DONATIONS

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available at our Churches.



All you need to do is select the amount or select custom amount to donate, tap your card and you are good to go. Thank you for your continued generosity and support for our Parish.

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FEAST DAY

Sacred Heart church  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
10.00am Mass, followed by Lunch  
In the school hall.



## ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

This week marked the start of the Lenten season at St. Margaret Mary's in Spotswood! We kicked things off with delicious pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and gathered for a very special whole school mass with Father Binh on Ash Wednesday. Swing by to admire the beautiful display crafted by one of our parents, reflecting the messages we embrace this season.



## OUR SICK

Kata Duvnjak, Bob Cairns, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Antun & Marija Mijic, Ian Nason Hunter, Maria Le, Maria Luu, Maria Tra, Joseph Tho, Domenico Phuong, Dominico Quyen, Tadeo Vuong, Ian Nason Hunter.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Frank Franze

## SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL, NEWPORT

Last Sunday, the staff of Sacred Heart Primary School and St Margaret Mary's Primary School gathered as one, the Parish of St Joseph. During mass, Fr Binh presented the staff to those



present and invited educators and administration staff to re-commit to Catholic education, our children and families through

our vocation and work each day. Teaching is both an honour and a privilege and the presence of our dedicated team demonstrated further their commitment to our school & students.

## LENT PROJECT COMPASSION



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines. To continue reading:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/project-compassion/bulletin-notice-parish/>

## BE PATIENT, BUT READY TO ACT: MELBOURNE WELCOMES EIGHT NEW SEMINARIANS

Corpus Christi College, the regional seminary for Victoria and Tasmania, is now home to eight new seminarians, the largest single intake since 2017. With the academic year soon to begin, the seminarians officially moved in last weekend and were warmly welcomed by the community. Continue reading:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/be-patient-but-ready-to-act-melbourne-welcomes-eight-new-seminarians>



## 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 <sup>st</sup> Collection Presbytery Offering	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection Thanksgiving Offering
To support: • Parish clergy • Sick and retired priests • Priests in needy parishes • Archbishop & auxiliary bishops	To support: • 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.