

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



4th Sunday of Easter

26 April 2026



2026 EASTER MESSAGE Easter offers a way forward



Friends,

Easter invites us to stand at the threshold from night into dawn. In the Gospel, we meet Mary Magdalen arriving at the tomb while it was still dark (Jn 20:1). She carries grief and confusion, yet a fragile hope. What she finds is not an ending but a beginning: the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty. And before her stands the One who knows her name: Mary.

As dawn breaks, a quiet truth emerges: death has not had the final word; life has arisen. The resurrection unfolds like morning light. It does not blind, but illumines. It does not erase wounds, but transfigures them. Christ, the Light of the World, comes to meet us as the light we need. Christ is present; Christ is life.

Yet many today experience absence. For the young especially, the world can feel stripped of mystery—flattened, reduced. Meaning feels distant; hope can seem lost. Our lives can appear dark and empty. Conflict and war confront us.

And yet, it is precisely there that Easter speaks our name. The empty tomb is the sign which awakens us to the truth that God is still with us; Jesus is still for us. This Easter, we are called not only to receive Christ's light, but to rediscover its wonder—and to bear that light for others.

Here in Melbourne, we see both vitality and vulnerability: generosity among neighbours, yet distance towards others. Into this world comes the risen Christ, shining light into every

darkness and upon every life. To be a light is to reflect the One who brings hope, and to keep it alive in a world that can forget to hold in safety those in need.

In our divided and conflicted world, Easter offers not escape but a way forward: to live with compassion, seek truth, build peace, and stand for hope.

To the steadfast in faith: may this Easter renew your joy and courage. To those who feel distant: the light of Christ is already seeking you. To people of goodwill: Easter proclaims that life is stronger than death, love stronger than fear, and hope stronger than despair.

May the risen Christ bless Melbourne and all its people this Easter. And may we rediscover his company as we walk from darkness into his marvelous light.

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Next Weekend's Roster – 5th Sunday Of Easter

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturgy Roster
Sat 2nd May 2026	Imelda Gibson	Clare Martin	Melissa Tan	n/a	Carmel Crawford
Sun 3rd May 2026	Lucia Pace	Lori Penna	Tom Penna	Parish Choir	

Counting team (week beginning 3rd May 2026): Team B – Margaret, Mary, Tricia

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.

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport

T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

W: www.stjosephs3015.com.au

Mass Times

Tue & Thu – 9.15am, Spotswood

Wed & Fri – 9.15am, Newport

Sat – 9.15am; 5.30pm, Spotswood

Sun – 10.00am, Newport

Reconciliation

Sat 10.00–10.30am, Newport

5.00–5.20pm, Spotswood

Parish Priest

Fr Samuel Kapani PP

Parish Office Hours

Tue (9.00am–3.00pm)

Thu & Fri (9.00am–4.00pm)

Parish Staff

Leanne Misquitta (Bookkeeper)

Jill Dooley (Secretary)

Parish Finance Committee

Martin Kruse – *Chairperson*

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong – *Chairperson*

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

Parish Safeguarding Group

JP Eid – *Chairperson*

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

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

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson

Irene Bongetti

Carmel Crawford

Agnes Pak

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

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Apostles 2:14, 36-41

'On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R)**

2nd Reading

St Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

DID YOU KNOW?

(courtesy: Summit Online)

Points of interest and Catholic lore

- In ancient times, shepherds and their sheep wandered in search of pasture, often travelling many miles. At night, the shepherd would build an enclosure to keep his sheep together and safe from predators. Often he would form a human gate by sleeping at the entry to the enclosure.
- The words pastor and pastoral come from the Latin word for 'shepherd'.

This is one of seven sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel known as the 'I am' sayings. In John, this wording is an indication of the divinity of Jesus because it echoes the sacred name of God revealed to Moses: 'I am who am' (Exodus 3:14).

Novena Day Three to Saint John Paul II

St Leo the Great Parish warmly invites clergy and parishioners from neighbouring parishes to join us for Day Three of the Novena to St John Paul II, as we commemorate the 40th Anniversary of his visit to our parish in 1986.

Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2026

Time: 7:00pm Mass, followed by Novena Prayers, Benediction, and fellowship

The Novena Mass will be led by Fr Kevin Dillon, who served as Victorian State Director for the 1986 visit of Pope John Paul II to Australia. All are welcome.

Partnership with Williamstown Parish

A reminder about the upcoming discussions concerning the proposal to partner with the Williamstown parish. If you didn't get the insert in last week's newsletter that outlines a proposal for how our parishes might explore partnership, copies are available at the back of the church, and it can also be found on our website.

It lists opportunities for parishioners to meet with Fr Samuel and your representatives on the Partnership Steering Committee to discuss what is being proposed and to share your thoughts with them. They want to hear your thoughts and any ideas or concerns you may have so that they are taken into account when decisions are being made about what form a partnership should take.

So please keep in mind, there will be a discussion forum held immediately after each Mass in next weekend, and the following weekend. We expect that they will last about half an hour. If that time doesn't work for you, there will also be a discussion forum in the evening of Wednesday May 6th in the presbytery commencing at 7pm.

Annual Finance Report

They'll be copies of the full 2025 Parish Financial Report at the back of the church.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

The new thanksgiving envelopes are available. Please collect them at your convenience from the church foyers. Some of the parishioners will receive a new number.

Reason: Parishioners moved on, leaving the numbers vacant. Additionally, envelopes are printed in sequence, not according to numbers. So, the need for readjustment.

Thank you for your generous contribution and understanding.

Cuppa & Chat

Due to further discussion about the partnership with Williamstown Parish on Sunday 3rd May, they'll be no Cuppa & Chat after Mass.

Bookkeeper on leave

Leanne will be away for two weeks.

She will be back on 5 May.

Please pray for :

RECENT DEATHS

ANNIVERSARY

Elias BOU-GHOSN
Marie DUCKWORTH
Edna D'SOUZA
Carmelo BUGEJA

SICK

John Francis SANTOS
Victoria ROMERO
Chris ROMAN
Michelle NEWMAN
Helen KELLY
Kristy ROBINSON
John



Saint Carlo Acutis

Prayer from the Bishop of Assisi

O God, Our Father, thank you for giving us Carlo, an example for youth of a life well-lived, with a message of love for all.

You filled his heart with love for Your Son, Jesus, making the Eucharist his "Highway to Heaven."

You gave him Mary as a loving Mother, and through the Rosary, you made him a poet of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us.

Above all, gaze upon the poor, whom he loved and served. Through his intercession, grant me the grace I need [mention here].

We rejoice that Carlo is now counted among the saints of Your Church, a beacon of light for our times. May his smile may reflect for us the glory of Your name. Amen

VIANNI VOCATIONS

Catholic Care Victoria Annual Sunday Appeal

As the social service agency of the Catholic dioceses in Victoria, CatholicCare Victoria's mission is to empower communities, build strength and resilience, and to help everyone reach their full potential. CatholicCare Sunday Appeal will be held the weekend of 2nd and 3rd May 2026. It's major fundraising event of the year – to enable it to continue supporting vulnerable families and individuals in local communities.

High Tea 2026

Joseph's Corner will be hosting a High Tea on Sunday 3rd May 2026
Time: 2 pm - 5 pm Doors open @ 1.30 pm Venue: Mount St. Joseph Girl's College, 133 Maidstone Street, Altona. Guest Speaker: TBA
Bookings through Trybooking (scan QR code). Bookings essential by Monday 27th April 2026. Cost: 40 per person. All proceeds provide free counselling to families and individuals affected by a loved one's addiction. Simply scan the QR code to book.



May Count

This will be held during the weekends in May

Combined Parish Youth Gathering

Combined Parish Youth Groups will be held on Saturday 2nd May @ 7 pm @ Parish centre, Williamstown.

Revamp of Parish Newsletter

The parishioners can expect a revamp of the parish newsletter from May.



JOIN OUR PARISH MAILING LIST!

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

PARISH CALENDAR & COMMUNITY OBSERVANCES

MAY:

- 1st: Friday Parish Morning Tea (Presbytery)
- 2nd: Combined Parish Youth Gathering
- 3rd: Discussion - Partnership with Williamstown Parish
- 3rd: CatholicCare - Sunday Appeal

MAY:

- 4th: Rosary Group (Jubilee Room)
- 5th: SH SAC Meeting
- 7th: SMM SAC Meeting
- 10th: Mother's Day

SH: Sacred Heart SMM: St Margaret Mary's PFC: Parish Finance Committee PPC: Parish Pastoral Council SAC: School Advisory Council

Synod26 corner

7. Synodality and bishops

Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

Building the Synodal Way Together

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission will be held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod.

If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email: Synod2026@cam.org.au



Archdiocese Special Collections 2026

3 May

7 June–26 July

7 June

28 June

9–23 August

CatholicCare – Sunday Appeal

Propagation of the Faith

Winter Appeal – St Vincent de Paul Society

Peter's Pence

The Archbishop's Campaign

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.

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.

Easter Offering

\$809.10

Thank you very much for your generosity and support.
May the Risen Lord bless you and your family.

JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM



If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program, and receive a thanksgiving envelope no. please contact the parish office.

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



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 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

If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program electronically or make a one-off gift to the church scan this QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your continued support.

