



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

**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B**

**18TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**Parish Office**

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**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 Rev Mark O'Brien OP**

The early chapters of Genesis juxtapose two competing views of human beings. On the one hand, the Bible claims that we alone of earth creatures are in the image of and likeness of God. On the other hand however, the flood story warns us that we can become the most dangerous and destructive creatures in creation. Nevertheless, our first reading from Genesis proclaims in story form Israel's conviction (its faith) that, despite this destructive tendency, God is unconditionally committed to us (the covenant with Noah and the sign of the rainbow). No matter how bad we are, and the subsequent stories of Noah's garden and the tower of Babel testify that humanity is of itself unable to change, God maintains this commitment. Given our propensity to wreck havoc on one another and the environment, it is comforting to have God's commitment.

For the Bible of course, our lamentable situation is not the end of the matter but an opportunity to teach us how we can escape it and transform our lives. Hence, it goes on to tell how God chose Israel through the ancestors Abraham and Sarah to bring blessing 'to all the families of the earth'. The Torah or Pentateuch teaches Israel that it can live in the land in a way that transforms it from a potentially destructive rabble to a life-giving community. It can learn to live in the image and likeness of God. To do this, Israel must rely on God's power, not its own – what we would call grace.

The Gospels in their turn claim that Jesus is the one above all has the power to bring about our transformation. In a dramatic portrayal of this divine power at work, Mark's Gospel tells of Jesus being driven into the wilderness. There, according to the book of Numbers, Israel failed to live up to its God-given vocation, Jesus is portrayed being tempted to follow the age-old human tendency to rely on its own or a false power (Satan), the kind that leads to chaos and destruction. But, in Mark's cryptic prose, Jesus is described living 'with the wild beasts'. At last there is a human being who is 'good news' for all of creation. Jesus is the one who brings about that harmony with creation that is the God-given task of the human being. As one who is perfectly in the image and likeness of God, there is harmony not only with creation but also with God. In the presence of Jesus, heaven and earth can again be at one. But one 'wild beast' still needs to be dealt with, potentially the most destructive creature in creation.

Hence this cryptic but dramatic narrative in Mark is immediately by the report of Jesus 're-entering' society to heal our flawed humanity and to transform us into the image and likeness of himself. Jesus wields divine power in a perfectly human way and it is a power that contrasts sharply and tellingly with the way we tend to exercise or rather abuse divine power (given that all our power is a gift of God in some form). What is the most telling and effective manifestation of divine power in Jesus? In the words of 1 Peter it is that Jesus, 'innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God'. By refusing to exercise power in a violent way to counter violence, Jesus is able to lead us through the death of our destructive, violent nature to our new life in the image and likeness of God. The sign of God's enduring commitment to flawed humanity is the rainbow in the clouds. The sign of our commitment to share in Jesus' death in order that we may be create anew is the water of baptism. As we commence the season of Lent for another year, in response to God's promise made visible in the rainbow, we are invited again to accept the power-filled, life-giving love of Jesus that alone can transform our lives, both as individuals and as a world community.

**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@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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

**Genesis 9:8-15**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 24**

**R.** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

**Mark 1:12-15**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God.

'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: THE GOOD NEWS OF THE COVENANT

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. This first Sunday of Lent now leads us immediately into Jesus's own journey into the desert in prayer, fasting, and to face temptation. The First Reading reminds us of the journey of God's chosen people. Here God establishes his Covenant with Noah and all his descendants, and with the whole of creation. Never again will God destroy the earth with a flood. He leaves a bow in the sky to confirm this.

St Peter (Second Reading) links the few people Noah saved 'by water' to ourselves. We are saved through the baptism that Christ won for us by his death and resurrection. The Gospel gives a short account of Jesus being tempted in the desert. He emerges ready to proclaim his message: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand'. The Psalm reflects the message of hope that is contained in all the readings. The Lord's ways are faithfulness and love.

May we take heart from the scriptures as we begin our Lenten journey, ready to follow the Lord's ways, and eager to learn his paths.



## WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus enters the desert and is tempted. He is alone with no one except himself and the presence of his Father. For us, Lent is also a time to know God and to know ourselves. It is a time to open ourselves up to the truth



of who we are and to see ourselves in the light of God's love, truth and mercy. The following quotes from the saints help us to do this. In the first, St Bernard of Clairvaux reminds us to centre our lives on the God of love as revealed by Jesus. The second by St Augustine goes directly to the challenge we all have to face, especially during Lent – owning up to the shadow side of who we are and acknowledging our need for repentance. The third quote from St Francis de Sales directs our hearts to Christ, his cross and the love with which he bore it. Here is the love of God that is the source of our hope.

To continue reading please visit:  
<https://www.thehookoffaith.com/single-post/newsletter-inserts-wisdom-from-the-saints>

## BAPTISM



We pray with and congratulate the *Kawanishi and Considine* families whose children will be baptised this weekend. May the Kawanishi and Considine families always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community.

## CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa this Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February after 5.30pm mass at St Margaret Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you. 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:

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

## SERVING OTHERS IN LOVE: PROJECT COMPASSION 2024 OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES

On Tuesday 13 February, Caritas Australia officially launched their 2024 Project Compassion campaign at the Academy of Mary Immaculate College, Fitzroy. The theme for 2024 is once again 'For All Future Generations', this time taking its inspiration from Exodus 3:15 and the story of Moses. When Moses asks God who he should say is sending him to the Israelites, God replies: You are to tell the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name for all time, and this is my title for all generations. To continue reading, visit:



<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/serving-others-in-love-project-compassion-2024-officially-launches>

## 'HER JOURNEY IS LIKE OUR JOURNEY: SUDANESE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Members of the local Sudanese Catholic community gathered in Melbourne parishes over the weekend to celebrate the feast of St Josephine Bakhita. At St Anthony's in Noble Park, Bishop Anthony Ireland celebrated Mass, where parishioners young and old came together for a vibrant celebration with special prayers and music.



Bishop Ireland praised the community for their continued faith and devotion to their country's patron. 'Thank you for being here to give glory and praise to God and to venerate the saint of the Sudanese people. To continue reading, visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/her-journey-is-like-our-journey-local-sudanese-community-celebrates-st-josephine-bakhita>

## OUR SICK

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

Ethel McIntosh, Charles Constantine, Veronica Dodd, Amelia Meilak, Robert Costa

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Serafin Kupresanin, Trieu Duc Tran

## RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The principals, educators and support staff of Sacred Heart Parish School in Newport and St. Margaret Mary Parish School in Spotswood will attend and renew their commitment to the ministry of education at the 10.00am Parish Mass this Sunday.



We acknowledge their important and essential ministry of education and offer our prayers for them as they work to make Christ known through education.

## CROATIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES HERO AND MARTYR BLESSED ALOYSIUS STEPINAC

On Saturday 10 February, St Patrick's Cathedral was filled with the music and colours of Melbourne's Croatian Catholic community as they gathered to celebrate the feast of Blessed Alojzije (Aloysius) Stepinac, a man who, as Archbishop of Zagreb, helped rescue thousands of Jews from the cruelty of the Nazis.



More than 1,500 people gathered at St Patrick's for the celebration, with the Zvonimir Folklore Ensemble, a Croatian music group, forming part of the procession. To continue reading, visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/croatian-community-celebrates-hero-and-martyr-blessed-aloysius-stepinac>

## PRAYER FOR PEACE WITH THE COMMUNITY OF SANT' EGIDIO

When: Monday 19 February 2024 (8.00pm–9.00pm)  
Where: All Saints Parish, 174 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy  
Join the Sant' Egidio communities around the world in praying for peace. The Community of Sant' Egidio is a Christian community born in a secondary school in the centre of Rome in 1968, right after the Second Vatican Council. Over the years, it has become a network of communities in more than 70 countries of the world. For more information or to get involved, contact [seinaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:seinaustralia@gmail.com).



## COMBINED PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Who: 13-18 years old  
When: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024  
Where: St Mary's Parish centre  
116 Cecil Street, Williamstown  
Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Please encourage our young people to participate.

## 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

To support:

- Parish clergy
- Sick and retired priests
- Priests in needy parishes
- Archbishop & auxiliary bishops

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

Thanksgiving Offering

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.