

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

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 – 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

Barbara Payne

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.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

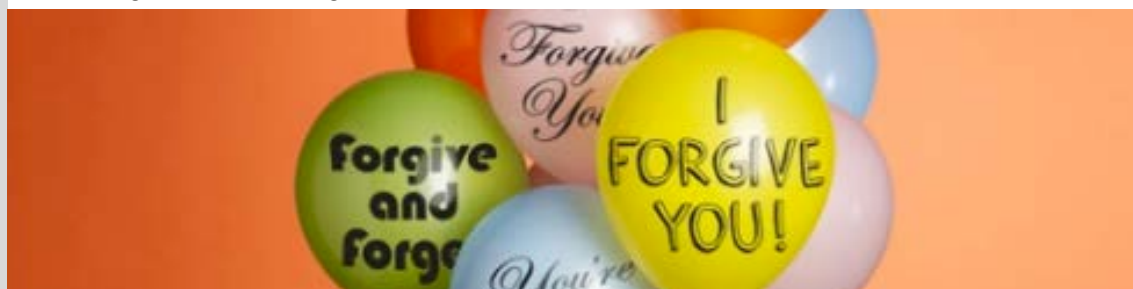
23rd February 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THRONHILL sm

Last week we heard Luke's presentation of 'The Beatitudes'. Today we continue the same passage – as Jesus spells out practical implications of a teaching that has immense importance for those who want to be his followers. We have heard many times of the 'New Commandment' and the 'Law of Love'; but have we made them our rule of life? Today's gospel can help us to do this. 'Love your enemies', Jesus tells us. David's gesture towards king Saul demonstrates a certain nobility; but it is still far removed from the ideal of selflessness Jesus sets before us. 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you ... lend without any hope of return' may well seem an impossible ideal as a way of life. The first disciples of Jesus may well have made this judgment, had it not been for the memory of the life Jesus had lived in their midst. In the New Testament, these first followers share with us how they came to recognise the central importance of the New Commandment of love - as they reflected on the selfless life of Jesus and its culmination in his tragic death. St Paul, in today's second reading, tells us that he has come to see how Jesus has inaugurated a new beginning for the whole of humanity - far greater than that of the first creation. 'Bear one another's burdens', he wrote in another place, 'and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ' (Gal 6:2). It is the gift of the Saviour's own Spirit, he has come to see, that makes this possible: 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' (Rom 5:5). John's interpretation of the teaching of Jesus is the same: 'I give you a new commandment ... that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends' (Jn 13:34; 15:12-13).

Clearly, this Law of Love – so insistently spelt out by Luke – is an ideal that none of us will ever fully realise. How can we love others as Christ himself has loved them? 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. How can our concern for the needy around us be compared with the loving mercy of the Father who 'gave his own Son', that the world may 'have eternal life' (Jn 3:16). Perhaps it is because this Law of Love seems an impossible ideal that Christians rarely think of it as a practical way of life. As his true disciples, however, Jesus tells us that we must never turn away from this ideal; it must be the measure of our lives. In the presence of the mystery of divine love, we will certainly be humbled, as we reflect upon our own performance. But in today's gospel takes us beyond this: Jesus teaches us how we can put the Law of Love into practice – we should never set limits to the practical good will we have towards our fellow human beings: be they friend or enemy, likely to repay us or not, reasonable or unreasonable in their demands. An impossible ideal it may still seem; but through the gift of God's own spirit, the example of followers of Jesus in every age is there to encourage us, as they gave their times a glimpse of what Jesus was really like. With them, the only reward we should seek is the joy that we share with our Lord, the joy of the selfless giver. And so Luke's presentation of the teaching of Jesus ends as it began, pointing the way to true happiness – in the gifts of God that will be ours when we identify with the generous ways of God, our joy will be 'a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running.



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 **1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23**

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13** **R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. **(R)**

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion. **(R)**

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **(R)**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. **(R)**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

2nd Reading **1 Corinthians 15:45-49**

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel **Luke 6:27-38**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.

To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect?

Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned.

Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

PARISH NEWS

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Children's liturgy will resume on Sunday the 2nd of March at Sacred Heart Church at the 10am mass. In the meantime, please find copies of our children's newsletter.

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.

If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office. We look forward to keeping in touch with you!



Please note- if you already receive the weekly emails from the parish you are already on our mailing list.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for Volunteers to be Lectors, Special Ministers and help with PowerPoint and Music at Mass. Training will be provided. We are also looking for volunteers to count our weekly offering. Please note that you must have a current Working with Children check, sign our code of conduct, complete an online Safeguarding course. A Police Check is also required for roles directly involving finance or children.

If you are interested, please contact Enes at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or email newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

Please be assured if you need help or guidance meeting requirements we are happy to guide you through the process.

ROSARY GROUP

Rosary Group is back:
Monday 3 March, meeting 1pm
in the Jubilee Room, 9 Newcastle
street across from Sacred Heart
Church.

All Welcome



PARISH DONATIONS

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available in our Churches. All you need to do is select the amount or select custom to donate a different amount, tap your card and you are good to go. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.



OUR SICK

Rita Galea

RECENTLY DECEASED

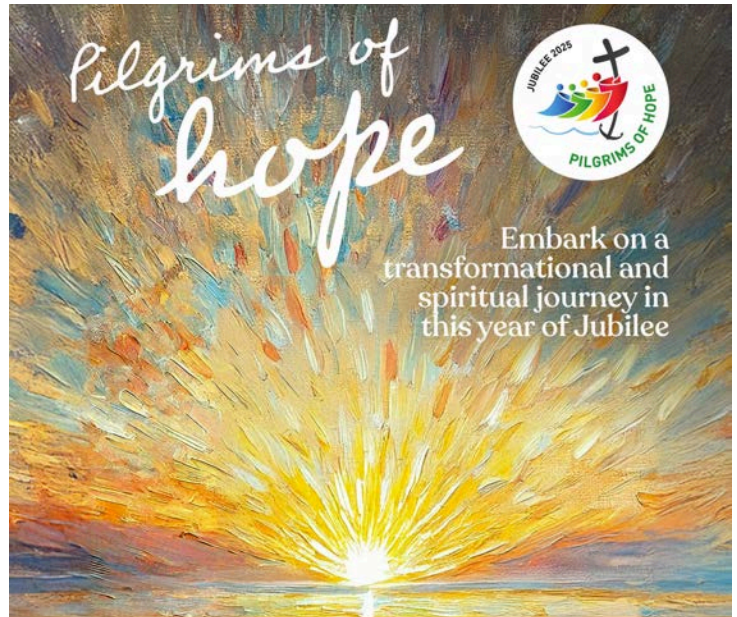
ANNIVERSARIES

Giuse Lam Tuong & Milka Spoljar

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Discover everything you need to participate in Jubilee 2025 across the Archdiocese of Melbourne: pilgrim places, what's on offer, pilgrim resources and more.

Visit now: melbournecatholic.org/jubilee



REFLECTION SR MARY FERMIO

Some years ago, a mother lost three of her own children and a nephew when they were hit and killed by a drunken driver. She spoke publicly: "I think in my heart to forgive him...I am not going to hate him, because that's not who we are". Such words of forgiveness and compassion can only come from a love of God. In today's Gospel Jesus gives us a recipe for living – "Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate". The words before, explain what living compassionately means. It seems to be a hard ask, ignoring our own needs for the sake of others, who are in need. But as Jesus says: "Even sinners lend to sinners..." expecting a return, whereas we are asked not to expect anything in return. But, Jesus also says: "Give, and there will be gifts for you...and the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back". To let go of words and actions that hurt and imitate the mother, can be a giant step to restoring life to ourselves and those we forgive. Maybe, I am the one who needs forgiveness? Can I accept it? Talk to Jesus about this.

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

Presbytery Offering

Supports: *Parish clergy, Sick and retired priests, Priests in needy Parishes, Archbishops & auxiliary bishops.*

2nd Collection

Thanksgiving Offering

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.

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.

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