



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

15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023

### Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport  
T: 9391 1201

E: [newport.spotswood@cam.org.au](mailto:newport.spotswood@cam.org.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 CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

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 John Thornhill sm

As we have already indicated, Matthew's gospel alternates narrative passages with passages presenting the teaching of Jesus. Last week's reading was from a narrative sequence describing the difficulties Jesus encountered in his Galilean ministry. Today's reading is from the section that follows; it contains seven parables of 'the Kingdom' – a central theme of this gospel. It begins dramatically with the parable of the sower. People have come to hear Jesus crowd the shore of the lake, and he speaks to them from a boat. His parable – to an audience of rural Galileans – is about farming. But this farming is very different from the farming we are familiar with. The single spike ploughs used were not very effective; they would hardly make an impression on the hard ground of paths through the field; they left patches of brambles behind them; the Palestinian soil they ploughed was in many places a shallow covering of the underlying rock; much of the seed, broadcast by hand, would therefore come to nothing, while some that fell in soil made ready by the ploughing would produce the miracle of a fresh harvest. Parables are common in the Scriptures, and their appeal to the imagination, to convey a challenging message, was often used by the Jewish rabbis. The parables of Jesus were distinctive, however. He had already announced the essential message of his preaching in clear words – 'Make yourselves ready, the reign of God you have looked forward to is upon you!' His parables describing the coming of this reign were intended to puzzle his hearers – 'Listen anyone who has ears'. He wanted them to discover a meaning that brought home to them how different the Kingdom he proclaimed was from popular expectations - expectations that looked forward to a political vindication of the nation. (The reply Jesus gave, when asked why he taught through parables, does not mean – as we might expect – that he wanted to withhold the truth from his hearers.; it means that he recognised – as the prophet Isaiah recognised before him, in the text he quoted – that many of his hearers would not have the dispositions necessary to find the meaning he wishes to convey.)

If we disregard the detailed explanation of the parable at the end of today's reading – probably an addition made by preachers in the early Church tradition, as they adapted this parable of Jesus to a very different audience – the meaning of Jesus' parable on the shore of the lake is not difficult to grasp. His preaching – and that of the evangelisers who will carry on his mission - will encounter difficulties of many kinds (like the seed of the sower). He has already encountered reversals in Galilee; and as he looked at the crowds curious to hear him he must have realised that his teaching would have little effect on many of them. Nevertheless, the meaning to be found in his parable is forthright: the harvest is certain, and it will be abundant; and there is a note of urgency: God's time has come; there is no second chance – there is only one sowing for each harvest.

Early Christian preachers, as we have said, developed an explanation of the parable for an audience in a very different situation from the crowd on the shore of the lake. That this addition is included in the gospel has an important lesson for later times. The message of Jesus must be applied to the changing circumstances of the Church's life. If the original parable urged the disciples of Jesus to sow the word with confidence, now those who have heard the word must show its fruits in their lives. In today's Church, the biblical revival opens the way for us.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

*The Parish of St Joseph, Newport & Spotswood, acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the churches of Sacred Heart & 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

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64

**R.** *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

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

Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on

rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes,

for fear they should see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

understand with their heart,

and be converted

and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

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'So then, how do things stand in our own lives? Are we truly pervaded by the word of God? Is that word truly the nourishment we live by, even more than bread

and the things of this world? Do we really know that word? Do we love it? Are we deeply engaged with this word to the point that it really leaves a mark on our lives and shapes our thinking? Or is it rather the case that our thinking is constantly being shaped by all the things that others say and do? Aren't prevailing opinions the criterion by which we all too often measure ourselves? Do we not perhaps remain, when all is said and done, mired in the superficiality in which people today are generally caught up? Do we allow ourselves truly to be deeply purified by the word of God?

Pope Benedict XVI, *Chrism Mass*, 2009.



## CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after 5:30pm Mass this Saturday (July 15) at St Margaret Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you there.



## INVITATION TO WELCOMING MINISTRY

♥ Calling All Kind Hearts! Join Our Ministry of Welcome! ♥

Feedback from our community consultations indicated a need to ensure that all people coming to Mass feel welcome.



We are seeking compassionate volunteers to join our Welcoming Ministry! Be a beacon of warmth and love, ensuring every parishioner feels embraced in our faith community. Share a friendly smile, offer guidance, and extend a helping hand as we open our hearts to those seeking solace and spiritual connection.

Please consider joining this important team - your role could include coming to Mass 15 minutes earlier and greeting people as they arrive. You might be able to assist every week, or less frequently.

Together, let's create a vibrant atmosphere of belonging and hospitality. Join us in spreading God's love and make a lasting impact on the lives of all our members.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our Ministry of Welcome please speak to us or contact us at the presbytery, or via [StJosephVicPPC@gmail.com](mailto:StJosephVicPPC@gmail.com). Your presence matters!

## PARISH WEBPAGE



🗨️ Help us create a digital sanctuary where faith, community, and technology intertwine!

🙏 If you have the skills to help revitalise our website, to make our faith community

more vibrant, connected, informed, and engaged we would love to hear from you.

Contact Us: If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us at the presbytery, or via [StJosephVicPPC@gmail.com](mailto:StJosephVicPPC@gmail.com).

## BAPTISM

We pray with and congratulate the *Ravaneschi* family whose child will be baptised this week.

May their child and family always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community.



## PARISH COLLABORATION

This weekend, we welcome Fr Greg Trythall, parish priest of St Mary's Williamstown, to our parish while Fr Binh will be at St Mary's as the two parishes continue exploring ways to collaborate in mission.

## OUR SICK

Finka Stipic, Teresa Mustica, Carmelo Briffa, Anda Rados, Elizabeth Sundanam, Eric Moore, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Bozo Madzar, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Rosalind Vincent, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba

## ANNIVERSARIES

Keith McDonald, Antona Meilak, Vinko Karacic, Olga Karacic, Niko Karacic, Vesna Coric, Pera Vucic, Jozo Vucic, Dorothy & Brendan O'Hare

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Anto Barun, Peter Curmi, Angelo Prestipino

## TREASURING OUR LATER YEARS

**Where:** St Joseph's by the sea  
16 Esplanade Williamstown

**When:** Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> August

**Topics:** Accomplishment, Relationships, Spirituality, Limitations, Legacy

**Presenter:** Nicole Rotaru RSM

**Cost:** \$20 per session

**Registration:** [admin.sjbtsw@sosj.com.au](mailto:admin.sjbtsw@sosj.com.au) or 9397 6012

## FR FRANK BRENNAN SJ SPEAKS ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE VOICE REFERENDUM

Recognising the need for thoughtful and well-informed discourse in the lead-up to the referendum on the Voice to Parliament, Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) and Catholic Social Service Australia (CSSA) recently hosted the second in a series of three webinars, this time featuring Fr Frank Brennan SJ, a prominent lawyer, human rights activist and long-time advocate for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In his presentation, Fr Frank drew upon the wisdom of St Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis to establish a framework for applying Catholic Social Teaching to the broader context of the forthcoming referendum, beginning with a reflection on Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs in 1986, when he met with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics and conveyed a powerful message: *"The Church in Australia will not be fully the church that Jesus wants her to be until you, the Aboriginal people, have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others."*

To read more, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/fr-frank-brennan-sj-speaks-on-catholic-social-teaching-and-the-voice-referendum>

## VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Recently, we launched the 2023 Vinnies Winter Appeal—for volunteers to join our conference, financial assistance and your prayers. Thank you to all parishioners for your support, it is only with your help and care that we are able to offer a hand up to those in need in our local community.



If you would like to donate to the appeal, please scan the QR code to donate online, or use the envelopes available in the Church.

Want to find out more about our local conference? Get in contact with Conference President Clare on 0421 164 091.

## 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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish clergy</li><li>• Sick and retired priests</li><li>• Priests in needy parishes</li><li>• Archbishop &amp; auxiliary bishops</li></ul>	To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish running costs</li><li>• Parish pastoral initiatives</li><li>• Diocesan and various services</li></ul>
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.