



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

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 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 Administrator

Father Samuel Kapani PA

### Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong  
Chairperson

### Secretary & Safeguarding Officer

Ivana Toulmin  
Tuesday & Friday: 9am – 4pm

### 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@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.

### REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

The book of Proverbs begins with the author/teacher gradually introducing the pupil (the listener/reader) to Lady Wisdom, the divine source and authority for his teaching. In the reading for today from chapter 9, she is described establishing her school; the pupil is then invited to follow her curriculum in chapters 10-31, at the end of which the pupil graduates. The pupil reaps the benefits of Wisdom's teaching, which is like being married to the perfect wife (31:10-31). But there is a dangerous rival that the author warns the pupil about – Dame Folly. The uncanny thing about the portrait of her and her 'school' in the same chapter is that she can speak just like Lady Wisdom. The point seems to be that evil can masquerade as good and it can be damn difficult at times to distinguish between the two. The thesis of the book of Proverbs is that Lady Wisdom's curriculum will provide a sure guide through the labyrinth of life and its dangers.

The letter to the Ephesians adds an important ingredient to this wise instruction. The Christian life is not just about navigating one's way in a wicked world, it is also about redeeming it. We should never see our Christian vocation only as something to be defended or protected from outside threats. We are commissioned to be God's messengers of the Good News to others, and this involves two primary things. One is that we must strive to 'recognise what is the will of Lord'. The second is that if we are wholly devoted to God then we will become wholly devoted to God's saving purpose, to redeem our wicked world. How else could we respond to God's complete devotion? Such is the implied logic of the letter. To be the bearer of God's salvation to others is the greatest vocation to which God can call us in this life because it is meant to enable others in their turn to become wholly devoted to God. This is after all what the life of Jesus was all about. Hence it is the common universal vocation of Christians.

The reading from John's Gospel adds a third and particularly challenging ingredient to this mix, and this is the need to maintain the truth of the Good News even in the face of misunderstanding and rejection. As presented in the Gospel, Jesus' Jewish rivals are unable or unwilling to change their idea of him and his relationship to them. If he conforms to their horizons and expectations, then he will be their favourite. But this would require Jesus to assume a false identity. He does not and cannot retreat from proclaiming the truth about himself and about them, to do so for the sake of peace and the satisfaction of a warm welcome would be to play them both and him false. Salvation and truth are inseparable.

We should aim to present the truth in as attractive and acceptable a way as possible, but this should not be at the expense of diluting it, whether it is the truth about God or about ourselves. A particularly significant and challenging element in Jesus' mission is that although others give up on him and reject him, he does not give up on them or reject them. And he is true to his word. He says that 'the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world' and this is exactly what he does in his crucifixion. Preaching and living the Good News can be difficult and challenging thing in a variety ways. There can be the challenge of hostility and violence that Jesus and many martyrs have experienced. Perhaps in our modern world it is the widespread indifference and distraction that makes it difficult to preach the Good News effectively. Someone once said that it is better to be hated than ignored; at least the haters are paying some attention to you and what you are saying!



### 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

**Proverbs 9:1-16**

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her seven pillars,  
she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table.  
She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city's heights:  
'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.' To the fool she says,  
'Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared! Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**.Ps 33**

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord..**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Revere the Lord, you his saints.  
They lack nothing, those who revere him.  
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry  
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **(R.)**
3. Come, children, and hear me  
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who is he who longs for life  
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? **(R.)**
4. Then keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Turn aside from evil and do good;  
seek and strive after peace. **(R.)**

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

**Ephesians 5:15-20**

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but you redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood  
live in me and I in them, says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

**John 6:51-58**

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so

whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FERMIO

Sharing food and drink around a table brings people closer as a family. Celebratory occasions such as Birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, special events are celebrated with a meal together with special food and drink.

The Mass is our community celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who has provided the food – his body and blood, as bread and wine and instructed us to "Do this in memory of me!" This nourishes the life of the community – "if you do not eat...you will not have life in you!"

In the Mass we live we speak to God in the opening prayers; God speaks to us in the readings and homily; we give to God – ourselves, represented in the bread and wine; God returns the gift in Communion. By gathering together as a community, we support each other's faith in what we celebrate, and receive, the Body of Christ.

Let us participate consciously and fully when we gather in our Church by listening, joining in the responses, and let us remember that we have all been united by the Body of Jesus, when we meet after Mass as members of the one family.



The readings for this Sunday tell us of the nourishment that comes from heaven and of our need to draw everlasting life from our relationship with Jesus – as well as pursuing wise and Spirit-filled paths in life. The First Reading makes explicit the value of Wisdom, depicted as a woman seeking and inviting everyone to come and be nourished at her table of learning.

The Psalm is a continuation of last week's psalm of thanksgiving. The psalmist tells us that those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. St Paul (Second Reading) encourages the early Christians to live with awareness and intelligence, and not to be thoughtless. He advises them to discern and recognise the will of the Lord in their own times, and to live lives filled with the Holy Spirit. This message continues to be relevant to us in the present.

In the Gospel, Jesus invites those around him to believe in him; to be in communion with him; to live in him and draw life from him, just as he himself draws life from the living Father. Let us pray for each other throughout this week, that we may seek the nourishment of a life-giving relationship with God, with one another, and with the planet we share.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION



Congratulations to the children at Sacred Heart School and St Margaret Mary's who will be receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion this weekend. May they enjoy the divine presence of Jesus in their lives. May God bless and guide them always.

## PARISH BAPTISMS



We pray with and congratulate the **Browne & De Luca** families whose children will be baptised this week. May the **Browne & De Luca** families always receive the loving and joyful support of our parish community.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy this weekend, 18th August at Sacred Heart Church due to 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion.

## CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a Cuppa and Chat after 10:00am Mass Saturday 01<sup>st</sup> September at Sacred Heart Church. It is a great way to meet fellow Parishioners and catch up with friends. All welcome.

## ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION CALENDARS 2025

Are available to order for \$11.00 each. To place your orders please contact Ivana at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or via email.

## PARISH NEWSLETTER NOTIFICATIONS

Please submit all notifications for the newsletter e.g. sick, anniversaries, recently deceased by Thursday 5.00pm via phone, email or place a note in the letter box. Thank you for your assistance.

## PARISH DONATIONS



For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available at our Mass's for Thanksgiving/Donations. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish.

## SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL



Congratulations to our first group of Year 4 students who received the Eucharist for the first time on Sunday. May God's love be with always.

## SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL

Today we are wearing a touch of purple to acknowledge and spread awareness for 'Bullying no way week' This year the theme is 'Everyone belongs'. Together we all play a significant role in promoting inclusion, respect and belonging.



## OUR SICK

Joe Attard, Austin Reddy, Neil Shepherd, Romano, Serken Taylan, Jo Vassallo, Shirley Farrar, Branko Ujelac, Michelle Jenkins, Anne Sheahan-Lee, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanam, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Salvatore Rundo, Angela Galea, Prisca Reddy.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

## ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL



Happy Friday, everyone! With the Olympics wrapping up, we thought it was the perfect time to celebrate the SMM Mini Olympics. The students had an absolute blast competing in games designed by our amazing

Senior students. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Magill and Mrs. Crawford for having the vision and bringing it to life. Well done to everyone involved and go Aussies!

## 2024 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

The 2024 Archbishop's campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. These ministries are outlined in the campaign brochure which you will find in your pew and in the foyer today. Gifts over \$2 or more are tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishops' Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priest's Retirement foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Nontax deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Project Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift to help us continue to strengthen the Christian faith and address the needs of God's people. Tear of pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at <https://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign> I invite you to give generously to this important campaign.

## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD

The interesting bit of the first reading we hear today is Elijah's initial reaction to the offer of food and drink for the journey ahead. The first time around he takes what's offered, but then promptly goes back into his shell. Elijah wasn't going to buy into God's ploy too easily; he wasn't quite prepared to let go of his own personal #metoo moment. So the Lord again came knocking at the door of his heart: Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you.

To continue reading, please visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/food-for-the-journey-ahead>

## 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.

## 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 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.