



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood



Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au
www.stjosephs3015.com.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 – 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

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

5th May 2024

REFLECTION BY REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

I was told that the problem with the Irish - being of Irish descent myself and studying in Ireland at the time - is 'that you never had the pax romana'. We are still a squabbling tribal people. The 'pax romana' (Roman peace) was apparently a policy used by the Roman empire to break down existing tribal allegiances and cement a new allegiance to the state. The policy was implemented by the good old carrot and stick approach. In our modern world, one could add to this notion of 'national loyalty', loyalty to one's firm, one's club, one's salary package. These mark our various relationships but they also mark our divisions and areas of competition. They divide as much as they unite, or more. It is interesting to note that people coming from traditional tribal societies often comment on how weak our family and community ties seem to be, how individualistic and competitive we are. So, modern states will see traditional tribal groups as sources of division and conflict, and vice versa.

There is something paradoxical about how the very things that we seek to bind us together tend to drive us apart. The root of this lies, I think, in an inescapable fact of nature - difference. The problem is that we quirky and flawed human beings are tempted to turn nature into a vehicle of self-advancement at the expense of the other. Belonging to this family makes me better than that one, the same temptation operates at the level of clans, tribes, nations and firms. Difference is erected into a barrier that excludes.

The Gospel claim is that it is only when Jesus becomes the centre of our lives that all other relationships are able to find their proper function and context: family, tribe, nation, etc. Jesus does not come to destroy these relationships but to remove the barriers that we erect in their name. Grace builds on nature; it doesn't replace it with another 'superhuman' nature.

A fundamental difference between the family of Jesus (disciples) and any other family or community is that it does not depend on birth, race, geography, time, or institution. It is a community that we are invited to join by a loving God who accepts us as we are. As the first letter of John says 'this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us'. We can only love (form genuine relationships) because God has first loved us. Our love may (and often does) fail but God's love does not. But, having received the gift of God's love, we are thereby able to love as God loves.

The reading from the Acts offers a powerful example of how the power of this love, in the form of the Holy Spirit, is able to break down the barriers between race and religion (Jew and Gentile). As Peter says, 'The truth that I have now come to realise is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him'. An important factor in Peter's proclamation to Cornelius is his awareness that being a disciple of Christ does not make him superior to others but the servant of others. He will not have Cornelius pay him homage('I am only a man after all').

But if Peter rightly sees himself as a servant of others and not their master, the Gospel offers another angle on the community of Jesus that turns the master-servant relationship on its head. In the household of God there is no master-servant relationship: rather, we are now friends of Jesus, friends who can be trusted completely with the most intimate knowledge that Jesus shares with the Father. We are commissioned to share this friendship with others, people who are quite different to us, who belong to different families, tribes and nations. But, rather than barriers that divide, these differences are now things to rejoice in because, once based on a relationship with Jesus, each difference reveals the presence of God's love in a unique way. To borrow an image from Paul, the different stones are able to be placed in exactly the right spot in the house of God because each has been chosen and shaped by the master stonemason.

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.

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin
9391 6262
principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge
9391 3118
principal@sम्मspotswood.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.

THE WORD OF GOD

First reading

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97

R. *The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **(R.)**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

1 John 4:7-10

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another, as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me:
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED ME, SO I HAVE LOVED YOU



Today's readings centre on the theme of love: the totally faithful, unconditional love of God for us. The First Reading describes a turning point in the growth of the Early

Church. Peter visits the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and Gentile, announcing that 'God does not have favourites'. God reaches out to those who listen to him through his Holy Spirit. He creates a community of love that embraces all humanity.

St John (Second Reading) reminds us that God loved us first. God's nature is love. The great depth of that love is revealed in God sending Jesus, whose self-sacrifice redeems our sins and draws us into the life of God. The Gospel shows us Jesus teaching his disciples about his loving relationship with his Father. Jesus chooses and invites us into that same intimate relationship. He tells us how to follow him: that we should love one another. The Psalmist encourages us to sing praise joyfully to the Lord whose love offers salvation to all.

As we approach the end of the Easter season, we pray for the grace that we ourselves might reflect the gift of God's love, through our actions to our brothers and sisters, and to all creation. We also give thanks for the love of our friends, and for the joy that they bring to our lives.

CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August).

CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full



potential. Your generous donation will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa on Sunday 5th May after the 10:00am Parish Mass at Sacred Heart Church. We look forward to seeing you. All welcome.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



At St Joseph's Parish, Newport and Spotswood, we welcome people who are searching for spiritual meaning in their lives or for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. The RCIA is a process of reflection and learning for those who are not baptised and wanting to find out

more about Catholic faith and for those already baptised in another Christian tradition who now desire to further their faith journey with the Catholic Church.

A new group is beginning their journey in May 2024 and you are welcome to join us.

Please contact Fr Binh if you are interested for further details or email to newport.spotswood@cam.org.au or call (03) 9391 1201.

Parishioners you can help!

Perhaps you know someone who is asking questions about faith or about becoming Catholic, you might like to invite them to contact Fr Binh and accompany them in finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe, how we celebrate our faith and live our lives.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children Liturgy will resume this weekend, 4/5 May.

ROSARY GROUP

The Monday Rosary group will recommence on Monday 6th of May.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE

New Thanksgiving Envelopes commencing on the 5th of May are now available for collection at the entrance of each Church.

OUR SICK

John William, Edna Fitzgerald, Jett Guy, Kevin Foley, Kata & Branko Ujelac, Michelle Jenkins, Anne Sheahan-Lee, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanum, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly

ANNIVERSARIES

Janina Nowaczek, Agatha Mau thi Nguyen, Francesca Rundo, Choi Lan, Josephine Walsh

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNUAL PARISH MASS COUNT

This year, the four weekends of **4/5, 11/12, 18/19 and 25/26 May** have been selected for the count. This annual count taken in May is important for pastoral planning activities and allows for comparisons to be made across the years.

PARISH CENSUS IN MAY

Throughout the last three weekends of **11/12, 18/19 and 25/25 May**, our parish will undertake a census. Its aim is to accurately record and update parishioners' information for effective pastoral care, strategic planning, and resource distribution. This endeavour seeks to strengthen our parish's vitality, vibrancy and viability for the years ahead.

ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

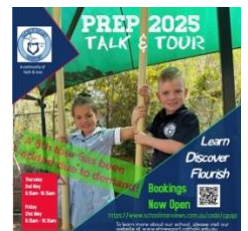


Last Friday, St Margaret Mary's closed for the day as our staff travelled to Tarneit for an inspiring day of professional development! We explored Classroom Mastery as part of the MACS Flourishing Learners project.

Teachers learned to plan classroom management strategies and explicitly teach expectations, rules, and routines to students. This is essential to create a culture of learning where students can thrive and grow.

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL

Looking to enrol your child at Sacred Heart for Prep 2025? Due to popular demand, a sixth tour has now been added for Friday, 31st May at 9.15am. The fifth tour, 2nd May, is fully booked. If you cannot make the additional tour, please contact the school office. Limited places are available in some other year levels also. Interviews begin in one week! If you have submitted an application and haven't heard from us, please call to arrange an interview time or check your junk mail.



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.

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 st Collection Presbytery Offering	2 nd 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 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.