



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood



Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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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 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
Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti
Maureen Llewellyn
Michael Nardella
Barbara Payne
Rose Santo

Choir

Larissa Cairns
Director

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

15th DECEMBER 2024

REFLECTION BY JOHN THORNHILL SM

In today's gospel reading we continue Luke's account of the mission of John, the precursor of the Saviour. It reflects the life of a community that has come to recognize that, though the final moment of God's plan has come through the Risen Lord's Paschal Mystery, how that moment will unfold in the world's history is God's secret. They know that they must get on with their ordinary lives. Luke presents the preaching of John as 'Good News', foreshadowing important elements in the teaching of Jesus himself. It is 'tax collectors' and 'soldiers' – representing those looked down upon by respectable society in old Israel – who are open to John's message of repentance: the very ones who will respond to the message of Jesus. 'What must we do?' they ask John. It is not an easy question to ask with a humble sincerity that is open to hearing the truth. It reminds us of Advent's call to a deeper conversion and commitment. Luke's community remembers how John replied to this question, as calling them to get on with their ordinary lives, asking themselves whether they recognize Christ himself in their needy brothers and sisters, and whether they serve the Lord by the integrity with which they carry out their role in life. Traditionally, the liturgy of the Third Sunday of Advent overflows with the theme of the joy of believing. This is one of Luke's favourite themes, and the gospel reading's reference to the 'feeling of anticipation' John's preaching aroused, and his foretelling of the Lord who 'will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire' chime in with this theme. Clearly, our liturgy's other readings have been chosen with this tradition in mind. 'I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord', Paul writes to the Philippians; and he recommends practical ways that lead to authentic happiness 'in the Lord': tolerance towards those whose ways are not our own, and a prayer that unites trust in the Lord for the future with thanksgiving for his many blessings in the past. No doubt, taking seriously his faith in the one who has baptized us 'with the Holy Spirit and fire' has given Paul a personal experience of the 'peace' of which he speaks, the peace that only God can give. Something has gone wrong if our faith never brings us deep joy. Joy is the experience of what we were made for. The faith that the Baptist heralded, the faith that is the gift of the Risen Lord, and the faith that unites Luke's community and so many other communities after them, is a personal knowledge of God's love and mercy. It brings a joy and peace 'that the world cannot give' (Jn 14:27). Even for old Israel, as our first reading from the prophet Zephaniah reminds us, joy was one of the hallmarks of authentic faith. In this astounding text, the prophet calls the people to 'rejoice' with all their hearts, because 'the Lord' of Israel's hopes is 'in their midst', victorious, 'renewing them by his love'. Their joy should mingle with the Lord's own rejoicing, as he 'dances with shouts of joy over them'. This text is doubly appropriate in these weeks of Advent – its words ('Rejoice, daughter of Zion, the Lord, your God is in your midst') may well have inspired Luke's Annunciation narrative.



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.

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

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm Isaiah 12

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. **(R)**
2. Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. **(R)**
3. Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel! **(R)**

2nd Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to

exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FERMIO

Some of you may have watched the TV program on the Tsunami of 2004 and the wonderful response from the world, and especially Australia, to help find the victims, provide housing for the survivors, and medical attention for the injured.

In today's Gospel John the Baptist calls us to share what we have, take only what we need, be honest in our dealings, heralding Jesus who calls us to love our neighbour, as we love ourselves. Our Baptism and Confirmation commit us to follow Jesus, not just with our heart, but with our lives, our actions, for unless we produce good works, we will not find happiness with our God.

The Church calls us to REJOICE! this Sunday – the Lord is near! Let us rejoice in the goodness around us, of people, who, as in 2004, selflessly gave their all to help devastated countries, who today give of their time and goods, to help those in need. The aid workers and reporters who returned in 2024, rejoiced in meeting those they helped in those very difficult days, and seeing their lives renewed.

As Christmas approaches ask the Baptist your own question – What must I do?

Listen for his answer.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

Catholic Parish of St Joseph
Newport - Spotswood

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
Christmas Eve 24/12

Newport	Carols	5.30pm
	Family Mass	6.00pm
Spotswood	Carols	8.30pm
	Mass	9.00pm

Christmas Day 25/12

Spotswood	Mass	8.30am
Newport	Mass	10.00am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will recommence in February 2025.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and chat on 21st December at St Margaret Mary's Church after 5:30pm mass. Hosted by the PowerPoint team. All welcome.

VINNIES GIVING APPEAL IS BACK!

The 2024 Vinnies Giving Appeal will collect funds, gifts and non perishable items to contribute to Christmas hampers for companions in our local area that our local Newport Conference has assisted throughout the year. If you'd like to donate, please consider picking up a tag off the Giving Tree, a donation envelope in our churches, or head to: <https://my.fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/vinnies-christmas-appeal-2024/newport-conference>.

Please return any physical donations to our churches by **10.30am Sunday 15 December** at the latest – we will be making and distributing hampers that afternoon. Thanks in advance!

If you'd like to find out more about the work of our local conference and being a member, contact president Clare at newport.conference.pres@svdp-vic.org.au.

Note: We will have Vinnies speakers at both Masses this weekend

SAVE THE DATE

As you may be aware, our Parish Secretary Ivana, will be leaving our Parish at the end of January. We will be having a special Mass and morning tea to thank Ivana for the significant contribution she has made to our Parish as Parish Secretary. We hope you can join us. Please see details below.



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED.

We are looking for Volunteers to be Lectors and Special Ministers, PowerPoint and Music at Mass. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Ivana at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or via email newport.spotswood@cam.org.au Please note that you must have a current Working with Children check, and sign our code of conduct and complete online Safeguarding training..

OUR SICK

Romano, Rita Galea, Editha Begovic, Joe Attard, John, Helen Kelly

ANNIVERSARIES

Robert Costa

RECENTLY DECEASED

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



ST MARGARET MARY'S & NEWPORT PARISH SCHOOL GRADE 6 GRADUATIONS

We congratulate all the Grade 6 students at both schools who had their graduations, this past week. As you transition to your secondary schools, the future is all yours. May the Lord bless your steps and watch over you. We wish you all the best for their future successes.

SACRED HEART NEWPORT PARISH SCHOOL

What an unforgettable evening of joy and togetherness we shared at this year's Sacred Heart Christmas Carols! The evening reminded us of the love, hope and peace of Christmas that comes each year.

As we sang together, we celebrated the sense of community and unity that makes Sacred Heart such a special place. Each song, each smile and each moment created memories that we will cherish.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event so magical—from our amazing students who sang beautifully, the dedicated Sacred Heart staff and to all the families who joined us in spirit and song. Together, we have truly made this Christmas Carols one to remember.



'THE LORD DOES NOT ABANDON HIS OWN': JUBILATION AS NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL REOPENS

On the evening of 7 December, the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral put Paris in the spotlight once again as Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris struck the magnificent door with his pastoral staff, marking the moment of the iconic Catholic church's rebirth.

'Notre Dame, model of faith, open your doors to gather in joy the scattered children of God,' Archbishop Ulrich called out in front of the central door, before striking it three times with the tip of his crosier. The pastoral staff itself was made from a beam from the cathedral's roof structure that escaped the fire.

The cathedral then 'responded' with the singing of Psalm 121 three times. 'I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem. Jerusalem, built as a city, walled round about.'

To continue reading, please visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/notre-dame-re-opening>

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

1 st Collection Presbytery Offering	2 nd Collection Thanksgiving Offering
To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish clergy• Sick and retired priests• Priests in needy parishes• Archbishop & auxiliary bishops	To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	

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