

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

## Parish Office

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## 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 Priest

Fr Samuel Kapani PP

## Parish Office Hours

Tue, Thu, Fri 9am – 2:30pm

## Parish Staff

Leanne Misquitta (Bookkeeper)

Jill Dooley (Secretary)

## Parish Finance Committee

Martin Kruse – Chairperson

E: [newport.spotswood-PFC@cam.org.au](mailto:newport.spotswood-PFC@cam.org.au)

## Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong – Chairperson

E: [newport.spotswood-PPC@cam.org.au](mailto:newport.spotswood-PPC@cam.org.au)

## Parish Safeguarding Group

JP Eid – Chairperson

E: [newport.spotswood@cam.org.au](mailto:newport.spotswood@cam.org.au)

*The Parish of St. Joseph, Newport and Spotswood, holds the care, safety and wellbeing of all **children, young people and adults at risk** as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.*

## Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson

Irene Bongetti

Carmel Crawford

Agnes Pak

Katherine Wong

## Sacristans

Irene Bongetti

Maureen Llewellyn

Michael Nardella

Tricia O'Shea

Rose Santo

## Choir

Larissa Cairns – Director

## Catholic Primary Schools

### Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin

T: 9391 6262

E: [principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au)

### St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge

T: 9391 3118

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

07 December 2025

## REFLECTION

**JOHN THORNHILL sm**

Today's liturgy brings together readings from very different backgrounds, as it gives expression to the Advent message of hope.

The prophetic vision of Isaiah reflects his familiarity with the king's court in a period of dramatic international developments in the region. He links the fulfillment of God's designs for the nation with the rule of a new David (Jesse is the father of David) whose rule will contrast with that of many of David's unworthy successors. He will be filled with the gifts of the 'spirit of the Lord', ruling with wisdom and integrity, and showing himself a forthright champion of the oppressed and the poor of the land. The peace established by his rule is graphically portrayed as like a new paradise - as the whole country is 'filled with the knowledge of the Lord' and lives according to God's ways. For those who know the blessings brought by the true 'Son of David', the themes of the Christmas celebration that awaits us at the end of our Advent preparation are not difficult to recognise.

The gospel reading from Matthew reminds us that our hope in the promises of God brings with it a challenge. John the Baptist was honoured by Jesus as the embodiment of the prophetic tradition of Israel. It has been pointed out that, in the cultural traditions of the world, there is no parallel to old Israel's acknowledgment of its failures before the God of the covenant. And it was the prophets who - like a conscience of the nation - challenged the people and their leaders with their unfaithfulness. Scholars tell us that Matthew's gospel - from which our readings for the coming year will come - was produced by an early Christian community in dispute with former Jewish associates who cannot accept the claims of Christian faith. This helps us to understand the sharp edge given to the words of Jesus against „the scribes and Pharisees“ (see ch.23), and the strong words of the Baptist in today's gospel. Jesus was impatient with the complacent exclusivism of these groups. We know, from contemporary records, that they tended to believe that being „children of Abraham“ assured them a sharing in God's promises. John too challenges this complacency: 'Do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father".' In the best prophet tradition, his language has a frightening intensity. The axe is already 'laid to the roots of the trees'; without their own 'good fruits' they will be lost.

Writing to the Romans, Paul has a similar message. Jewish converts must follow 'the example of Christ Jesus', in the tolerance and generosity they show, as they recognise in the Church's embracing of 'the pagans' what God foretold in the promises of 'the Scriptures'.

Our hope is boundless in its expectations; but we must play our part in the generous designs of God.



## Next Weekend's Roster – Third Sunday of Advent

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturgy Roster
Saturday, 13 December 2025	Katherine Wong	Lidia Cammarano	Gwen / Gary	n/a	Katy Hall
Sunday, 14 December 2025	Maria Main	Lucia Pace	Branka Briffa	Martin Briffa	

**Counting team (week beginning Dec 14):** Team A – Helen, Angela, Rose

## 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

## Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

## Responsorial Psalm Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

### R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
he shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment. (R)  
Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.(R)  
For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.  
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;  
the lives of the poor he shall save.(R)  
May his name be blessed forever;  
as long as the sun his name shall remain.  
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed;  
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.(R)

## 2nd Reading

## Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

## Matthew 3:1-12

'In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

## Advent Week Two Reflections

### Parish Belief Team

Key themes emerge from this week's readings and the reflection to guide us through the "PROMISE" booklet:

**Mary as Model of Faith:** Monday's celebration of the Immaculate Conception reminds us of Mary's unique role. Like her, whose 'yes' to God changed the course of history, we too are invited to open our hearts to God's grace. Her purity and devotion become our model as we navigate this Advent journey.

**Hope and Consolation:** Tuesday's reflection carries the theme of consolation, encouraging us to recognize God's presence even when we feel lost. It reminds us that as pilgrims, we may sometimes feel disoriented, but God's consolation is always near.

**God's Faithfulness and Presence:** Wednesday's meditation on Christ's words, "My burden is light," invites us to unite our sufferings with His. Even in our struggles, we find hope in knowing that Christ walks beside us, sharing our burdens.

**Watchfulness and Recognition:** Thursday's promise, "Do not be afraid, I will help you," echoes through Isaiah's words, reminding us of God's unfailing support. This assurance invites us to deepen our relationship with God and our community, finding strength in both.

**Prophetic Role of Christians:** Friday's reflection calls us to be "ever watchful" for Christ's coming - not just in history or at the end of time, but in the present moment, especially in the Eucharist. It encourages us to see each day as an opportunity for a "mini-Christmas."

**Community and Relationship:** Saturday, the feast of St. Lucy, patron of the blind, challenges us to see with the eyes of faith. It asks us to recognize Christ in our suffering, our neighbours, and ourselves.

This Advent, let us cultivate a spirit of watchfulness, recognizing Christ's presence in the Eucharist, in our neighbours, and in the quiet moments of our days. Let us support one another in faith, building a community that reflects God's love to the world.



# PARISH NEWS

## LAUNCH OF PARTNERSHIP

St Mary's parish, Williamstown, and St Joseph's parish, Newport and Spotswood, have decided to explore the options for collaborative partnership. This weekend (6 & 7 Dec), the Partnership Steering Committee presents its initial document "Partnership for Mission" at both parishes. Please collect a copy from the church or parish office. A soft copy will be sent to those in our mailing list.

## COLUMBAN CALENDAR

Those that have ordered the calendars may collect them from the parish office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

## THANKS TO VOLUTEERS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

We thank our Parish Community in coming forward to assist us with the upcoming Christmas Season Masses.

## CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a Cuppa and Chat at Sacred Heart Newport on Sunday (7 Dec) after the 10.00am mass.



Please pray for :

## ANNIVERSARIES

Sarah MONTESANO

## SICK

Drago VAMPOVAC

Claudia KALOGERIAS

Michelle NEWMAN

Helen KELLY



## JOIN OUR PARISH MAILING LIST!

Stay connected with all the latest news and events from our parish. Simply scan the QR code to join our mailing list to receive our weekly Newsletter.



The Vinnies Giving Tree makes wishes come true.

3 easy steps

1. Choose a tag from the Giving Tree
2. Purchase a brand-new gift or non-perishable food items
3. Return your donation by SATURDAY, 13 DEC (Spotswood) or SUNDAY, 14 DEC (Newport)



We thank you for your support and ask you to continue to pray for our families.



First Day of Advent – Candle of Hope

Today our students gathered to acknowledge and celebrate the first day of Advent. Together, they laid a purple cloth, placed our Advent wreath, and reverently lit the first candle- the Candle of Hope.

As we begin this beautiful season of waiting and preparation, we are reminded of the hope that shines in our hearts and our school community. May this time bring peace, kindness and joyful anticipation to all our families.



## PARISH CALENDAR & COMMUNITY OBSERVANCES

### DECEMBER

7th: Cuppa and Chat (SH)  
20th: Baptisms (SMM)  
20th: Cuppa and Chat (SMM)



### DECEMBER cont.

25th: Nativity of the Lord  
28th: Holy Family

SH: Sacred Heart SMM: St Margaret Mary's PFC: Parish Finance Committee PPC: Parish Pastoral Council SAC: School Advisory Council

## ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

### 'Go. You are sent': ACYF concludes with majestic fanfare

What a glorious ride! The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has wrapped up in Melbourne, farewelling pilgrims with a commissioning Mass that featured all the beauty of the Catholic Church in Australia. After three days immersed in reminders of God's love for them, the final Mass allowed the 6,000 pilgrims to show they loved God back.

Returning to a recurring message throughout the festival, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reminded the young people that they are 'enough'. 'Be searchers of an eternal horizon.'



## 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

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

### 2nd Collection

Supports: *Parish running costs,  
Parish Pastoral initiatives,  
Diocesan and various services.*

***If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program, and receive a thanksgiving envelope no. please contact the parish office.***

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available in foyer



## 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

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 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

## JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

→  
If you would like to join our parish  
thanksgiving program electronically  
or make a one-off gift to the church  
scan this QR code and follow the  
prompts.

Thank you for your continued  
support.

