



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood



Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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E: 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

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge
9391 3118
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.

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

23rd JULY 2023

Reflection by Rev Mark O'Brien OP

This Sunday's readings from Matthew contains parables two, three and four of the series of seven that begins with the parable of the sower. What binds these three parables together is the theme of the kingdom of heaven. One could imagine that as Jesus the master preacher tells his parable questions arise among his listeners which lead to the second parable, which raises further questions which in turn lead to the third parable. One gains the impression that each parable is designed to stimulate people to think, ask questions and make decisions. It is significant that a number of parables end with Jesus saying 'listen, anyone who has ears to hear'. In keeping with the Bible as an invitation to think rather than the imposition of thought, parables are meant to encourage people to reflect and make decisions about their lives.

The first parable about the wheat and the darnel addresses the troubling question why evil seems to permeate and threaten the lives of good, faithful people who believe in a God of justice (who is by definition intolerant of evil). If one's theology did not present God as intolerant of evil then who would be interested in following such a God? According to this parable, God (the sower) is portrayed as well aware of the conflict between good and evil and knows the best way of dealing with it. The wheat will be protected so that it can flourish; the darnel will not be allowed to overcome and destroy it. Thus, the situation is not out of (God's) control and good will ultimately triumph over evil at the harvest.

The parable of the wheat and darnel could give the impression that good and evil are sort of evenly matched, at least until the harvest. How can you be sure you are on the winning side (the kingdom)? The second parable of the mustard seed responds to this question. It assures its listeners that the kingdom of heaven is the reality that grows vigorously and vibrantly; even though it may begin like a mustard seed in a tiny way it far outstrips any rival and becomes a tree that offers protection for all those who seek it (the birds).

Although the second parable answers a question that is likely to arise from the first one, it in turn raises another question – Jesus, you say that the kingdom of heaven grows from tiny beginnings like a mustard seed to become a highly visible and welcoming 'tree', but I don't see it growing in any visible way in my life. How do I know the kingdom is here? In answer, Jesus tells the parable of the woman mixing yeast in flour. Once mixed in with the flour, the yeast effectively disappears. All one sees is flour. But the yeast works its way invisible to the human eye and transforms the dough into something new and highly desirable. Even though the presence of God may appear at times invisible to human perception, it permeates all creation and is bringing about its transformation.

Parables are an ingenious way of preaching the word of God and Jesus was a master storyteller. But words are not the only way human beings communicate; indeed at times words, even the words that Jesus spoke, are not the appropriate way to respond to a situation. Paul assures his readers that when words fail us or are not the appropriate way to 'speak' to God, the Spirit enables us to express ourselves and our needs in the most appropriate way, a way that is 'according to the mind of God'. God listens as attentively to those who are lost for words as to those who are gifted with words. No one is left unheard. Well aware of this, the author of the book of Wisdom celebrates our God who 'cares for everything' in a way that is perfectly just and merciful.

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

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **(R.)**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the

reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables

and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: THE SPIRIT COMES TO HELP US IN OUR WEAKNESS

God's mercy and compassion are the themes running through today's readings.

The First Reading offers a description of God's divine nature. The author emphasises God's universal care and patience as signs of strength: characteristics that stand at odds with worldly values. In the midst of his troubles, the Psalmist also reflects on the qualities of the God of mercy and compassion. In the Second Reading, St Paul tells of the consequences of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Christian prayer. Even when prayer is difficult for us as finite and limited human beings, Paul encourages us to hand over our struggles to the Spirit who prays deeply in our hearts to our Father.

The Gospel shares three parables about growth, each seen from a different perspective. The first tells of the wheat and the weeds. It challenges us to recognise that sometimes we must learn to live with situations we don't like, because the effort to remove or change them would do more harm than good. This is a shrewd picture of the patience and compassion needed to live with the ambiguities and complexities of human life.

Let us pray this week for a spirit of self-compassion in our frailty and limitations. We ask for the grace of deep humility and freedom to give of our best, and also to have faith in the God of surprises.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Last Thursday evening, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) had the monthly meeting. At the meeting, the PPC discussed and prepared for the upcoming Parish Forums, which will be at St Margaret Mary's on Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30pm, and at Sacred Heart on Sunday, August 13th at 11:00am. The PPC also discussed of a proposal structure to support the emerging Parish Teams.

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. 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.

TREASURING OUR LATER YEARS

- Where:** St Joseph's by the sea
16 Esplanade Williamstown
- When:** Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th August
- Topics:** Accomplishment, Relationships, Spirituality, Limitations, Legacy
- Presenter:** Nicole Rotaru RSM
- Cost:** \$20 per session
- Registration:** admin.sjbtsw@sosj.com.au or 9397 6012

OUR SICK

Megan Le, Thuy Tran, Teresa Mustica, Carmelo Briffa, Elizabeth Sundatum, Eric Moore, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Bozo Madzar, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Rosalind Vincent, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba

ANNIVERSARIES

Domenico Arcella, Marija Miletic, Helena Nahas, Grace Cassar, Antonio Costa, Giuseppe Cini, Paolo Costa, Ersilia Meilak, Elias Bou-Ghosn, Martin Le van Hau, Anna Pham thi Duoc, Maria Le thi Tin, Vita Mandorla

RECENTLY DECEASED

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL



Our Social Justice Leadership Group presented West Wagon with our Winter Warmth Donations. They lead our community on how to live out our faith through

action.

We would like to thank our school community for donating non-perishable food, blankets and warm clothes to those in need. Your donations will provide some much needed support to those in need this winter!

ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

During junior investigations we built a worm farm to recycle our food waste. The worm tea will be used on our garden. We are learning about the environment and ways to care for it.



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 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.	

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.