

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

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

W: www.stjosephs3015.com.au

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong – Chairperson

E: newport.spotswood-PPC@cam.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Group

JP Eid – Chairperson

E: 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

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge

T: 9391 3118

E: principal@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14 December 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

Waiting can be a time of soul-searching. Today's liturgy invites us to ask ourselves whether we are ready to hear the call of the Saviour, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate. Helpless in Herod's prison cell, John the Baptist is puzzled and discouraged, as he faced a similar question. He has generously pointed Jesus out - as the one who was to bring the realisation of Israel's hopes; why, he asks through his messengers, is God's prophet now suffering in prison at the hands of an unprincipled tyrant; why has the mission of Jesus not brought the time of justice God's people long for?

The reading from Isaiah – a typical example of the message of hope announced by the prophets – helps us to understand why John is puzzled. This magnificent proclamation describes what can be looked forward to, as a New Exodus - a time of liberation, healing and boundless joy, as those who have been banished are brought back to Zion. But this triumph of God is also described as a time of 'vengeance' and 'retribution'. Having for centuries lived in bitterness under a series of occupying powers, the nation's expectations emphasised this latter part of the prophets' message. They looked forward to a vindictive triumph that would crush their hated enemies. This heavily politicised interpretation of Israel's messianic hopes constituted one of the main obstacles to be overcome by Jesus, if he was to bring the people to enter into the inauguration of the final reign of God - about to take place in his own person.

God's triumph was not to be the imposition of divine power. The coming of God's kingdom involves collaboration on the part of our human freedom – inspired and sustained by the example of Jesus, who gave the needy and the powerless a privileged place in all that he did in the name of his Father, and lived out the 'new commandment' of love he had proclaimed. Jesus replied to John's inquiry, therefore, by pointing to the 'messianic signs' foretold by the prophets. But to those included in today's reading from Isaiah he adds another from the later Isaian writings: 'the poor have the Good News preached to them'. In a sense, the divine authenticity of his mission is summed up fully in these words - words that have echoed down the centuries in the life of the Church. In the continuation of our gospel passage, Jesus points to the gospel values so heroically embraced by John – in his courageous witness and his detachment.

The message of Jesus to John is, 'Do not lose faith in me; open your generous heart to the ways of God that define Israel's faith, and you will recognise that I am truly the one who was to come'. Jesus taught, we know, that in the present era the 'coming of the kingdom' is hidden and mysterious, overturning our human expectations. Our reading from James echoes one of the parables of Jesus concerning the coming of the kingdom (Mk 4:26), as James encourages believers in his community to imitate the farmer's patience, as the hidden seed grows.



Next Weekend's Roster – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturgy Roster
Saturday, 20 December 2025	Gwyneth Pereira	Lorraine Robinson	Lilly Mullins	Parish Choir	Carmel Crawford
Sunday, 21 December 2025	Tony Nicholson	Alice Guiney	Khang Nguyen	Henry, Netty and Neil	

Counting team (week beginning Dec 21): Team B – Margaret, Mary, Tricia

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 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R)**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

2nd Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

'John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Advent Week Three Reflections

Parish Belief Team

As we enter the third week of Advent, particularly the period beginning on December 17 - a "Holy Week" preceding Christmas, we are invited to reflect deeply on the mystery of the Incarnation.

1. Jesus as both Answer and Question: Sunday's reflection reminds us that like John the Baptist, we may sometimes doubt, asking, "Are you the one who is to come?" Christ's response is not in words, but in actions. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing concrete signs of God's love to those around us.

2. Authority and Humility: Monday's Gospel challenges us to examine our own authority and motivations. Jesus was questioned about His authority. How often do we question God's authority in our lives? This Advent, let us humbly submit to God's will, allowing His questions to lead us to a deeper encounter with Divine Love.

3. Responding to God's Call with Action: Tuesday's parable of the two sons invites us to look at our own response to God's call. It's not enough to say "yes" with our lips; our lives must embody our faith. In the quiet waiting of Advent, we are invited to examine what motivates us and prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming.

4. The Mystery of the Incarnation: Wednesday's reflection on Jesus' genealogy reminds us that God chose to enter human history, with all its complexities and imperfections. Like Mary, we are called to bear Christ's presence within us.

5. Being Instruments of Peace: Thursday's message of peace echoes through the readings. In a world often filled with conflict and division, we are called to be instruments of Christ's peace, especially within our families and communities.

6. God's Power to Bring Life from Barrenness: Friday's readings speak to the heart of Advent hope. God promises life from barrenness and purpose from impossibility. Where in our lives do we need the breath of God's Spirit to bring new life and hope?

7. Saying "Yes" to God's Mission: Finally, Saturday's reflection on Mary's response to the angel Gabriel reminds us that even the greatest saints had moments of doubt and questioning. Yet it is our "yes" to God that qualifies us for His mission, not our own abilities or worthiness.

WORKING BEE

We are calling on any Volunteers who would like to assist us with the cleaning of our churches & gardening maintenance of the grounds to prepare for Christmas.

Sacred Heart Church, Newport

Date: Tuesday, 16 December **Time:** 4.30 pm

St Margaret Mary's Church, Spotswood

Date: Thursday, 18 December **Time:** 4.30 pm

VOLUTEERS NEEDED FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Thank you to those who have already volunteered. We are still in need of Lectors, Special Ministers, Power Point Presentations & Music for Christmas, week after Christmas & New Year's weekend.

CUPPAS AFTER MASS

Thank you to all who have contributed to cuppas after Mass during the year and to all who have stayed to share conversation and meet new friends. Our next cuppas after Mass will be held in February - dates to be advised.



CHRISTMAS 2025

Christmas Eve
24 December 2025

Sacred Heart Church, Newport
5.30 pm Carols (Live stream)
6.00 pm Family Mass (Live stream)

St Margaret Mary's Church,
Spotswood
8.30 pm Carols
9.00 pm Mass

Christmas Day
25 December 2025

St Margaret Mary's Church,
Spotswood
8.30 am Mass

Sacred Heart Church, Newport
10.00 am Mass (Live stream)



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.

Please pray for:

ANNIVERSARIES

Salvatore PENNA
Robert COSTA

SICK

Michelle NEWMAN
Helen KELLY



LET US PRAY...

"O Almighty God, gracious provider and giver of life, we anxiously await the celebration of your birth. Like the people of long ago, our ancestors in faith, we, too, are in need of light, in need of direction, in need of your Word, to show us the way. Our busy lives and the consumerism that surrounds us make it difficult to recognize your kingdom and to hear your voice. Help us Lord, to focus on you. Amen."

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.



St Margaret Mary's Primary School - Spotswood
6d · 📷

🌟 Celebrating Milla's Incredible Achievements! 🌟

We are so proud to share the outstanding success of Milla, who recently represented Victoria at the 4-day Track and Field championships held at the AIS in Canberra.

Competing in the 12-year-old Multiclass events, Milla brought home an amazing five medals from five events - an extraordinary effort!

- 🥈 100m Sprint - Silver & set new record for her category
- 🥈 200m Sprint - Silver & set new record for her category
- 🥈 Long Jump - Silver & set new record for her category
- 🥈 4 x 100m Combined Relay - Silver
- 🥈 4 x 100m Multiclass Relay - Bronze

What an outstanding achievement! 🎉🏆 #spotswood3015 #HobsonsBay #SMMCommunity #CatholicEducation #spotswood #SMM #melbournearchdiocese #melbournearchdiocesecatholicsschools



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Newport
1d · 📷

🌟 CHRISTMAS CAROLS 🎵🎄

What a wonderful night!

Our school Christmas Carols last Thursday were such a joy. A huge thank you to our amazing school captains for being fantastic MCs.

The students had an absolute blast singing and dancing to both traditional and modern Christmas songs, and the staff were over the moon to see the kids dancing along with them.

Nights like these really show what a special school community we have. 🎉🎄🎵



PARISH CALENDAR & COMMUNITY OBSERVANCES

DECEMBER

20th: Baptisms (SMM)
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

Come all ye faithful: Christmas carols sing of God's love, Pope says

Christmas Carols in every language and culture are expressions of how music can convey 'feelings and emotions, even the deepest movements of the soul,' Pope Leo XIV said after listening, clapping and singing along at the Vatican Christmas concert with the poor.

'As the melodies touched our hearts, we felt the inestimable value of music: not a luxury for the few, but a divine gift accessible to everyone, rich and poor, learned and simple,' the Pope said on 6 December as he thanked Canadian singer Michael Bublé, Italian singer Serena Autieri and the choir of the Diocese of Rome.

Music is like a bridge that leads us to God. It is like 'an imaginary stairway connecting earth and heaven.'

To the People of God in Melbourne - Archbishop Peter Comensoli

With hearts full of gratitude and wonder, we give thanks for the remarkable grace that has flowed through our Archdiocese during the recent Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), held and rosted here in Melbourne. For those few unforgettable days, our Church came alive with the vibrant faith of over 6,000 young pilgrims - a radiant sign of Christ alive among us.

To our parish communities, schools, families, teachers, and staff: thank you. Your support, encouragement, and faithful accompaniment opened the door for so many of our young people to walk this sacred journey. Whether you prayed from afar, volunteered, spread the word, or walked alongside our youth - your role mattered, and the fruits are already visible.

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.

