



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

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, YEAR A

6th AUGUST 2023

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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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.

Reflection by Rev Mark O'Brien OP

When you are continually disappointed despite your best efforts, or when people keep telling you that you are a nobody and a failure, it can be hard to keep your spirits up, to look beyond the ever-decreasing world in which you live. The amazing thing about a book like Daniel is that although it was written at a time of great trial and suffering for the Jewish people it nevertheless confidently asserts the ultimate triumph of God's purpose, a purpose that will transform all nations, even those that oppress Israel. The author of Daniel seeks to enshrine the message of the great prophets via a series of visions apparently without the slightest personal evidence to confirm that their prophecies are being realised. Something akin to the Carmelite spirituality of the dark night of the soul.

The book of Daniel proclaims its conviction that the prophecies of God's triumph over sin and evil will come true. The transfiguration can be seen as a kind of down payment on it, or a glimpse of it. Somewhat like the visions in Daniel it takes place at a fraught stage in Matthew's Gospel when Jesus begins to tell his disciples about his coming death and resurrection.

The transfiguration is clearly linked to Jesus' death and resurrection via these repeated references or prophecies, something that the Lucan version makes explicit by the way it presents Moses and Elijah speaking with Jesus about 'his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Jesus' suffering and death on the cross is as much a revelation of his unique status as God's beloved son as the transfiguration itself. What happens at the place/mountain of crucifixion may not look like it but to those enabled to 'see' it is as much a transfiguration of Jesus as what happens on the mountain of transfiguration. Both reveal the fulfillment of the prophecies and thereby assure us that God's plan of salvation is coming to fruition. What will enable one to 'see' and understand this? Listening, as the voice from the cloud says on the mountain of transfiguration, to the words of 'my beloved son'. The importance of this, not only for the disciples in the gospel but for disciples of any generation, is underscored by the reading from the second letter of Peter. The transfiguration assure readers that they can rely on the prophetic word as a lamp that will light their way. Why is this so? Because the prophetic word, cast in visionary form in the book of Daniel, was confirmed by nothing less than the words and actions of Jesus.

Of course, we will fail like the disciples in the gospel. But Jesus is merciful and welcoming despite our failures. This is shown by the way he invites Peter to accompany him up the mountain of transfiguration even though Peter has rebuked him about his prophecy that he must go to Jerusalem and die, and is dubbed 'Satan' by Jesus for his pains. It is also shown by the way the resurrected Jesus instructs the women to tell his failed and frightened disciples to go to Galilee where they will meet him on the mountain. Matthew does not specify whether this is the mountain of the transfiguration or of the beatitudes. Given the context of the resurrection, one may presume it is the former because it is there that the eleven disciples see the risen Lord in his glory and worship him, another transfiguration scene as it were. There too they receive Jesus' commission to make disciples of all nations, not by turning them into Jews, Persians, Greeks or Romans but by baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. A new identity that transcends the old divisions and creates a new family of humanity. The promises of the great prophets about the gathering of nations, the visions of the seer in the book of Daniel are being fulfilled, even though we may at times – like the author of Daniel – lack evidence that it is advancing in our day.

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

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place
and one of great age took his seat.
His robe was white as snow,
the hair of his head as pure as wool.
His throne was a blaze of flames,
its wheels were a burning fire.
A stream of fire poured out,
issuing from his presence.
A thousand thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
A court was held
and the books were opened.
I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and languages became
his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96

R. *The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.*

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right. **(R.)**

2. The mountains melt like wax
Before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. **(R.)**

3. For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Peter 1:16-19

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: IT IS WONDERFUL FOR US TO BE HERE



The liturgy of Transfiguration Sunday gives us a foretaste of future glory.

In the Gospel, as in all the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), the account of the Transfiguration occurs as Jesus is about to make his final journey to Jerusalem and to the Cross. His imminent tragedy is seen through a vision of the glory that is to come. For us, who carry our own tragedies and crosses, there is help in these readings. They hint at our own glory, too, as God's adopted children, redeemed and sanctified.

We, too, will be led into his presence and offered a share in his glory (First Reading). On that day, all creation will rejoice (Psalm). The gift's promise is, for us as it was for Peter, 'a lamp for lighting the way through the dark until the dawn comes' (Second Reading).

This week let's pray that, despite our own personal struggles and the darkness of the world's news, we might hold onto the hope of the glory that is ours through a share in Christ's everlasting life.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK, 6TH-13TH AUGUST

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after 10:00am Mass this Sunday, August 6th at Sacred Heart Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

UPCOMING PARISH FORUMS

After the feedback received at the Parish Forums in March, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has continued to work on refining the draft strategic plan and discussing how best to implement the plan ready for approval at the Annual Parish Forum in November. In the Parish Newsletter today, you will see an insert with an illustration and explanation of a plan to implement the priorities identified in the draft Strategic Plan.

We would love to discuss these ideas with you at the upcoming Parish Forums

St Margaret Mary's Tuesday 8th August @ 6.30pm
Sacred Heart Sunday 13th August @ 11.00am

Alternatively, you could email your comments to StJosephVICPPC@gmail.com.

Additional copies of the draft Strategic Plan are also available at the back of the church.

RELIC STATUE OF ST DON BOSCO - 9TH AUGUST

Where: St Peter Apostle,
16-36 Guinane Ave, Hoppers Crossing

When: Wednesday, 9th August

Time: 7:00pm

Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm, followed by Novena, and conclude with veneration of relic statue of Saint Don Bosco.

INVITATION TO WELCOMING MINISTRY

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

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.

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

Registration: admin.sjbtsw@sosj.com.au or 9397 6012

CATHOLIC CARE

Next weekend, 12-13 August, is the Pastoral Care Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes, so that the vital work of the Catholic Chaplains can continue. The Chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres. Your gift can help people find comfort and hope as they go through some of their darkest times of their life. Please give generously. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

OUR SICK

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Anna & Antonio Lococo, Umberto Bencich, Carmelo Meilak, Slavko Saric, Saric family, Pervan Family, Juric Family, Knex Family, Jozo & Stana Pelvan, Vincent Mifsud

RECENTLY DECEASED

Sr Betty O'Donnell, Stephen William Moloney, Ivan Cegec

'LEARN FROM MARY': CARDINAL-PATRIARCH OF LISBON AT WYD OPENING MASS

On Tuesday, the 16th international World Youth Day officially began in Lisbon, Portugal, with nearly 400,000 young Catholics from around the world gathering to celebrate their faith. In his homily for the Opening Mass, Cardinal Manuel Clemente, Patriarch of Lisbon, encouraged those gathered to learn from Mary and treat life as a journey, carrying Jesus within them and bringing him to others.

To continue reading, visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/learn-from-mary-cardinal-patriarch-of-lisbon-welcomes-pilgrims-for-wyd-opening-mass>



SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL

Over the past two weeks, Vivian Do (Year 2 educator) has been on pilgrimage to Rome & Lisbon. Last week, the emerging leaders had a surprise guest speaker, Pope Francis. Vivian reflects on her experiences

as a pilgrim: - "My pilgrimage in Rome and Assisi has been extraordinary. The experiences so far have given me time to reflect upon what it means to be a Catholic and an educator. The meeting with the Pope was the most incredible moment for me as a Catholic. The words of wisdom he shared with everyone touched my heart & soul deeply."



ST MARGARET MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL

Congratulations to the SMM Preps on completing your first 100 days of school! We are incredibly proud of the progress you have made and how much you have flourished this year. Keep up the great work! 🌸🌻🎉



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.