



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



## Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport  
T: 9391 1201

E: [newport.spotswood@cam.org.au](mailto:newport.spotswood@cam.org.au)  
[www.stjosephs3015.com.au](http://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

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## REFLECTION BY JOHN THORNHILL SM

Jesus approaches the end of his journey. He has already entered Jerusalem when a 'scribe', who is evidently well disposed, asks which is the greatest of the commandments of the Law. As interpreters of the Law, the scribes had listed 613 ordinances calling for observance; it is not surprising that they often discussed their relative importance. This man seeks Jesus' view on the matter. This last exchange Jesus has with the leaders of Israel, in Mark's account, raises an issue important for his disciples. The incident illustrates how Jesus taught with an 'authority' that was different from the approach of the scribes (Mt 7:29). The scribes backed their interpretation by appealing to the authority of recognised interpreters; the response that Jesus gives is backed by his own authority. He underlines the commandment given in today's reading from Deuteronomy, familiar to all faithful Jews as part of their daily prayer: 'You must love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength' – in other words, with your whole being; to love anything in preference to the Lord is idolatry. Jesus is calling his hearers back to the radical faith and trust that so often finds expression in the Old Testament – especially in the prophets and the psalms – a faith and trust that was a true response to the God who had entered into covenant with the chosen people. Jesus goes on, however, to show great originality and wisdom, by linking the 'first' commandment with a 'second': 'You must love your neighbour as yourself' (Lev 19:18).

The Covenant was intended to make old Israel 'a light to the nations' – their life, shaped by the ways of God, learned through the covenant relationship, was to be an invitation to all peoples of the earth to find the one, true God – 'The Lord our God is the one Lord' – and the blessings life with God can bring. The Saviour links the two commandments under the rubric of 'love'. The love true believers have for fellow human beings is a love that has been learned from God.

The theme of 'love', so important to every human heart, was soon to emerge, we know, as the very heart of the Gospel, the good news that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'. (For Paul, 'Love is the fulfilment of the Law', Rom 13:10; as we live 'in Christ', God's own love 'has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit', Rom 5:5. Similarly, according to John, a 'new commandment' rules our Christian life, 'Love one another just as I have loved you', Jn 13:34; indeed, John declares, 'God is love', 1 Jn 4:8). The response of the scribe and the praise it won from Jesus, 'You are not far from the kingdom', point towards this fulfilment. Mark is reminding us that not all the leaders of the people were closed to the message of Jesus. Is it not likely that this scribe was soon to share in the faith inaugurated by the Lord's Paschal Mystery? This faith is interpreted in the reading from Hebrews, where Christ's saving work is compared with the role of priests of the Old Testament. But there is also a great contrast. The old role ended with death and was compromised by sinfulness. The Old Testament ideal of clinging to God with one's whole being must have seemed a daunting, almost impossible one; now however faith in the Paschal Mystery assures us that the risen Saviour - 'holy, innocent and uncontaminated', and 'made perfect for ever' - gives us a share in his life with the Father.



## 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.

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

### Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin  
9391 6262  
[principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au)

### St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge  
9391 3118  
[principal@smmspotswood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smmspotswood.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.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### First reading

### Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

### Responsorial Psalm

### Psalm 17:2-4, 47, 51

**R.** *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. **(R)**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

### Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will Love them and we will come to them! Alleluia!

### Gospel

### Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important

than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FERMIO

One sees many people these days with white ear plugs apparently listening to music or a podcast etc. But are they really listening or just having a noise to fill the silence. For I believe some people are afraid of silence and have never enjoyed listening to the silence, and it is amazing what sounds one can then hear.

The first word Jesus says to the Scribe is LISTEN! The commandment leads to loving God and loving others and if we love we LISTEN to that person. Not just a perfunctory love, but a total love of my heart, soul, mind and ALL my strength. To Jesus, this is more important than a sacrifice or holocaust and will lead us to the Kingdom of God. If I LISTEN intently during the readings and the homily, Jesus just may have a message for ME. Have I prayed in silence and LISTENED to what Jesus wants to say to me?

Think about it!



### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised.

I come to my place of prayer, aware of being in God's presence. I take the time to read the text slowly a couple of times, pausing where I am drawn . . . intrigued, or wanting to ponder for a few moments. Perhaps I reflect on the idea of 'fearing the Lord'. Is that how I relate to God? Maybe I remember that in the Old Testament, 'fearing' can have a slightly different meaning, where it is more akin to being 'in awe' of someone. Does that help me?



The Lord God promises the people of Israel – promises me – 'a land where milk and honey flow'. What does that mean for me today? What would I want this land to be like? Perhaps I can

give thanks for it, even if can only see it in the distance. I speak to the Lord about this, and I listen. I remain in the Lord's presence quietly, without words. Again, I listen. How far can I say that the words of the text are 'written on my heart'? Might it help if I made these words personal? 'The Lord my God is the one Lord, I love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength.'

I pause, then perhaps repeat this phrase several times. How do I feel? When the time comes to conclude my prayer, I reflect on these moments I have spent with the Lord, and I give thanks.



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be no Children's Liturgy this weekend 3rd November at Sacred Heart 10:00am mass.

## CUPPA AND A CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and chat at Sacred Heart Church after 10.00am mass. Hosted by St Vinnies. All welcome.

## REMEMBRANCE AREA

There will be a Remembrance area at both churches in November for families to place photos (no large photos) and names of deceased loved ones, asking the community to remember them in prayer, This November. memories of our deceased loved ones fill our hearts in a special way. So many encounters recalled, laughter, tears, hopes and fears, good wishes, disappointments, expressions of love-all fixed in our memories and brought to life, if for a few moments. Praying to our loved ones and for them manifests the common life we all share together in this beautiful mystery, the Communion of Saints.

## ANNUAL PARISH FORUM AND INVITATION TO JOIN THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

In preparation for the upcoming Annual Parish Forum on **November 24** the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) would like to invite Expressions of Interest for vacant positions on the PPC. We currently have 3 vacancies for general members and 1 vacancy for a youth member. We will have current members of our PPC at our Masses this weekend to explain the role of the council and the process for nomination. Formal nominations need to be submitted to Parish Office by November 8. Nominees will be presented at the Annual Parish Forum on Nov 24

## PARISH FAITH FORMATION: WAITING IN HOPE - AN ADVENT REFLECTION EVENING



Amidst the busy preparations for the joyous feast of Christmas, you invited to join us for an evening of reflection and prayer. Through the theme Waiting in

Hope and reading of the Gospel of the 4th Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:39-45, we will take time to reflect on God's action in our own lives. As we think about how Mary's 'yes' to God unfolded into joy and blessing for the world, we will take time to discover where the moments of hope and joy are for us. We look forward to journeying with you this Advent season.

**Venue:** Sacred Heart Primary School

**Date:** Thursday 28th of November

**Time:** 7-8:30pm

**RSVP:** [Newport.spotswood@cam.org.au](mailto:Newport.spotswood@cam.org.au)

## LECTOR AND SPECIAL MINISTERS REQUIRED

We are looking for Volunteers to be Lectors and Special Ministers 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](mailto:Newport.spotswood@cam.org.au) Please note that you must have a current Working with Children check, and signed code of conduct.

## POWER POINT, MUSIC VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Required to operate PowerPoint Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Ivana at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or via e-mail at [Newport.spotswood@cam.org.au](mailto:Newport.spotswood@cam.org.au). Please note that you

## OUR SICK

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

Marija & Anton Mijic

## RECENTLY DECEASED

must have a current Working with Children Check and signed Code of Conduct.

## SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL

What a memorable night for our Year 3 students as they made their First Reconciliation! This special milestone marked an important step in their faith journey. We are thankful to come together as the St. Joseph's Parish community to share in this special sacrament!



## 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

## ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI: PRAYING FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

As we enter into November, the month of remembrance, and continue journeying through this Year of Prayer, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli offers some thoughts on the profound consolation and experience of communion to be found in the practice of praying for the faithful departed.



Reminding us that our ultimate destiny or goal in life is 'to live eternally with the Lord', Archbishop Comensoli describes the Church's practice of praying for the deceased as 'an act of hope'.

We pray for the deceased because of our love of them and our hope for them,' he says. 'We pray for the deceased because our pilgrimage to God has not ended, and they need strengthening for their journey ahead. We pray for the deceased because their communion with us brings hope and healing to us.'

Acknowledging that there is 'no right or wrong way of holding our deceased family, friends and the needy in prayer', Archbishop Comensoli suggests some ways for us to enter into this ancient practice, including offering a Mass, praying the Rosary with our loved one in mind, or praying a 'very simple prayer for the faithful departed' that has a long history in the Catholic tradition:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.

May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen.

'Remembering our sisters and brothers in faith', he concludes, 'is remembering in hope our destiny in God.'

## 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 Joseph, pray for 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.

## 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection Presbytery Offering	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection Thanksgiving Offering
To support: • Parish clergy • Sick and retired priests • Priests in needy parishes • Archbishop & auxiliary bishops	To support: • 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 on 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.