



The parish of *St Joseph*
Newport & Spotswood

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

8th OCTOBER 2023

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
T: 9391 1201

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@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.

REFLECTION BY JOHN THORNHILL SM

Seen from a human point of view, salvation history (the story of God's dealings with humanity) is a tragedy; but the divine mercy and generosity has turned this tragedy into God's triumph. This great drama comes to its climax, of course, in the life, death and resurrection of the Saviour: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'. The parable of Jesus in today's reading from Matthew's gospel refers to the tragedy that he now recognises to be inevitable. We have already become familiar with the original form of the parables of Jesus: a story that leaves his hearers confronted by an unsettling question. Today's study of the formation of the gospels makes it clear that, as these parable stories were retold in the preaching of the early Church, they were often added to, to bring out lessons for later audiences. And it is evident that this parable – originally a challenge to leaders of the Jewish nation – has become, for those who have suffered persecution from the synagogue, a condemnation of the 'chief priests and elders of the people'. The fact that Jesus foretells his death but makes no reference to the resurrection that was so central to the faith of the first Christians, makes it clear that the parable is not a creation of the later Christian community, but is recalled as having been told by Jesus himself.

It is not difficult to identify the main elements of the original parable. A story that reflects common experience captures the attention of the audience and unfolds predictably; the services of tenant farmers was commonly made use of by absentee landlords – a situation that not infrequently gave rise to disputes and conflicts, particularly if the landlord was not close at hand. At the same time, however, in the back of the minds of the audience is an awareness that, in the traditions of Israel, the vineyard theme has often been used to describe God's dealings with Israel. We are told that the prophet Isaiah's 'Song of love for the vineyard', echoed in the parable, was so well known in the time of Jesus that many people knew it by heart. It is a remarkable declaration – a moving expression of faith in the mysterious love and generosity that found expression in the election of Israel in the plan of God; and at the same time, it is an acknowledgement of infidelity and failure. According to the usual pattern as the story unfolds the audience is suddenly confronted by an unexpected turn of events. In this case it is the unreasonable decision of the landlord to send his own son on an errand that has led to so much violence and bloodshed: 'They will respect my son'. Against the background of the vineyard theme, Jesus, who has come to recognise that his death is inevitable, confronts his hearers with the final expression of the folly of divine love.

As Matthew's community tells the story of the parable, some of the modifications are obvious enough. In their account, the question Jesus puts to the leaders of the people has been added - the lesson of the parable is brought out more clearly, as the leaders are condemned out of their own lips. The reference to the psalm's 'stone rejected by the builders', often repeated in the New Testament, is an explanatory addition, as is the conclusion: 'The Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit'. Matthew's community knows that the parable is also a challenge for them – as the New Israel, they are now God's vineyard: 'Every branch in me that bears no fruit', Jesus declares, 'my Father cuts away'. Paul tells the Philippians that, if they bear good fruit, 'The God of peace will be with them'.

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

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?
Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79

R. *The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.*

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
To the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **(R.)**
2. Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. **(R.)**
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
4. And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill

your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you fiends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

Gospel

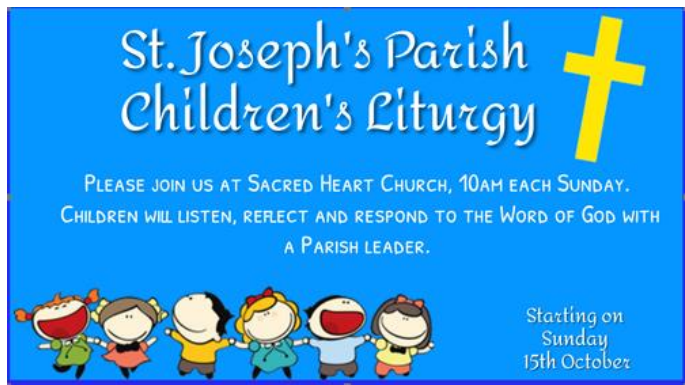
Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS: THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

The image of the people of God as a vineyard is familiar in the Scriptures. We can rejoice in seeing the Church as the vineyard of the Lord, but we also need to respond to God's gifts and use them well. In Isaiah's 'Song of the Vineyard', God has made the people of Israel his vineyard (First Reading). He lovingly cares for it, but sadly the people fail to respond. The Psalm picks up the same theme. It is an appeal to God to turn again and visit the vine he has planted. The vineyard appears in the Gospel too, but here the tenants are reproached. Not only are they not profitable, but they murder the owner's son. St Paul writes that the peace of God is ours if we can only trust in him (Second Reading). We are to pursue all that is good and pure and produce the fruit worthy of the Lord. This week, may we be full of thanksgiving for all that we have received, and always turn to the Lord in prayer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY



CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa next Saturday 14th October after 5.30pm Mass at St Margaret Mary's Church Spotswood. We look forward to seeing you.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

We give thanks to God and congratulate Angela and Drago who celebrate their Ruby Anniversary. and Anna and Giuseppe who celebrate their 68th Wedding Anniversary. May the Lord preserve and strengthen you love for each other,



NIGHT OF WITNESSES

SAVE THE DATE! Night of the Witnesses – 22 November 2023, 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us. For more information please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/notw



JOB VACANCY

Fr Greg is looking for a new Parish Secretary to work 21 hours Tuesday, Thursday and Friday ideally from 9-4pm but subject to negotiation especially on the latter time. Besides good communication skills a few of the key requirements today are in possessing strong finance skills (including Xero) and strong PC skills, in particular Microsoft Office. The permanent part-time position is based at the Parish Office in Williamstown. Full details of the job vacancy can be found on website of 'The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne' under 'job vacancies'. Applications are to sent to recruitment@cam.org.au by 13th October.

OUR SICK

Giuseppe & Anna Meilak, Gracie & Angelo Muscat, Joe Attard, Luca Barun, Graeme Bain, Helen Kelly, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba, John.

ANNIVERSARIES

Francis (Frank) Galea, Marcel Cini.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Gesmond Vella

PARISHES COLLABORATION

We welcome Fr Greg Trythall, Parish Priest of St Mary's, Williamstown, to our parish this weekend, while Fr Binh will be at Williamstown.

Furthermore, over the last few months, there have been gatherings between the four parishes of Altona, Altona North, Williamstown and Newport and Spotswood, to listen and explore ways of collaboration. Parish representatives and clergy were present at these gatherings. We recognize the importance of respecting parish histories and identities while identifying the challenges in each of the faith communities. Some of the current challenges are faith formation, administration, governance, youth, financially viable, etc.

While exploring ways in dealing with these challenges, we recognize the importance of being transparent, of involvement of lay leadership and of creating a structure that support new initiatives as we continue to accompany each other in a new and changing face of our Church.

We are still at the very early stage, but there are signs of hope and excitement in the conversations and in the desire to rediscover who we are as Church. Led by the Holy Spirit, we will continue to accompany and to learn from each other as we go.

DIRECTED RETREAT WITH THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH

When: Monday, October 9, 2023 (all day)

Where: St Joseph's by the Sea, 16 Esplanade, Williamstown

Join the Sisters of St Joseph in a directed (live-in) retreat guided by Sr Therese Quinn RSJ and Jenny Scally—Spiritual Director at the Sisters of St Joseph All retreats commence with the evening meal on the first date and close after breakfast on the last date unless stated differently. Cost: \$800 For further information, call St Joseph's by the Sea at 9397 6012 or email admin.sjbtsw@sosi.org.au.

LIVING THE INFINITE MYSTERY IN OUR OWN TIME: SYNODALITY WITH SR BERNADETTE REIS FSP

As the 'synod on synodality' kicks off in Rome, we talk with Sr Bernadette Reis FSP, Coordinating Multimedia Editor with Vatican News, about the significance of the synod, what it's about and what it's not about. Sr Bernadette has worked 'behind the scenes' of the synod since the beginning and offers her insights on the process and purpose of this historic gathering. To continue reading, visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/living-the-infinite-mystery-in-our-own-time-synodality-with-sr-bernadette-reis-fsp>



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.