



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

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

3rd SEPTEMBER 2023

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@smmspotswood.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

As noted in the reflections for the previous Sunday, Peter goes from being the foundational rock to Satan in one gospel scene. Perhaps he thought that as the rock he had a 'mandate' as we say to take charge of Jesus' life and mission, to do what was best for him. Jesus' rebuke is sharp and clear but he nevertheless takes Peter up the mountain of transfiguration with James and John. Jesus does not give up on the ones he chooses, despite their blunders. Jesus' commitment to Peter and the disciples is demonstrated in the way he follows up the rebuke with an instruction (torah) that addresses our desire to be in control – of our own life and the life of others. Our modern technological world can lead us to become absorbed, even obsessed, with the conviction that our scientific know-how and marvellous machines will enable us to secure our lives. My life expectancy can be estimated accurately as such-and-such, I will therefore work for a certain number of years after which I will retire with a sufficient amount of money. I will follow a particular lifestyle that will ensure my health and longevity. There are effectively no unforeseen factors. The inevitability of death recedes into the distance.

But, Jesus asks, 'what, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life?' Clearly, Jesus is talking about a different 'life' to the one that our modern world holds up as the model. And it is not just eternal life but life here and now; if not then why speak of the incarnational aspect of our discipleship? What kind of life then are we to pursue as Christians? An essential component of it is that each 'renounce himself/herself and take up his/her cross and follow me'. The picture this evokes of Jesus' staggering along under the burden of his cross is the very antithesis of the modern picture of someone who is in control of his or her life. To all intents and purposes it appears as the ultimate human indignity, complete loss of control.

But in a paradoxical way Jesus' call allows – better, encourages – each disciple to exercise control and in two key ways. The first is that Jesus gives each the freedom to make a decision (a more biblical term than 'control'): as he says, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself/herself'. Discipleship is therefore a call, a challenge, it is not imposed. The second is to be found in the reading from Paul's letter to the Romans where he urges them to offer their living bodies as a holy sacrifice. In effect, one takes control of one's life by handing it over to God. All human beings crave a full human life. The Christian claim is that by handing our lives over to God we gain a real human life, not the substitute that our world offers. As our media frequently reminds us in news and stories, the 'substitute' for a real life is so often full of anxiety, fear and isolation – in short, slavery.

In contrast, Christian discipleship does not lead to slavery and death but to freedom and glory because the one who goes before us has smashed the cross of sin and enslavement, a cross that we are unable to bear by ourselves, so that we are now able to take up the cross that we can bear – the giving of our lives in the service of our brothers and sisters. The Bible does not shy away from the difficulties that this real human life may bring – read the passage from the book of Jeremiah where the prophet voices his pain at having to bear 'insult, derision, all day long'. But by shouldering this burden as part of our discipleship we are one with him whose cross became the sign of victory over all forms of enslavement.

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

Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of you wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the

hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: FOR YOU MY SOUL IS THIRSTING, O LORD MY GOD

Today's readings remind us that the path of love leads us away from ourselves. This is always painful, but ultimately it is a path that leads us to the fullness of life.

Peter's journey of faith (Gospel) earns him the severe disapproval of Jesus, who has started to speak openly of the shocking nature of his Messiahship. Peter rejects the idea: his thoughts are human rather than those of God. Jesus explains that being his disciple means being prepared to shoulder his cross: a metaphor for suffering for what we believe in.

Jeremiah (First Reading) gives remarkable insight into how costly his own prophetic mission is. He shares his profound struggles and suffering, as well as the intensity and depth of his relationship with God. The Psalmist speaks passionately of our life-giving desire and thirst for God – and by implication, of the personal cost that following the Lord may involve.

In the Second Reading, Paul encourages the Romans to see all aspects of their lives as a living sacrifice. Paul is offering a radical, new teaching on the concept of sacrifice. Sacrifice is now to do with transforming our way of life from within and modelling ourselves on the person of Christ. This week, we pray for the grace to deepen our relationship with God. We ask for the human freedom to offer our whole being in loving service of Christ and the world.



CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa this Sunday after 10.00am mass at Sacred Church. We look forward to seeing you.

ROSARY GROUP

Please join us this Monday 4th Sept, at 1.00pm Jubilee Room, Newcastle st, Newport for our Monday Rosary Group. Let us continue to pray together for each other.



1ST HOLY COMMUNION

We pray with and congratulate the Di Clemente, Flower, Greaves, and Watson families whose children will be receiving 1st Holy Communion this Sunday. May you experience God's love and become more like Jesus so that your life will give glory to God the Father by the love you show to others.

GROWING GOOD MEN: FATHER AND TEENAGE SON WEEKEND EXPERIENCE

When: Friday, September 8, 2023 (all day)

Venue: CYC Forest Edge, 405 McKenzie Road, Nerrim East

Growing Good Men is an experientially based program that encourages and enables fathers and sons to strengthen their relationship and to explore important issues of growing into manhood. It is designed for fathers or significant male role models and their teenaged boys aged 12–16 years.



For more information and registration visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/events/growing-good-men-father-and-teenage-son-weekend-experience>

FATHER'S DAY



Thank you for all the love, dedication and sacrifice you have given to nurture and provide our children with the best life. We pray for all of you, spiritual fathers also so that you may be able to carry out the divine vocation of parenting according to God's will, imitating thus the example of St Joseph.

Happy Father's day, may you all have a blessed day with family and

friends.

FR BINH'S AWAY

Fr Binh will be away from the 4th -15th of September for the annual Canon Law Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand and some sightseeing afterwards. Fr George Hogarty SSC will celebrate the Masses while Fr Binh's away.

FAR EAST MAGAZINE

Next weekend, 9-10th of September, Fr George Hogarty SSC will speak to us about his missionary works as a Columban priest and his current work of promoting the Far East Magazine.

OUR SICK

Joe Attard, Luca Barun, Graeme Bain, Carmen Vella, Helen Kelly, Mia Ryan, John, Teresa Mustica, Helen Callinan, Esther Colton, Bozo Madzar, Mary Fenech, Kristy Robinson, Paul Orfali, Barbara Payne, Alex Abou Saba

ANNIVERSARIES

Salvatore Falzon, Immacolata Tiricola, Joseph Pham Van Tu

RECENTLY DECEASED

Mike Ryan, Carmelo Briffa, Rosalind Vincent

PALMS AUSTRALIA

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professionals and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have a few other chances for training.

Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

Want to find out more? Join our <https://palms.org.au/event/discover-global-mission-webinar> happening on the 14th September, 2023 at 6.00pm to 7.00pm AEST.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK SEPTEMBER 3RD – 9TH

Is a national campaign held each year to raise awareness of child-abuse prevention in our communities. In 2023, the overarching message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme 'Where we start matters':

- Where we start our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us and the opportunities presented to us makes a significant difference to our life outcomes.
- Where we start as a Catholic community in offering children and their families support and assistance makes a significant difference to life outcomes.
- Where we start as decision-makers in addressing large and complex problems such as child abuse and neglect also has a significant impact on personal, social and economic outcomes.



Child Protection Week is a good time for us to think about how we, as adults, can address some of these issues that affect children and to consider how we change things to make a difference.

PRIEST RETIREMENT FOUNDATION FATHER'S DAY APPEAL- SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

The Priests Retirement Foundation runs an annual appeal on the first Sunday of September, Father's Day.

To donate, please pick up an appeal envelope from your local parish church or **donate online**.

Donations can also be made by mail (cheque or money order), made payable to "Priests Retirement Foundation".



Please send to PO Box 615, East Melbourne VIC 8002. Donations are 100% tax-deductible.

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.