



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

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

8th SEPTEMBER 2024

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport
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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
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 REV MARK O'BRIEN OP

Many, perhaps most, of us would operate with the modern conviction that communication operates primarily via the visual medium. However, an expert in brain scanning has questioned this and found that the brain responds primarily to sound. When one considers the enduring role of music in human life this makes good sense. It also resonates with the readings for this Sunday, in particular the Gospel. Jesus heals a deaf and dumb man who, as Mark reports 'spoke clearly'. The bystanders knew that he had been completely cured by this fact: they could clearly understand him, which means that he could hear his own words and so speak clearly and confidently.

But it is significant that Jesus' focus is not so much on the man who can now hear and speak. They don't heed Jesus' instruction not to speak about the cure. In short, their ability to hear Jesus is 'deafened' by their witnessing the wonder of the deaf and dumb man speaking. Their enthusiastic, noising abroad of the wonder only serves to show that they are deaf to the one who worked the wonder and, if they are deaf to his words, then they cannot preach his good news in an authentic way. To put this another way, one must first hear accurately the good news that Jesus brings before one is able to speak about it. In order for this to take place, one must first have one's ears opened so that one can hear and speak the word of God truthfully. The reading from Isaiah catches the importance of having our ears and mouths opened by drawing a parallel with creation. To have people hear and speak again properly is like having the desert bloom after rain, like having springs of water gushing out of a parched landscape. The passage leaves open whether the 'miracle' of hearing and speech is associated with deliverance from prison and oppression (God is coming as saviour and deliverer) of the healing of physical ailments. I prefer the former. People like the Israelites in prison or exile are 'dumbed down' by the experience. Oppression and fear act as enforcers of silence; prisoners are often forbidden to speak their own language or even speak at all. Hence it is appropriate to celebrate deliverance in terms of hearing and joyous singing. However the text may also or alternatively be implying that the physically deaf and dumb will be healed so that everyone can hear the good news of God's 'coming' and give praise to God. God's salvation touches all.

If the reading from Isaiah celebrates the positive side, the reading from the letter of James warns us of what can happen when one's ears are not open to the truth of the Gospel and, as a result, one proclaims a false message. The particularly dangerous thing about the situation the letter describes is that the person is, to all appearances, representing Jesus because he or she takes the position of authority, making a judgement. In a way we are all judges because we make decisions and draw distinctions between ourselves and others. It is both natural and necessary because only in this way can I come to learn who I am and who the other person is. But flawed judgements will lead to a false understanding of others and of Jesus. Our judgements can divide the community – on false promises – rather than unite it as Jesus wants. A significant feature of the passage from James is that because the person has not heard the Gospel message properly – has not had their ears opened – he or she cannot see the other person clearly (they do not see beyond the rich man's attire, the poor man's rags). James' remedy for this is to appeal to his readers to 'listen my dear brothers' and then to remind them of the true message of the Gospel.



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.

THE WORD OF GOD

First reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

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 water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

.Ps 145

R. Praise the Lord my soul!

1. 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.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. **(R.)**

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

2nd Reading

James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

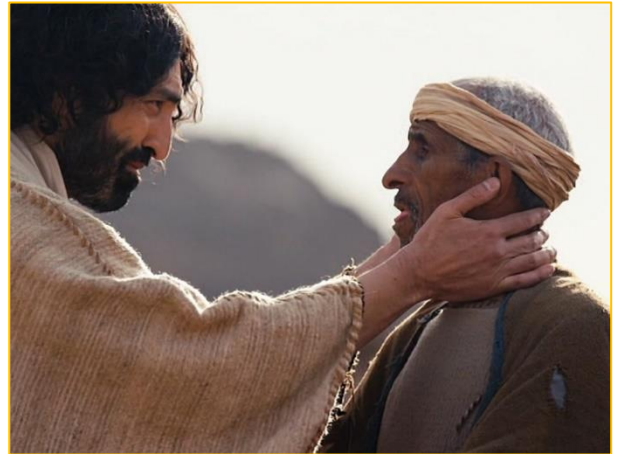
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION BY SR MARY FERMIO

Can you recall when a person took you to meet someone who became a very important person in your life? Maybe someone you married, or gave you a wonderful job, or became a very good friend.

The people took the deaf man to Jesus asking him to "lay his hands on him". They trusted Jesus to help this man. Jesus took him aside and the man regained his hearing and speech. But Jesus seemed to wish to do it away from the crowd. But the man, of course, could not stop telling everyone what Jesus had done for him. The crowd was impressed and also spread the story far and wide. How many people would he have said thank you to, for taking him to Jesus.

Through our Baptism we have been given the gift of faith. We have the ability to spread the Good News to others by our actions and words. We can, this way, introduce others to meet Jesus.

Have there been moments in my life, where I have led others to freedom, because I have enabled them to see and feel the power of God?



O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

'A PRECIOUS TIME': A MISSIONARY OF CHARITY REFLECTS ON 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sr Mary* was about 17 years old, and sitting before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel at a refugee camp, when she heard Jesus say in the quiet of her heart, 'Take up your cross and follow me.' For a girl that young, the cross was already heavy. Sr Mary and her family had fled the communist regime in their homeland, leaving behind all their dreams and hopes. 'I suffered greatly,' she says. 'I felt as if I had lost everything I loved—except my immediate family.' Despite the difficulties they experienced, Sr Mary and her siblings were brought up in the faith. 'I knew about God and how I was supposed to live according to the commandments,' she says, 'but perhaps I had never met Jesus in a personal way.' At the refugee camp, Sr Mary managed to get the key to the chapel—which was usually only open on Sundays for Mass—and began sneaking in and locking the door behind her to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. To continue reading, please visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-precious-time-a-missionary-of-charity-reflects-on-35-years-of-service>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be Children's Liturgy this weekend, 8th September at Sacred Heart Church.

ST COLUMBAN'S MISSION CALENDARS 2025

Are available to order for \$11.00 each. To place your orders please contact Ivana at the Parish office on 9391 1201 or via email. Orders will close off on the 20th Sept to ensure they arrive in time for those who have purchased for Christmas gifts.

PARISH NEWSLETTER NOTIFICATIONS

Please submit all notifications for the newsletter e.g. sick, anniversaries, recently deceased by Thursday 5.00pm via phone, email or place a note in the letter box. Thank you for your assistance.

PARISH SICK NEWSLETTER NOTIFICATIONS

Please note that we will be removing sick names from the newsletter at the start of each Month. This will commence from the 4th October. If you would like your loved one's name to continue for another month, please contact the Parish office.

FLOWER VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are looking for Volunteers to assist with flower arrangements at Sacred Heart Church and St Margaret Mary's Church each week/fortnight. If you are interested, please contact Ivana via Phone on 9391 1201 or via email at Newport.Spotswood@cam.org.au. Please note that you must have a current Working with Children check, and signed code of conduct.

THANK YOU TO SIM

We would like to thank Sim for the beautiful floral arrangements that adorn our Parishes each week. Sim your arrangements are beautiful, and they bring signified peace and tranquillity in the churches.

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.

PARISH FORUM

"On behalf of our Parish Pastoral Council, a Properties Advisory Group, made up of a small group of parishioners with appropriate skills and experience, for the past nine months has been liaising with representatives of the Archdiocese to work out how we can gain much needed revenue for our parish from our disused convent building and the adjacent land. After researching various options they would now like to share their thinking with the broader parish community and get your feedback on it. To this end you are invited to meet with them for half an hour immediately after Mass on Saturday September 8th and Sunday September 9th".

SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL

Father's Day provides an opportunity for our school community, especially the children, to acknowledge and appreciate the role their Dads, father figures and other special people play in our lives. It's a chance for us to show our gratitude for their



OUR SICK

Janice Adams, Joe Attard, Austin Reddy, Neil Shepherd, Romano, Serken Taylan, Jo Vassallo, Shirley Farrar, Branko Ujelac, Michelle Jenkins, Anne Sheahan-Lee, Michael Conlon, Paul Orfali, Elizabeth Sundanam, Barbara Payne, Kristy Robinson, John, Helen Kelly.

ANNIVERSARIES

Donna Toulmin, Joseph Pham Van Tu, Salvatore Falzon, Immacolata Tiricola.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Antonia Doerenberg, Patricia Mary King

support, guidance and love. We pray that all Father figures in our children's lives had a lovely day last Sunday.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY (8 SEPTEMBER)

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

COMBINED YOUTH PARISH GATHERING

All youth aged from 13 to 18 years old, we would love you to come and join our monthly Youth gathering. The fun evening includes getting to know each other, fun games, pizza, prayer and Bible studies. Please join us on Saturday 7th September (7.00pm – 8.30pm) at St Mart's Parish Centre, 116 Cecil Street Williamstown.



'GOD WALKS WITH HIS PEOPLE': RESOURCES PUBLISHED FOR WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has published online resources to help Catholic communities, parishes and schools mark the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In his message to mark the day, Pope Francis emphasises the Church's commitment to walking alongside migrants and refugees. The message's theme—'God walks with his people'—draws parallels between the biblical exodus and the journeys of modern-day migrants. Pope Francis highlights the synodal dimension of the Church, describing it as a joint journey of the people of God, akin to the migration towards the kingdom of heaven. The Pope draws comparisons between the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom and the struggles faced by contemporary migrants, emphasising God's presence and guidance. 'God not only walks with his people, but also within them. To continue reading, visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/resources-published-for-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees>

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.

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

| 1 st Collection Presbytery Offering | 2 nd 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 o 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.