



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

Parish Office

9 Newcastle Street, Newport

T: 9391 1201

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

W: www.stjosephs3015.com.au

Mass Times

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 Priest

Fr Samuel Kapani PP

Parish Office Hours

Tue–Fri – 9am – 2:30pm

Parish Finance Committee

Martin Kruse – Chairperson

E: newport.spotswood-PFC@cam.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Katherine Wong – Chairperson

E: newport.spotswood-PPC@cam.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Group

JP Eid – Chairperson

E: newport.spotswood@cam.org.au

The Parish of St. Joseph, Newport and Spotswood, holds the care, safety and wellbeing of all children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.

Sacramental Co-Ordinators

Sr Lorraine Robinson

Irene Bongetti

Carmel Crawford

Katherine Wong

Sacristans

Irene Bongetti

Maureen Llewellyn

Michael Nardella

Tricia O'Shea

Rose Santo

Choir

Larissa Cairns – Director

Catholic Primary Schools

Sacred Heart

Principal: Kaylene Carlin

T: 9391 6262

E: principal@shnewport.catholic.edu.au

St. Margaret Mary's

Principal: Colleen McCambridge

T: 9391 3118

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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

25 MAY 2025

REFLECTION

JOHN THORNHILL sm

The days in which the Risen Lord has shown himself to his disciples, leading them to full faith in him, are coming to an end – 'I am going away, and shall return'. The disciples have come to recognise, that faith in what God has done for the world in Christ brings a daunting task: 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you'; 'By this love you have for one another everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

That same task has been passed on to the Church of every age; but today's gospel reading brings encouragement. The first disciples became aware of the extraordinary resources that had been given to them, as they took up their task..

'Keeping the word' of the Saviour had a practical meaning for them: putting into practice what the teaching and example of Jesus asked of them. But, whatever age they live in, the disciples of the Risen Lord do not take up this task alone. The Father and the Son 'make their home' in them. Have we really taken to heart all that these words we have heard so often really mean? We are invited to share the humble stories of our lives with these almighty, constant and merciful companions. As they took up their mission, the first disciples experienced the power of the Word of God. If we become familiar with the great story of the Scriptures, we shall find them a constant source of inspiration and strength - nourishment for our faith in every circumstance. But the greatest gift of all is the Holy Spirit, the full expression of the love and joy that unites the Father and Son dwelling in us. The Spirit of Christ living in us will 'teach' us the ways of God, 'reminding' us of all that the Saviour has given to the world. No matter how unworthy we may feel, we are invited to enter into the love of the Father, Son and Spirit 'poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us' (Rom 5), inviting us to journey confidently towards the final Kingdom, where they will be our eternal joy.

Last week, our reading from the Apocalypse spoke of the first Christians' vision of the Church brought into existence by the Saviour's Paschal Mystery, 'the new Jerusalem, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband'. Today's reading, a continuation of the same chapter, reminds us that the Church is the fulfilment of all the hopes of Israel – something we have tended to neglect in our Catholic awareness: twelve tribes, twelve gates, twelve apostles; filled with 'the radiant glory of God and the Lamb'.

But today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles also reminds us that, with all its blessings and resources, the Church will still face practical problems in the carrying out of its mission – problems that must be patiently resolved, in a fraternal spirit open to the guidance that is promised from on high.

Next Weekend's Roster – The Ascension

Date	Lector	Special Minister	Power Point	Choir/Musician	Liturgy Roster
Saturday, 31 May 2025	Katy Hall	Ante Dragovic	Gwen/Gary	Parish Choir	Katherine Wong
Sunday, 1 June 2025	Thang Nguyen	Lori Penna	Tom Penna		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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

**Acts of the Apostles 15:1–2,
22–29**

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders. Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2–3, 5–6, 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R)**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R)**

2nd Reading

**Apocalypse
21:10–14, 22–23**

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel or crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.'

Alleluia!

Gospel

**John
14:23–29**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own;

it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you
while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you,

my own peace I give you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am
going to the Father,

for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now, before it happens,

so that when it does happen you may believe.'

PARISH OFFICE

Please note: due to change of circumstances our parish office is currently unattended. However, your enquiries are important to us and will be responded to as quickly as possible. We thank you for your understanding.

PARISH MASS COUNT 2025

This year, the four weekends of 3-4 May, 10-11 May, 17-18 May and 24-25 May have been selected for the count.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Please join us for a cuppa and chat on Sunday 1st of June, at Sacred Heart Church after 10:00am Mass. All welcome.



PARISH VACANCIES

Dear Parishioners,
As you will be aware, our parish office is currently unattended. In order to fill this vacancy, we are offering 2 positions: a parish secretary (15 hours/week) and a bookkeeper (4 hours/week). If you, or someone you know, might be interested in either, or both, of these positions, please share the links below:

[Parish Secretary, St Joseph's Parish | Melbourne Catholic](#)
[Parish Bookkeeper, St Joseph's Parish | Melbourne Catholic](#)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Please join us for children's liturgy at Sacred Heart's 10am Mass, Sunday May 25.



Please Pray For

OUR SICK

Helen Kelly, Kristy Robinson

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Simon Vassallo, Vittorio Inserra, Angelo Basilone, Carmelino, Anthony Mercieca

PARISH COLLABORATION

In the spirit of continued collaboration with St. Mary's Williamstown, our two parishes will continue to share resources and work together. Fr. Greg and Fr. Samuel will continue to share pulpits and work with the Combined Parish Youth Group while discerning additional future initiatives and opportunities for the benefit of all.

The 4 combined parishes from our local area will meet again on May 27. St. Joseph members are Fr. Samuel, Marlene Monahan, and Tony Nicholson.

SCHOOL NEWS

St Margaret Mary's Primary School - Spotswood

Congratulations Father Samuel!
We congratulate Father Samuel on his official appointment as our new Parish Priest.
We look forward to working together as a strong and supportive school-parish community. 🙌
#StMargaretMarys #ParishLife #FaithCommunity
#melbournecatholicchools #Spotswood #SMMSpotswood



PARISH CALENDAR & COMMUNITY OBSERVANCES



MAY

May 28: National Sorry Day
May 29: Parish Finance Committee Meeting
May 31: Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary

JUNE

June 1: Ascension of the Lord, Cuppa & Chat (SH)
June 6-10: Eid al Adha
June 7: Combined Parish Youth Gathering (7-8:30pm)
June 8: Pentecost
June 12: SMM SAC Meeting
June 14: Cuppa & Chat (SMM)

Maternal Health in rural Zambia

A Project of Catholic Mission

In rural Zambia, many mothers walk for hours while in labour to reach basic care.

In parts of rural Zambia, this is the reality for many expectant mothers who face long journeys to access basic healthcare. With fewer than three doctors per 10,000 people, facilities are often stretched and under-resourced—a stark contrast to Australia's 40+ doctors per 10,000, highlighting the global disparity in access to maternal healthcare.

"A mother's life... shouldn't be left to chance"

Presented by Abraham Muma
Health Services Coordinator Chilonga Mission Hospital, Zambia

Thursday June 5th, 7 PM

St Peter's Parish Centre
581 Toorak Rd, Toorak

Light refreshments will be provided.
Entry is free – donations welcome on the night.



Register here



DIOCESE NEWS



PM meets with Pope Leo, invites him to Australia for Eucharistic Congress

In a historic moment, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met with Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican on Monday, extending a formal invitation for the pontiff to visit Sydney in 2028 for the International Eucharistic Congress (IEC).

The Prime Minister, who has spoken warmly of his upbringing in the Catholic faith, also took the opportunity to present Pope Leo XIV with a painting by Indigenous artist Amanda Westley from the Ngarrindjeri community in South Australia. In return, Pope Leo XIV presented the Prime Minister with an artwork depicting the impact of climate change.

To read more see link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pm-meets-with-pope-leo-invites-him-to-australia-for-eucharistic-congress>



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 APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God,

the Father Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the

Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

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.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

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

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

1st Collection

Supports: *Parish clergy,
Sick and retired priests,
Priests in needy Parishes,
Archbishops & auxiliary
bishops.*

2nd Collection

Supports: *Parish running costs,
Parish Pastoral initiatives,
Diocesan and various services.*

If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program, and receive a thanksgiving envelope no. please contact the parish office.

For those of us that do not carry cash, we now have portable smart terminals available in foyer



JOIN OUR THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

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If you would like to join our parish thanksgiving program electronically or make a one-off gift to the church scan this QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your continued support.

