

A parish with a Heart in our Hands ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

First Sunday of Advent – Year C

1 December 2024

Welcome to our parish!

PRIESTS

Parish Priest

Fr Renante Sentillas MI

Asst Priest & RPAH Chaplain

Fr Ruben Mandin MI

Asst Priest & RPAH Chaplain

Fr Michael Gimena MI

PARISH OFFICE

🕒 **Mon, Thu** 10AM - 4PM
Sat 10AM - 3PM

📍 2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown
☎ (02) 9557 1181

✉ stjocamper@gmail.com

🌐 stjosephscamperdown.org.au

📱 /StJosephCamperdown

SCHEDULE OF MASS & SACRAMENTS

Weekend Mass

Saturday 6:00 PM (Vigil)
Sunday 9:30 AM
11:00 AM
6:00 PM

Weekday Mass

Mon - Fri 8:00 AM
8:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM

Adoration

Mon - Fri 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM*
after 8:00 PM Mass*

* Please see the **Parish Announcement** at the Parish News Section on page 3.

Reconciliation

Sat & Sun 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM
Mon - Fri After 8:00 PM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Anytime (in hospital, page the Catholic priest on-call)

Baptism

Usually Sunday (Baptismal instructions are arranged with parents before Baptism)

Weddings & Funerals

By appointment; 6 months notice required for weddings

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

At the beginning of 2025, a new schedule for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take effect. **Please see the full Parish Announcement included in the Parish News Section on page 3.**

Advent transports us back to the longing of the prophets of Israel for the coming of a Saviour. The Saviour has come. But salvation is not complete. We proclaim, "Christ has died, Christ is risen", and then add, "Christ will come again". Why? Because there is so much "unfinished business" in the work of redemption. Our world and even the lives of believers still appear very "unredeemed". Our salvation is still being worked out.

The first generation of Christians believed that the Lord would return very soon to complete his messianic work. They were dismayed when some believers began to die and still he had not come (1 Thess 4:13-18). The later writings of the New Testament, the four Gospels included, all address this problem. It may be that the Lord will not come tomorrow, next year, or even before this generation dies out. But come he will in a time known only to God (Mark 13:32). Meanwhile, this time of waiting is not devoid of meaning - like time spent waiting on a bus stop. This "in-between" time is a sacred time, a time for the Church to proclaim the Gospel to every nation (Mark 13:10; Acts 1:6-8), to make sense of the present, while never giving up the hope that God's Messiah, Jesus, will have the last word.

Advent is the season that honours and celebrates this waiting aspect of Christian life. Because we live in the time following the first coming of the Saviour, the prime focus of our waiting and our expectation is upon the second coming of the Lord. But because salvation is not complete, because we are so conscious of a world still ravaged by suffering and violence, we can identify with the prophets and holy men and women who hung upon the promise of salvation before the first coming of the Lord. Their cries express our own longings and hopes for a liberated and just world.

Today's First Reading, Jeremiah 33:14-16, expresses the hope for the restoration of David's dynasty following Israel's return from captivity in Babylon. In the years leading up to the time of Jesus, this text became a key vehicle of the hope for an ideal king of David's line who would be God's instrument inaugurating prosperity, justice and peace. Christian readers of the Old Testament naturally referred God's promise to make a "virtuous Branch for David" to the coming of Jesus. In fact, there are echoes of this text in the angel Gabriel's description to Mary of the status and role of the child she is to bear (Luke 1:32-33).

The Second Reading, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, well expresses the early Christian sense of living in expectation of the second coming of the Lord. What matters above all is to be "blameless" in the sight of our God and Father when the Lord Jesus comes.

Today we no longer look to a literal "arrival" of the Lord on the clouds of heaven (see 4:16-17). But Christian faith has never abandoned the sense of accountability that goes with this expectation. Hence we can hear as addressed to ourselves Paul's exhortation to his very recent converts in Thessalonica to make more and more progress in living out the gospel.

The Gospel (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36), taken from the Jesus' long instruction on the future (21:5-38), again focuses upon the second coming of the Lord. It is full of the kind of apocalyptic descriptions and portents that have always excited the fundamentalist religious imagination. They create real difficulty for preachers today. The important things, I think, is to focus upon the basic intent of such discourse, which is to address the sense of dismay and challenge to hope that calamities of various kinds present. While God may appear to be silent or absent, somehow all these things are held within the divine purpose, which will ultimately win through. The reference to the coming of Jesus as Son of Man catches up the vision of Daniel 7:13-14, a text which played a very significant role in early Christian messianic hope. Jesus will come "with all his saints": the "communion of saints" that unites the Church on earth with all who have gone before us to the Lord and with all those holy ones who lived before his coming, will at last be revealed.

While the basic message is one of comfort and reassurance, the second part of the gospel adopts a more admonitory tone. Believers must be like people expecting visitors but unsure as to when exactly they will arrive. The time of waiting requires attentiveness and a sharp spiritual sense. Anything that dulls the spirit (debauchery and drunkenness) or causes it to be distracted (absorption in the cares of life) must be avoided.

Advent is a time for examination in such areas. It is also a time for exploring our deepest longings and desires and allowing them to surface. They can ride up, so to speak, on the rich Scripture texts that the Church puts before us at this time.

God's only wish in our regard is to communicate to us the life and love for which we long. Each Advent should expand both our longing and our capacity to receive the gift of God.

Commentary by Fr Brendan Byrne, SJ, FAHA. Fr Brendan taught New Testament at Jesuit Theological College, Parkville, Vic, for almost forty years. He is now Emeritus Professor at the University of Divinity (Melbourne). His commentaries on the Gospels can be found at Pauline Books and Media.

Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, my god, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: 'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: the Lord-our-integrity.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R**

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!



Wilhelm von Kaulbach (1805–1874), The Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, 14 December | 2pm-5pm at the Parish Presbytery Grounds

We invite all of our Parish Volunteers, which include members of our **Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, Readers, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Choir members, Greeters & Ushers** (Legion of Mary), **Martha Ministry** (Collectors, Cleaners, and Marshalls), **Events Ministry**, and **Lay Camillian Family - Sydney** to join our **Christmas Party for all Parish Volunteers** on **Saturday, 14 December** from **2pm to 5pm** at the **Parish Presbytery Grounds**. We thank you for your love and service to our parish community!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

For over two years, our parish has held Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament according to the following schedule: Monday to Friday from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM, and Monday to Friday from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. After careful consideration, several concerns have emerged:

- 1 Our three Camillian priests need to balance their commitment to Religious Community Life with their parish duties, particularly following the 8:00 PM Mass.
- 2 According to liturgical norms, it is more appropriate to hold the Holy Hour before the 8:00 PM Mass rather than after, as it serves as a profound preparation for the Eucharistic celebration.
- 3 The afternoon Exposition from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, has consistently low attendance, calling into question the need for its continuation.
- 4 Devotion to the Divine Mercy, such as praying the Chaplet, can still be meaningfully practiced in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, even without formal Exposition, as demonstrated by the daily prayers following the 8:00 AM Mass from Monday to Saturday.

Following the Pastoral Visit of Bishop Danny Meagher on March 22 and 24, 2024, and based on his recommendations, the following changes will then be implemented:

- 1 **The Monday to Friday Holy Hour will be moved to 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.**
- 2 **The Monday to Friday 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Holy Hour will be discontinued.**

We, the Parish Pastoral Council, after a thorough discussion and reflection on the matter, hereby support the decision to make these changes as to the Schedule of Holy Hours/Expositions of the Blessed Sacrament in our Parish.

The Parish Pastoral Council has discussed these changes thoroughly and supports them wholeheartedly. We ask for the understanding and cooperation of all parishioners as we implement these changes at the beginning of 2025. Let us continue to pray for a smooth transition.

Signed by the Parish Pastoral Council
17 August 2024

Beginning 1 January 2025, our Schedule of Masses, Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Adoration will be as follows, in accordance with our notice of changes in the schedule of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

2025 SCHEDULE OF MASS, RECONCILIATION & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

MASS

Monday to Friday 8AM, 8PM
Saturday 8AM, 6PM (Vigil)
Sunday 9:30AM, 11AM, 6PM

RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday **7PM - 8PM (New time)**
Saturday & Sunday 5:15PM - 5:45PM

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday to Friday **7PM - 8PM (New time)**
(Reconciliation available)



ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

NOVENA DAWN MASSES
TO *Christmas*

5AM | ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CAMPERDOWN
MONDAY 16 DEC - TUESDAY 24 DEC

SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

| Week | Mass Times | Commentator & 1st Reader | 2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful | Collectors |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| This Sunday 30 Nov-1 Dec | Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM | Corazon F Rachel S Philip F Gemma T | Francisco T Lesley A Cathy W Maria C | Genalor, Alicia Maria, Francisco - Gemma, Maria |
| Next Sunday 7-8 Dec | Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM | Genalor F Angeline L Elizabeth C Gemma T | Alicia B Ricky L Agnes W Corazon F | Ricky, Marc Maria, Francisco - Corazon, Gemma |
| Daily Mass | Morning Evening | Angeline L, Alicia B, Echie, Doris K (Thu only), Garry C, The Sisters, Gemma T (Sat only), Ricky L (Fri only) Corazon F, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, Genalor F, Maria C, Tim L, Alexander M | | |

Thank you very much for your generosity in volunteering as mass readers and collectors in our beloved parish. **Anyone wanting to volunteer, please ring or text Angeline 0431 718 137.** God bless.

PARISH CHOIR

ORGANIST/PIANIST | CONDUCTOR
Saturday 6 PM Vigil Mass Tim, Dennis,
St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir Fr Ruben, Gemma
Sunday 9:30 AM Mass Allen, Ethel, Tim | Yari
Sunday Morning Choir
Sunday 11 AM Mass Louise | Dr Peter, Elsa
Chinese Community
Sunday 6 PM Mass Teresa, Gemma |
St Joseph's Sunday Evening Choir Michael

If you would like to serve in the parish through singing or playing instruments such as piano/organ/guitar/etc., please don't hesitate to express your interest by **approaching our choristers before or after Mass** or messaging **Angeline 0431 718 137.**



Sponsor a Morning Tea or offer a Mass Intention

FOR ONE OF THE

5AM NOVENA DAWN MASSES

TO

Christmas

FROM MONDAY 16 DEC TO TUESDAY 24 DEC

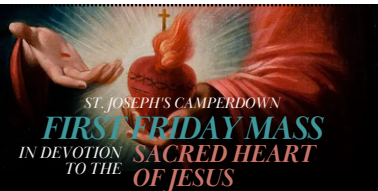
Approach one of our priests or contact our parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com

PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY HOME VISITATION



The Pilgrim Mary Home Visitation is facilitated to commemorate the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025 as we are called to do so by Pope Francis and to encourage our St Joseph's parishioners to pray the Holy Rosary in their homes with their families.

From 15 Aug 2024 to 15 Aug 2025, our Blessed Mother will be "on a pilgrimage" to our parishioners' homes each week. To [join this initiative](#), you may approach the **members of the Legion of Mary** who assist before the start of Sunday/Vigil Masses or alternatively contact the parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com for assistance.



First Fridays | 8PM
followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Blessing until 10PM



Lay Camillian Family SYDNEY CHAPTER

If you happen to have **homebound, sick, handicapped, elderly, and frail family members and friends** who want to be visited and given Holy Communion on Sundays, please inform our parish office stjocamper@gmail.com or any members of our Lay Camillian Family and avail of our pastoral services to our suffering parishioners.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

To see more initiatives within the Archdiocese, visit and subscribe to gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to



CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

12TH-25TH DEC

Discover a festive wonderland with market stalls, delicious food and live performances. Each evening, marvel at the stunning light projections illuminating the cathedral.



PAYCE FOUNDATION

CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU
#CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

3 Dec Saint Francis Xavier
4 Dec Saint John Damascene
6 Dec Saint Nicholas
7 Dec Saint Ambrose
9 Dec **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

10 Dec Our Lady of Loreto
11 Dec Saint Damasus I
12 Dec Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Dec Saint Lucy
14 Dec Saint John of the Cross

RPAH CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

Seeking solace during illness or hospitalisation at RPA Hospital? Our Catholic Chaplaincy offers comforting visits, pastoral care, and sacraments. Contact us via the Hospital Switchboard (**02 9515 6111**) or via our parish office (**02 9557 1181** or stjocamper@gmail.com).

We're here for you

CATECHISTS' CORNER

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

We're happy to accompany you through your journey of faith. Send us a message at stjocamper@gmail.com.

Would you like to be a catechist and teach children about Jesus and the scriptures?



For queries, please contact our Parish Catechist Coordinator, Alicia Buxton **0412155967**.

PARISH GIVING

LAST WEEK'S Parish Collection

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1st Collection | \$ 508.65 |
| 2nd Collection | \$ 488.65 |
| EFTPOS Giving | \$ 886.21 |

Thank you for your generosity and support!



CADIS
CAMILLIAN DISASTER SERVICE AUSTRALIA

Your contribution to CADIS helps provide food and services to disaster survivors, homeless, and refugees.

Donate

Volunteer

Transfer to
CADIS AUSTRALIA LTD
BSB: 032-179
ACCT NO.: 371 579



To Volunteer, contact
Fr Meng or **Robert and Maria**
0424742571 **0469898620**



Your local charity

Support the charitable and pastoral works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Donate

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible and can be credited to your local parish.



Caritas AUSTRALIA



Donate through scanning the QR code or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling **1800 024 413**.

Donate

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land, on which St Joseph's Camperdown stands, for thousands of years. 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.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or email safeguardinginquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.