

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

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Second Sunday of Advent – Year C

8 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.**

John the Baptist dominates the central weeks of Advent. His summons, "Prepare the way of the Lord", has long been understood as summing up the message of the Advent season. But it is not as if we have to mentally project ourselves "back there" before the original coming of Jesus to hear the message of John. The hope that we as Christians cherish for the second coming of the Lord means that we can rightly identify with those in Israel who were the first to hear John's announcement of salvation and his summons to a change of heart.

The trajectory that runs through the Scripture for today is clear in the way the Gospel, containing the beginning of John's summons, picks up and positions the assurance proclaimed in the **First Reading**.

MESSAGE OF CONSOLATION

The prophecy of Baruch (5:1-9) echoes in a post-exilic context much of the message of consolation contained in Second Isaiah (Isaiah 40-66). Foreseeing the return to Jerusalem of Israelites who had been exiled and scattered in foreign cities, the prophet tells the city to get ready to witness this wonderful homecoming. The exiles will return like princes, carried on litters by their former enemies. The way will be smoothed by the flattening of hills and other obstacles, the desert will be transformed into a paradise to make the journey a delight.

Detached from its original reference to Israel's return from exile, the prophecy later functioned as a vision of the "home-coming" expected in the messianic age. The **Gospel** for today, Luke 3:1-6, has John the Baptist announce its imminent fulfilment. He is "the voice" foretold by Isaiah (40:3), the one who cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord".

What is particularly striking, I think, about Luke's presentation of John's message is the care with which he pins it down historically by mentioning all those rulers at the start: from the emperor in Rome to the high priests in Jerusalem. To relate "sacred history" to what was going on in the world at large is a distinctive feature of Luke's contribution to Christianity, both in his Gospel and also in his second work, the Acts of the Apostles.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Luke in this way pointed the early Church to the world as much as to say, "It's not all bad out there!" Aspects of the world order at the time, especially the peace and legal structure of the Roman empire could be of assistance to the spread of the Gospel. So the salvation that John heralds and that Jesus will bring is not something confined to a purely spiritual realm detached from everyday life and history. It comes at a particular time, into a particular place and culture. As it works itself out – beyond the time of Jesus into that of the Church – it will interact with all the cultures that it meets, challenging them and transforming them as it seeks to bring the human race back to its true home in the Kingdom of God.

Beyond the vision of Baruch, what John sees is not just the return of the dispersed Israelites, but the "way of the Lord". At the head of the new humanity, restoring it to freedom, will be the figure of Jesus. Those whom he gathers and leads will be "returned ones," not now in the physical sense of returnees from exile, but in the biblical sense of "return" which also denotes conversion of heart. Once again, this Advent, John summons us to the change of heart whereby the Church becomes ever more deeply the vanguard of a human race making its homecoming to God and its own true humanity. The vocation of the Church, as a whole and its local communities, is to be the "light of the nations", so "all humankind may see the salvation of God".

A TIME OF PREPARATION

The **Second Reading**, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, again catches up Paul's sense of Christian life as a time of preparation for the (second) coming of the Lord ("the Day of Christ"). Noteworthy is the sense of the Christian community as a "work" that God, like a good craftsman, is bringing to completion. This is God's work – hence Paul's prayer. But we should not fail to notice his stress upon "improving knowledge" and "deepening perception" so that the community will always be able to "recognise what is best".

Believers are not handed a perfect blueprint for salvation. In the ever-changing circumstances of human life and knowledge, we are summoned to a life of constant discernment: to ask what leads us to God, what leads us away; what gives us joy, what leaves us in sadness. Advent is a time of sharpening our sensitivity to the summons and calls of the Spirit.

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

People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, "Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness." Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that

SECOND READING (cont.)

Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.



Anton Raphael Mengs (1728–1779), *St. John the Baptist Preaching*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God, Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberias Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand in the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

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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 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
Next Sunday 14-15 Dec	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Ricky L Sr Maliya Agnes C Gemma T	Marc S Gordon L John L Genalor F	Corazon, Amy Maria, Francisco - Gemma, Genalor
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 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	\$ 789.20
2nd Collection	\$ 676.15
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 821.33

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



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND
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

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

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 safeguardingenquiries@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.