

# A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

# ST JOSEPH'S

# CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

3 November 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.**

**Today's First Reading from Deuteronomy (6:2-6) follows a long sequence where Moses reminds the Israelites of the commandments (the Ten Commandments) which they had undertaken to observe as the covenant people of God. Faithful observance of these commandments will be a path to life in the land they are about to enter.**

The actual text for today's reading became the 'Shema', the prayer that every devout Jew recites each morning on rising. The opening word, 'Shema', means 'listen'; it also has the sense of 'obey'. The prayer is a daily reminder not only of the covenant obligations but also of the privilege from which those obligations flow. Israel is a people addressed by God, called each day to listen and obey.

[The Pontifical Biblical Commission in its 1993 document, The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church, picked up this motif, describing the local Christian community as one 'which knows that it is addressed by God (cf. John 6:45), a community that listens eagerly to the Word with faith, love and docility (Deut 6:4-6)' (III, B, 3).]

**LOVE THE LORD ALONE** This is the wider context of the supreme commandment to love the Lord alone 'with all your heart, and with all your soul and all your might'. 'Love' has the sense of cleaving to God, to the exclusion of all other objects of worship. 'Heart', 'soul' and 'strength' refer not so much to separate capacities but together communicate a loving commitment that engages the totality of a person, including – especially from 'strength' – one's talents and capacity for action, perhaps even one's possessions.

The corresponding command to 'love one's neighbour as yourself' also occurs in the Old Testament, in Lev 19:18. Bringing the two commandments – love of God and love of neighbour – together, as Jesus does in the episode that forms today's Gospel (Mark 12:28-34) seems to have been something distinctive of his teaching and ministry, though Jewish parallels are not lacking from a later period.

Scribes are usually hostile figures in the Gospels. The one who approaches Jesus in this scene seems to do so as a genuine inquirer. The question he raises – which commandment of the Torah is the 'first'? – was a standard item of discussion among the rabbis. He is, then, seeking the opinion of this controversial teacher on the matter.

**A 'SECOND' COMMANDMENT** Jesus initially responds in fairly conventional terms. He points to the commandment preserved in the Shema, citing Deut 6:5, with the additional phrase 'with all one's mind'. But he then goes on beyond what the scribe had asked to offer a 'second' commandment – 'to love one's neighbour as oneself' – bringing Lev 19:18 alongside the text from Deuteronomy.

Jesus does not reduce both commandments to a single 'greatest' commandment. Though inextricably bound together, they remain 'first' and 'second'. This signals that God is worthy of love and worship in an absolute sense; God is to be loved for Godself alone. Love of God, though necessarily finding expression in love of neighbour, cannot simply be reduced to loving action on behalf of the neighbour.

Loving one's neighbour 'as oneself' may not, at first sight, seem all that demanding. It does not require putting the interests of the neighbour before oneself but simply putting them on an equal level. The commandment presupposes, then, a healthy love and valuing of oneself. But what it also asks is, on closer inspection, quite radical, an act of imagination in high degree: to ask myself, What do I really want from another person? – understanding, tolerance, respect, loyalty, compassion? – then to ensure that all my actions in regard to that person enact, rather than run counter to such qualities.

**LOVING SERVICE** The friendly scribe goes on to offer a lengthy commendation, repeating virtually word for word all that Jesus had said concerning the two commandments and adding a further comment: that all this is 'much more important than burnt offerings or sacrifices'. He is, then, a learned Jew who has come to accept that what God wants from the covenant people is loving service of the neighbour rather than the sacrificial ritual, which was in any case soon to disappear with the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70CE. The scribe has come close, then, to that radicalisation of the Torah associated with the onset of the Rule ('Kingdom') of God proclaimed by Jesus. This is why Jesus can commend him for being 'not far from the Kingdom of God'.

In this context, the otherwise disparate Second Reading, from Heb 7:23-28, acquires a certain relevance. It speaks of the contrast between the eternal priesthood of Jesus in comparison with the long line of high priests continually in need of replacing under the old sacrificial system. Believers must be confident that underpinning their relationship with God is the permanent and supremely efficacious intercession of Christ as High Priest.

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

**Do not abandon me, Lord. My God, do not go away from me! Hurry to help me, Lord, my Saviour.**

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: "If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson.

Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. Listen Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **R**

Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. **R**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 7:23-28

Then there used to be a great number of those other priests, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.



James Tissot (1836-1902), *Jesus Teaches the People by the Sea*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mark 12:28b-34

One of the scribes who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?'

Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.'

Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God'.

And after that no one dared to question him any more.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Lord, you will show me the path of life and fill me with joy in your presence.**

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## PARISH *Advent* RECOLLECTION 2024

You are invited to our **Parish Advent Recollection** led by **Fr Hugh Thomas, CSsR** on **Saturday 30 Nov**, beginning at **2PM to 5:30PM**, followed by **Vigil Mass at 6PM**. Light refreshments included. All are welcome!

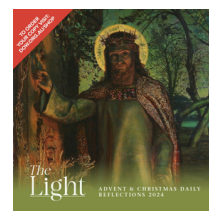


Guest Speaker

**Fr Hugh Thomas, CSsR.**  
Original photo credits to  
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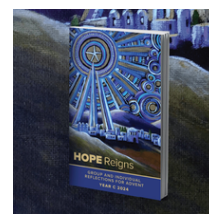
## ADVENT BOOKLETS

**Advent is fast approaching!** Below are some advent booklet resources to enrich your spiritual preparation for Christmas.



### The Light: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2024

For questions and orders, call **(02) 4222 2411** or email **orders@dow.org.au**



### Hope Reigns

A 25-day reflection resource for Advent 2024

For orders and more information, visit **adventplus.com.au**

# 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

## Canonical and Liturgical Considerations

### 1 Timing of the Holy Hour

### 2 Exposition After Mass

### 3 Attendance and Adoration

The regulation of perpetual or prolonged Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament includes the requirement that there must always be faithful present during the adoration. If attendance is minimal, as noted during the afternoon hours, it may be prudent to reassess and possibly discontinue these sessions, aligning with guidelines that suggest adoration should be meaningful and supported by a community of faithful.

## SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors
<b>This Sunday</b> 2-3 Nov	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F Sr Maliya Philip F Gemma T	Francisco T Srs of Mercy Cathy W Maria C	Corazon, Francisco Maria, Francisco - Gemma, Maria
<b>Next Sunday</b> 9-10 Nov	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Genalor F Angeline L Elizabeth C Gemma T	Yvona W Ricky L Agnes W Corazon F	Genalor, Marc Maria, Francisco - Corazon, Gemma
<b>Daily Mass</b>	Morning Evening	Angeline L, Alicia B, Echie, Doris K (Thu only), Garry C, The Sisters, Gemma T (Sat only), Isabelle K (Fri only), Ricky L Corazon F, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, Genalor F, Maria C, Tim L		

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  
**St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir** Tim, Dennis,  
Sunday 9:30 AM Mass Fr Ruben, Gemma  
**Sunday Morning Choir** Allen, Ethel, Tim | Yani  
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**.





# FEAST DAYS

**4 Nov** Saint Charles Borromeo **11 Nov** Saint Martin of Tours **16 Nov** Saint Gertrude  
**9 Nov** The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica **12 Nov** Saint Josaphat **13 Nov** Saint Margaret of Scotland  
**15 Nov** Saint Albert the Great



**For the whole month of November, our parish will be praying for all the souls of the faithful departed.**

You may use the Mass Intention Envelopes at the foyer of the church or email us at [stjocamper@gmail.com](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com) with the names of the departed and/or your prayer intentions.



## Holy Mass Intentions & Offerings

Do you have Mass intentions you would like our parish to pray for? e.g. sickness, repose of the soul, thanksgiving, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, exams, and other special intentions you may have.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Intentions: ☐ Public ☐ Private

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# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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	\$ 765.25
2nd Collection	\$ 259.55
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 1,302.42

*Thank you for your generosity and support!*



## PARISH NEWS

### 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** for assistance.



### 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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com) or any members of our Lay Camillian Family and avail of our pastoral services to our suffering parishioners.



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

## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

To see more initiatives within the Archdiocese, visit and subscribe to [gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events](http://gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events)

### Life in the Early Church: The Forging of Christian Identity

Dr Kevin Wagner

Thursdays 7, 14, and 21 November, 7:30pm - 8:45pm



### Didaskō Faith Formation



Online via Zoom  
 Cost: \$35 per person (+ BOOKING FEES)  
 \$100 for Parish Groups, in-person gathering (+ BOOKING FEES)  
 Register at: [gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko](http://gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko)



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



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



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 FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Donate through scanning the QR code or by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://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](mailto: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.