

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday – Year C

15 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.**

This Sunday in Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday because of the theme of "rejoicing" that pervades it. (Gaudete, the Latin for "Rejoice", being the opening word of the old entrance [Introit] antiphon.) The liturgy invites us to rejoice because at the halfway moment of Advent we are aware of how close we are to proximity of the salvation that will come to us at Christmas.

DO NOT FEAR

The main theme in the **First Reading**, from Zephaniah 3:14-18, is "Do not fear"; Israel's God is so close as to be actually already "in your midst". Even more striking perhaps is the assurance that the Lord God "will renew you by his love" and "will dance with shouts of joy for you". Scripture is constantly challenging our image of God. The idea of the Lord God as one who "dances with Israel as on a day of festival" is perhaps novel in Australia – though I have been at liturgies in Africa where everyone, including the clergy, join in the dance. We have lost a great deal by reducing our liturgical celebrations to something so "spiritual" and so cerebral. If Scripture invites us to think of God as dancing with shouts of joy, perhaps we should not be so hesitant to bring our bodies and their capacity for movement back into our celebrations.

Likewise, St. Paul insists in the **Second Reading**, from Philipians 4:4-7, that his community rejoice. Joy stems above all from a sense of being loved. In the Christian community the experience of the Spirit is essentially a sense that one is loved by God and lovingly grasped within God's saving design (Rom 5:5; 8:15; Gal 4:6-7). Of course, anxieties and worries remain. Paul's remedy for this is that they be taken to God in prayer. Also, he urges the community to cultivate at all times a sense of thanksgiving. Thanking and blessing God, even for the difficult things that come our way, creates a mysterious sense of peace that is truly the gift of God.

JUSTICE AND GENEROSITY

The **Gospel**, Luke 3:10-18, returns to the preaching of John the Baptist. This comes in two rather different parts. In response to the people's query as to how conversion of heart might work itself out in practice, John first offers some concrete suggestions, addressed to three distinct groups: the crowds, tax collectors and soldiers. Beneath the advice in each case is a central Lukan concern: nothing so hinders relationship to God, nothing so dehumanises human beings and ruins life in community, as attachment to wealth and possessions. In each case John urges justice and generosity. The tax collectors and the soldiers (soldiers in Palestinian society of the time had the role, more or less, of police in our society today) were both in a position to extort money from ordinary people. John exhorts the tax collectors to exact no more than is their due. The soldiers on the other hand were to "be content with their pay" in the sense of not seeking to augment it by violence and extortion. Social justice is always the acid test of true conversion of heart.

The second part of John's message returns more directly to his role as precursor of Christ. Deflecting expectation away from the idea that he himself might be the Messiah, John points to the distinction between his role and that of the One who is to come. He baptises with water – a simple ritual of repentance. The Messiah will baptise "with the Holy Spirit and fire".

EXPERIENCE OF THE SPIRIT

This description of the role of Jesus sounds rather threatening. In effect, however, the "baptism" that Jesus brings should be understood in a metaphorical sense. It probably should be referred to the experience of the Spirit, where the Father's address to Jesus following his baptism ("You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you" [Luke 3:22]) is extended to believers. The love and favour that Jesus experiences from the Father will become the experience of all who respond in faith to the Gospel. The Church will undergo this "baptism" at Pentecost when the Spirit comes down upon the disciples in tongues, "as if of fire" (Acts 2:1-4), empowering them to take up the mission of Jesus.

John's final description of the Coming One's mission evokes the vivid image of wielding a winnowing fan to separate wheat from chaff. In fact, Jesus will hardly take up the threatening pattern of ministry that John sketches for him here. He will heal, and forgive, and warn, yes, but not judge or condemn; with sinners he will celebrate the mercy of God (5:27-32; 15:1-2). The divergence may explain why later, from prison, John sends messengers to ask whether Jesus is truly the One to come (7:20). As so often in Luke's Gospel, we find both continuity and surprise in equal measure.

Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R** Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4: 4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater that we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!



Pieter Brueghel the Younger (1564–1638), *The Sermon of Saint John the Baptist*

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, "What must we do?" he answered, "If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same." There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, "Master what must we do?" He said to them, "Exact no more than your rate." Some soldiers asked him in turn, "What about us? What must we do?" He said to the, "No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!"

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out." As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our God will come to save us.

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5AM MONDAY 16 DECEMBER TO
TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER
NOVENA DAWN MASSES

TO *Christmas*

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CAMPERDOWN

RSVP HERE



**Sponsor a
Morning Tea or
offer a Mass Intention**
FOR ONE OF THE DAWN MASSES

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



See the Full Christmas Schedule of Masses at St Joseph's Camperdown on Page 4

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

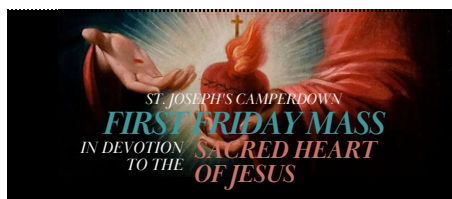
Monday to Friday 8AM, 8PM
Saturday 8AM, 6PM (Vigil)
Sunday 9:30AM, 11AM, 6PM

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)



First Friday of each month | 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.

SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

| Week | Mass Times | Commentator & 1st Reader | 2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful | Collectors |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| This 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 |
| Next Sunday 21-22 Dec | Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM | Corazon F Rachel S Nancy T Tim S | Francisco T Lesley A Sharon K Maddi S | Alicia, Genalor Maria, Francisco - Tim S, Maddi S |
| 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**.



Christmas

AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

2024

**MON 16 DEC
TO
MON 23 DEC**

NOVENA DAWN MASSES

5:00AM, EVERY DAY FROM MON 16 DEC - TUE 24 DEC

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE CONTINUE

MONDAY TO FRIDAY MASSES

8:00AM | 8:00PM

SATURDAY MASSES

8:00AM | 6:00PM (VIGIL)

SUNDAY MASSES

9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

TUE 24 DEC

5:00AM NOVENA DAWN MASS (Final)

8:00AM WEEKDAY MASS

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:00PM VIGIL MASS

12:00AM MIDNIGHT MASS

WED 25 DEC

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

CHRISTMAS MEALS SERVED AFTER 9:30AM & 11:00AM MASS



SUN 29 DEC

THE HOLY FAMILY

9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

2025

WED 1 JAN

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

8:00AM | 8:00PM

SUN 5 JAN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

A Peaceful Christmas and a Health-Loving New Year to all!

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CAMPERDOWN 2 MISSENDEN RD, CAMPERDOWN NSW 2050

PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY

HOME VISITATION



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.

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.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
invites you to

PRESENTED BY
DEICORP
Design & Creative Services

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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
PAYCE FOUNDATION

CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU
#CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS*

- 21 Dec Saint Peter Canisius*
- 23 Dec Saint John of Kanty*
- 25 Dec THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
- 26 Dec St Stephen
- 27 Dec St John
- 28 Dec The Holy Innocents
- 29 Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
- 31 Dec Saint Sylvester I*

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 | \$ 704.65 |
| 2nd Collection | \$ 1,140.65 |
| EFTPOS Giving | \$ 916.18 |

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.



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.