

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER – Year B

28 April 2024

Welcome to our parish!

PARISH PRIESTS

Parish Administrator

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

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

Today's First Reading (Acts 9:26-31) takes us to the immediate aftermath of the **conversion of St Paul**. So fearsome had been his reputation as a persecutor of the Church that it took a long process of introduction from his respected mentor Barnabas before his vigour and enthusiasm, previously bent in a persecuting direction, could be accepted into the mission of the Church. Acts makes a great deal of Paul's conversion, providing three accounts of it (9:1-22; 22:3-21; 26:2-23). St. Luke's aim in so doing seems to have been to highlight Paul as an example of the power of God's grace. If grace could turn his life around so completely, then no opposition could stop the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. But it took a long time for the Church to cope with Paul—something that perhaps continues to this day.

GOD'S LOVE FOR US Last week's reading from 1 John dwelt upon God's love for us. The extract that forms this week's **Second Reading**, 3:18-24, insists that the love we have received from God must flow through us to become a truly active loving in our own lives. When our 'hearts' (so, quite literally the NRSV; Jerusalem Bible renders the sense here better with 'conscience') are disquieted for fear we have not fulfilled God's commandments, we have only to look to see if we are fulfilling that of love, since that, along with faith ('belief in the name of God's Son Jesus Christ'), is the essence of all that God wants of us. (The thought is not far from that of the scene of the Great Judgment [Sheep and Goats]) in Matthew 25:31-46.) The passage ends most attractively with a recollection of the Johannine theme of divine indwelling: to live a life of active love is to be conscious, through the experience of the Spirit, that God has made a home within us and that we too are 'at home' with God.

The **Gospel** takes us to one of the most celebrated sections of the Last Supper discourse in the Fourth Gospel, 15:1-8. The extended image of Christ as the "true vine" continues the theme of divine indwelling that we have already heard in the **Second Reading**. It has an Old Testament background in the sense of Israel as the "vine" God brought out of Egypt and "cultivated" in a new land:

"You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River" (Ps 80:8-11).

TRUE VINE Now the People of God is being reconstituted on Christ as the "true vine," with the disciples forming the branches that are to bear its "fruit." "True" has here the Johannine sense of what is coming to be in the present, messianic age, of which the scriptural images (such as that of the vine) were simply foreshadowings.

And, just as God "cultivated" the vine that was Israel (Psalm 80), so Jesus pictures the Father as the "vinegrower" (so NRSV; the Jerusalem Bible's "vinedresser" is more accurate to the activity in view).

The passage gives two allegorical descriptions, one after the other, of what is essentially the same pattern of vinedressing activity on the part of God: branches bearing no fruit are cut away; branches bearing fruit are "pruned" so that next season they may bear even more fruit. What makes a branch yield fruit is the vigor of its union with the vine. Hence the need for believers to maintain the closest possible union with Christ. The "fruit" that they will bear will be specifically the acts of love (see the **First Reading**) that are the extension in their own lives of the love they have received in Christ from God.

How are believers "pruned already" by Christ's word (v 3)? No particular "word" is in view but rather the whole revelation of God that he has given, which has included "coming to the truth" about themselves, bringing the darkness of their lives before the healing and transforming light of God (see John 3:19-21; 4:23-24).

UNITED WITH CHRIST Some hearers will probably fasten on the detail about the withered branches being collected and thrown on the fire and interpret it as a reference to Hell. It is not necessary to take the allegory so far in this direction; better to stay within the image, which simply wants to affirm the uselessness of such branches and hence the necessity of remaining united with Christ. Believers will be truly his disciples when their lives manifest the love displayed in his. This will be to the "glory" of the Father in the sense of revealing to the world that God is love.

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

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds; he has revealed to the nations his saving power, alleluia.

FIRST READING

ACTS 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he really was a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 21:26-28, 30-32

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' **R**

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.



Unknown - Athens, 16th century, Christ the True Vine icon

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; he who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, alleluia!

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Worship Without Fear

A Statement from the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP

The stabbing of Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and Father Isaac Royel is shocking and has caused distress to many in the community.

Houses of prayer have traditionally been places of peace and solace, refuge and sanctuary and so the video footage of the attack upon a religious leader during a religious service inside a church has been especially confronting. The images of the violence that subsequently occurred outside the church are also confronting.

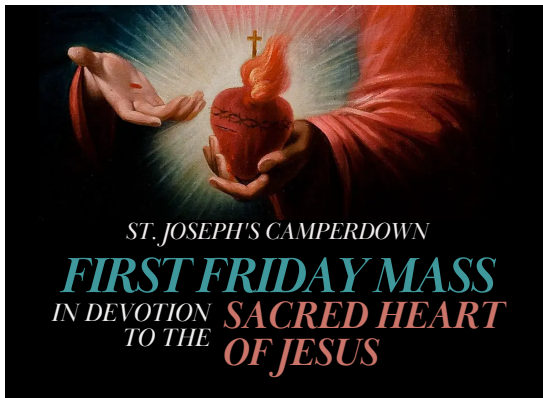
We have seen these types of events in other countries but, up until now, Australia has been largely free from this type of blatant violence in and around places of worship.

Every person in this country, be they bishop or priest, rabbi or imam, minister or congregant, should be able to worship in safety, without fear that they might be subject to acts of violence while gathering in prayer.

I urge the faithful to not respond to these events with fear, avoiding places of worship because they are worried

about further attacks, nor with anger, engaging in acts of reprisal or revenge. The best response to violence and fear is prayer and peace.

On behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and in solidarity with other religious leaders, I offer prayerful support to Bishop Emmanuel, Father Royel and all others affected. May the God of peace reign in our land.



ST. JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN
FIRST FRIDAY MASS
 IN DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

First Fridays | 8PM
Holy Mass for the Sick and Healthcare Workers

followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Blessing until 10PM

We encourage you to invite your families, friends, work colleague, and others.



Eucharistic Adoration

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



Reconciliation

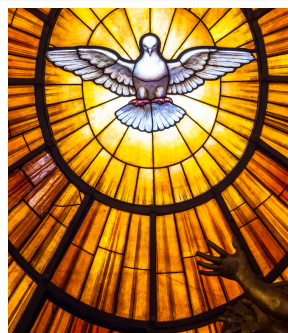
Sat & Sun 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM
 Mon - Fri After 8:00 PM Mass



Calling Volunteers: Readers & Collectors

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer and serve in the parish as a reader or collector, please message **Angeline 0431 718 137**.

UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH



19 MAY

Pentecost Sunday

As the Universal Church celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus Christ after 50 days since He resurrected, we will witness as well in our Church the Recognition and Blessing of All Volunteers of our beloved Parish during the weekend Masses. The Parish is indeed proud and grateful to all our volunteers and constantly pray for their faithfulness in their respective ministries.

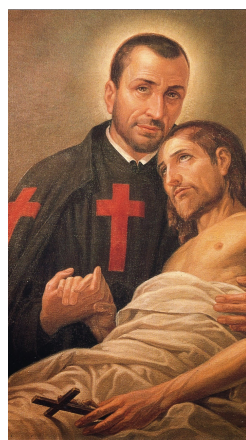


25 MAY

Scriptural Living Rosary

May is the Month of Mary. As its culminating activity, we will pray a Scriptural Living Rosary as one parish in front of our parish Church in honour of our Blessed Mother after the 6PM Vigil Mass.

The Scriptural Living Rosary is a communal way of praying the Rosary. Though the Rosary is already a Scripture-based prayer, the "Scriptural" aspect comes from integrating extended Bible passages during the prayer, while the "Living Rosary" refers to people symbolizing the beads of the rosary.



Lay Camillian Family

SYDNEY CHAPTER

The Lay Camillian Family (LCF) is a lay association of the **Ministers of the Infirm** and therefore shares in the charism and spirituality of the Camillian priests and brothers.

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 LCF and avail of our pastoral services to our suffering parishioners.



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

SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors
This Sunday 27-28 Apr	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Angeline L Lesley Nancy T Gemma T	Genalor Rachelle G Sheron K Maria C	Corazon, Francisco Maria, Francisco - Corazon, Santa
Next Sunday 4-5 May	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F The Sisters Philip F Gemma T	Francisco T The Sisters Cathy W Louise S	Corazon, Francisco Maria, Francisco - Corazon, Santa
Daily Mass	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, Joan E, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, Genalor F, Maria C		

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 Camillus & Ave Maria Choir Fr Ruben, Dennis
Sunday 9:30 AM Mass Sunday Morning Choir Allen, Ethel, Tim Yani
Sunday 11 AM Mass Chinese Community Louise Dr Peter, Elsa
Sunday 6 PM Mass St Joseph's Sunday Evening Choir Teresa Michael

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





"Teach Us to Pray" Resource Now Available

After the year dedicated to reflection on the documents and the study of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council in 2023, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a **Year of Prayer**. The Holy Father announced its launch on **Sunday 21 January 2024**, on the fifth annual celebration of the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. Previously, in a letter written on 11 February 2022, addressed to the Pro-prefect, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, to entrust the organization of the Jubilee to the Dicastery for Evangelization, the Pope wrote: "From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a **great 'symphony' of prayer**. First of all, to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him." In preparation for the Jubilee, therefore, individual dioceses are invited to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer during this year.



Scan QR code to access the "Teach Us to Pray" Booklet



This booklet is available online in: Italian, English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Polish

Source: Jubilee 2025 Dicastery for Evangelization www.iubilaeum2025.va

FEAST DAYS



29 April Saint Catherine of Siena



30 April Saint Pius V



1 May Saint Joseph the Worker



2 May Saint Athanasius



3 May Saints Philip and James

Why is St Joseph the Worker on May 1st?

Pope Pius XII instituted this memorial at the beginning of May, Mary's month, because the dignity of work was being distorted by communism. The Soviet Union proclaimed itself the defender of the workers, utilizing "May Day" to exalt communism and parade its military might. There may even have been some motivation from the message of Fátima, since Our Lady spoke of the errors of Russia that would infect the world if not stopped, and both Mary and Joseph appeared to the children in the last apparition of October 13th, 1917. This purpose remains relevant today.

While Saint Joseph's primary feast day is March 19th, in 1955 Pope Pius XII added a second day on May 1st, celebrated as the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker. As a carpenter, St. Joseph worked very hard. His manual labor was difficult, and he is a great example to all of us in our daily work. In addition, he is a powerful intercessor for those who are seeking employment.

Source: EWTN, www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/st-joseph-the-worker-23604

The Catholic Weekly



Sisters of Life spring into action on first night of Sydney tour

By Darren Ally, April 19, 2024

In the crypt beneath St Mary's Cathedral, the silence of adoration is broken by the sudden, shocking rumble of scattering chairs and echoed gasps. A woman has fainted.

Radiant in the GULAG and elsewhere

What if synodality is about virtue, not policy?

Mercy and faithfulness on the shores of Tiberias

Read more at www.catholicweekly.com.au

CATECHISTS' CORNER

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

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

Become a Catechist or a Catechist Helper!

Be a living witness of Christ and a witness of God's love to children in public schools!

Contact our Parish Catechist, Alicia Buxton [0412155967](tel:0412155967)



PARISH GIVING

LAST WEEK'S Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$ 639.20
2nd Collection	\$ 501.85
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 764.01

Thank you for your generosity and support!



WHAT'S ON IN THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

CAMINO of ST JOSEPH
26/27 APRIL 2024

AN OVERNIGHT WALKING PILGRIMAGE FOR MEN IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER.

WWW.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/MAXIMUS

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

EVANGELISATION MAXIMUS

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

Worship Without Fear
See Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP's Statement on Page 2

On behalf of the Parish Renewal Team
The University of Notre Dame Australia presents

Didaskō
Adult Faith Formation

Moral Theology: God, the Good, and the Meaning of Life
Christian Stephens
Thursdays 9, 16 and 23 May 2024, 7:30pm - 8:45pm



SEASONS OF RENEWAL 2024 How to evangelise throughout the year Corpus Christi

Join us online as we explore practical ideas to assist your parish to prepare for Corpus Christi and the Walk with Christ. All welcome!

Thursday 9 May, 3 - 4 pm
Tuesday 14 May, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Thursday 16 May, 10 - 11 am

MAY 2024
1 hour online sessions

Cost: \$35 per person, \$100 for Parish Groups (+ booking FEES)
Online via Zoom
Register at: gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events



CADIS
CAMILLIAN DISASTER SERVICE
AUSTRALIA

Your contribution to the Camillian Disaster Services (CADIS) Australia helps provide **RELIEF**: food and non-food items, medical services, mental health support, and spiritual care; **RECOVERY**: livelihood and shelter; **RESILIENCY**: training in disaster preparedness, rescue, basic health skills, mental health first aid; and **RIGHTS**: advocacy and protection of Earth our common home.

To donate, you may transfer via: or Scan the QR code:

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ACCOUNT NUMBER: 371579



If you wish to volunteer or donate, please call Fr Meng [0424742571](tel:0424742571) or Robert and Maria MacMillan [0469898620](tel:0469898620)

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You can donate through scanning the QR code to the right, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



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.