

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, The ASCENSION of the LORD – Year B

12 May 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

The Ascension of the Lord presents more than usual difficulty for preachers. Without being too technical about it, I think we have to make clear to people that the biblical account given in the **First Reading** (Acts 1:1-11; see also Luke 24:46-53) does not mean that Jesus, at the end of his earthly career, literally ascended in way described. The very clear parallels with the description of the ascent into heaven of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-18) suggest that St Luke is completing here his characteristic depiction of Jesus in terms of that persecuted prophet. Having escaped the clutches of his enemies by rising from the dead, Jesus now makes an Elijah-like ascent to heaven.

MESSIANIC GLORY In biblical language and imagery this mode of departure from the earth signals the truth that the One who had been crucified on the trumped-up charge of being a political Messiah, a rebel against Rome, and who God raised from the dead in vindication of his true status, has now entered messianic glory at God's right hand.

He has indeed been removed from human sight to commence a messianic reign in heaven but this does not mean an abandonment of either the disciples or his saving mission in the world. On the contrary, through the Spirit he will be present and active in a new mode of being. The disciples had felt the power of the Spirit that was on him during his earthly life. Now they are assured that, as a result of his messianic enthronement, an empowering "clothing" with the Spirit will come down upon them and accompany them as they take his Word and witness "to the ends of the earth".

Just before Jesus departs, the disciples voice a strong sense of "unfinished business": "Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus does not give a direct answer. The time of the Kingdom's full arrival and the completion of the messianic program remains shrouded in the mystery of God. What the disciples must understand is that, empowered by the Spirit, they are to become instruments of its realisation in the new era – that of the Church – that lies ahead. Through their hands and feet and mouth Jesus will continue his messianic work until the end of time.

EXALTATION OF CHRIST Today's **Second Reading**, Ephes 4:1-13, contemplates the ascension – or, more strictly, the exaltation – of Christ in relation to the unity of the Church and the variety of gifts enjoyed by believers within that unity.

The unity of the Church reflects one faith, one baptism, one vocation, one hope, one Lord, one Spirit, one Father. This is not a static oneness but rather a dynamic unity, preserved and indeed enhanced by the variety of gifts given to individual members. In a very arresting image, bolstered by a quotation from Ps 69:19, Paul sees these gifts as the "spoils of battle" distributed by the victorious and exalted Lord. In his death, he has gone down into the underworld and despoiled Satan and his minions, filling the entire universe with his own power instead.

The gifts of the Spirit, exercised in the various offices of the community, are really ways in which individual members and the community as a whole have a share in Christ's cosmic victory. They exist to build up the community to "full stature", that is, to the fullness of humanity, modelled by the risen Lord, in accordance with the original design of the Creator. The text speaks as though the struggle is all over, the victory won. We know all too well that this is far from the case. Putting it all in the past, as though already achieved, is simply Paul's way of projecting hope. The hostile forces may still be around, but the Paschal victory of Jesus has dealt them a fatal blow.

FEAST OF HOPE As preachers, we have to ask how we should identify and name today the malign, transpersonal forces over which Paul saw Christ triumphant. The Ascension is not simply something that happened to Jesus – his departure, physically, from this world. It is the feast that celebrates the hope that evil and all that makes for dehumanisation and death in our world will not have the last word.

The **Gospel**, Mark 15:15-20, is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel. Though canonical, this text is a conclusion added in the second century to fill out Mark's very sparse description of Jesus' risen life. It presents a kind of summary "digest" of the resurrection accounts of the other Gospels, combining appropriately for this feast – the Great Commission that concludes Matthew's Gospel (28:16-20) with the Lukan motif of the Ascension. The "signs" that are mentioned (including snake-handling and drinking deadly poison without harm) are best explained as expressions, again, of the triumph of the risen Lord.

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

**Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky?
The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend,
alleluia.**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God.

When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.



Luca della Robbia (1400 – 1482), The Ascension - terracotta with glaze — Museum Duomo, Florence

SECOND READING (cont.)

Ephesians 1:17-23

May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia

GOSPEL

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

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“Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?”

“A society without mothers would be a dehumanized society, for mothers are always, even in the worst moments, witnesses of tenderness, dedication and moral strength...”

Dearest mothers, thank you, thank you for what you are in your family and for what you give to the Church and the world.”

- OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
TO ST. JUAN DIEGO

- POPE FRANCIS



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 Choir Members

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer and serve in the parish, please message **Angeline 0431 718 137**.
God bless!

UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH



12 MAY

Ascension Sunday & Mother's Day


This Sunday 12th of May, the Church celebrates Ascension Sunday. We also celebrate Mother's Day. Join us after the **9:30am Sunday Mass** with a **Mother's Day Sausage Sizzle**. All are welcome - and invite your mum, grandmums and all the mums you know!



19 MAY

Pentecost Sunday

Join us in celebrating Pentecost this 19 May; we will also witness the Recognition and Blessing of all our parish volunteers during the weekend Masses. We constantly pray and thank them 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 on **Saturday 25 May after the 6PM Vigil Mass**. All are welcome!



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 



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.



SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS				
Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors
This Sunday 11-12 May	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Genalor F Angeline L Elizabeth C Gemma T	Louise S Ricky L Agnes W Corazon F	Alicia, Isabella Maria, Francisco - Corazon, Amy
Next Sunday 18-19 May	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Alicia B Sr Maliya Agnes C Gemma T	Isabella K Gordon L John L Genalor F	Corazon, Francisco Maria, Francisco - Santa, Amy
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**.



FEAST DAYS



12 May
Ascension Sunday



13 May Our Lady of Fatima



14 May Saint Matthias



19 May
Pentecost Sunday



18 May Saint John I



26 May
Trinity Sunday

What does the Feast of Ascension celebrate?

Forty days after Jesus' Glorious Resurrection, Our Lord ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:6-11). The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 665) says, "Christ's Ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again (cf. Acts 1:11); this humanity in the meantime hides him from the eyes of men (cf. Col 3:3)."

In 2024, the Feast of the Ascension is on Thursday, May 9, but in many dioceses it is transferred to Sunday, May 12.

Before ascending in the presence of His Apostles, He commissioned them to continue His ministry of redemption, saying,

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Mt. 28:18-20)

Who was present at the Ascension of Jesus?

The Scripture definitively names "the eleven disciples," the inner circle of those who followed Christ. Although Matthew only mentions the eleven Apostles, Judas having defected, we can conjecture that others, including His Mother and other disciples, were likely present, as well. For example, St. Paul tells us that 500 people saw the Lord after His Resurrection, and thus during the forty days. However, we do not know if any of these disciples saw His Ascension.

What does Christ's Ascension mean for us?

Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the "Father's house," to God's life and happiness. Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 661)

"Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven; let our hearts ascend with Him."

ST. AUGUSTINE

Source: EWTN, ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/ascension-20994

The Catholic Weekly

Read more at
www.catholicweekly.com.au



Fighting for our faith-based schools

by Marilyn Rodrigues, May 9, 2024

Pressure is mounting on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to shelve his planned discrimination legislation with thousands of people attending town hall meetings Australia-wide declaring it an attack on faith-based schools.

Mother's Day Special Liftout

Procession season sweeps Sydney

Activists hurl abuse at Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at NSW Parliament

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



PARISH GIVING

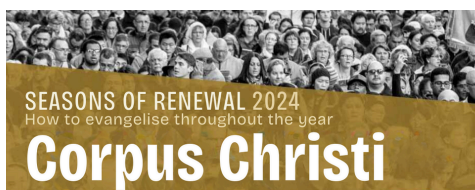
LAST WEEK'S Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$ 896.30
2nd Collection	\$ 576.75
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 748.94

Thank you for your generosity and support!



WHAT'S ON IN THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY



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

SYDNEY PROCESSIONS 2024

02 JUN

WALK WITH CHRIST
2:30PM FROM MARTIN PLACE

To see more events and initiatives within the Archdiocese, visit and subscribe to

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

- Esther 4:14 -

PARISH RENEWAL
CONFERENCE
2024

SATURDAY
3 AUGUST
8:45AM-5PM

Liverpool Catholic Club
424 - 458 Hoxton Park Road,
Prestons NSW 2170

Do you want to see our parishes renewed? Join us for a day of formation, workshops and networking to be equipped and strengthened for mission. Be part of the transformation in our Church today!

CONFERENCE COST
\$75 / Book by 31 May
\$90 / Book from 1 June



REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 19 JULY



Awakening
PENTECOST EVE
WORSHIP GATHERING
HOSTED BY THE YOUTH

18TH MAY 2024

TIME: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

VENUE: 15 PARK RD, SEVEN HILLS
SERVANTS OF JESUS

REGISTER NOW!
LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

cctsw.org.au



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.

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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.