

A parish with a Heart in our Hands

ST JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year C

6 Apr 2025

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

📘 fb.com/StJosephCamperdown

SCHEDULE OF MASS

Weekend Mass

Saturday 8am, 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 9:30am, 11am, 6pm

Weekday Mass

Mon - Fri 8am, 8pm

Devotion to the Sacred Heart

Every First Friday 8pm, we celebrate the Mass for the Sick and Carers of the Sick with Anointing of the Sick

Eucharistic Adoration

🕒 **Mon - Fri** 7:00 PM
Before 8PM Mass;
Reconciliation available

Reconciliation

Sat & Sun 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM

🕒 **Mon - Fri** 7:00 PM
Before 8PM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Anytime (in hospital, page the Catholic priest on-call)

Baptism, Confirmation / RCIA, Wedding & Funeral

Please enquire via our parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com.

Baptism are usually scheduled Sunday 12:30pm; Baptismal instructions to be arranged with parents before baptism.

Weddings require six (6) months notice.

1. **Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration** times have changed **since 1 Jan 2025**. Please be advised accordingly. New times are marked with 🕒.
2. Our **Lent and Easter Schedule** is available on our **website** and **Facebook**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

If there is a common thread running through the readings this Sunday, I think it would consist in that each in some way reveals that the primary intent of God with respect to human beings is to set them free – to call them out of the various captivities in which they find themselves into what Paul called “the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Rom 8:21).

In the **First Reading**, Isa 43:6-21, the great prophet of Israel's exile compares the liberation and homecoming that is soon to take place with the past deliverance from Egypt, which in effect constituted Israel as a nation. The wonders and glorious of the new “Exodus” will surpass the earlier liberation, with the desert ways turned into a smooth highway to facilitate Israel's return.

In Christian perspective both the Exodus and the return from Exile prefigure the Paschal liberation that God will effect through the death and resurrection of Jesus. And the result, again, will be a people formed “to sing God's praises”.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

In the **Second Reading**, Phil 3:8-14, Paul, the former Pharisee and zealot for the law, tells of how Christ “captured” him – a “capture” that, in fact, set him free. Within one of his favourite images, that of an athletic contest, Paul then describes where he now finds himself in the race: not back at the start, not yet arrived at the perfection of the finish, but still running, putting the past behind him, eyes upon the finishing post and prize that lies ahead.

How much aberration in Christian spirituality and practice could have been avoided had Paul's sanely realistic assessment of present Christian life been adopted. We are not to live back in the guilt of past sin; nor should we require – either of ourselves or of others – a perfection that really belongs to the future. We are to see ourselves, as God sees us, as people “on the way”.

As is well known, the episode told in today's **Gospel**, John 8:1-11, is something of a foreign body in the Fourth Gospel. It is missing in all the major manuscripts and its tone and content is redolent more of the Gospel of Luke than that of John. We can surely be grateful, however, that it found a home here in the scriptural canon.

For the scribes and Pharisees the main point is not to get the woman punished but to set a trap for Jesus. Would he defy the prescriptions of the law of Moses or would he, by condemning the woman, usurp the prerogative of the Roman occupying power who reserved the death penalty to themselves (18:31)?

Readers of the gospel have long – and fruitlessly – speculated on what it was that Jesus wrote on the ground. We do not know. Perhaps he was only doodling. What the writing does, however, is provide a space of time for the opposition to melt away. Jesus does not confront the law directly. He just points out that the only person who could have a right to condemn another is one who has never sinned. If the eldest leaves first, that is because he has had a longer space of life in which to accumulate sin.

BETTER WAY OF DEALING WITH SIN

This way the punitive legal prescription simply falls away. Jesus has a better way of dealing with sin than condemnation and punishment. He does not deny or condone sin (the episode does seem to presuppose that the woman is in fact guilty – though we might well ask about her male accomplice). But his concern is to rescue the woman from her terrible plight and set her free for a new life: “Go and sin no more”.

A subtle point about the episode is that Jesus never actually looks at the woman while she is the subject of accusation. His bending down and writing may be a ploy to avoid this. It is only when her accusers have melted away that, from this humble position, he pronounces judgment: “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you. Neither do I condemn you”. He who is without sin (2 Cor 5:21), the only one actually credentialled to judge her from “on high” – actually goes down on the ground and looks up at her to restore her dignity and self-esteem.

The “orphaned” status of this story in the textual tradition probably reflects early Christian uneasiness with Jesus' apparent leniency in a case of sexual misconduct. So much more prone is the religious instinct to condemn and punish rather than to rescue and set on the path to life. And often, of course, the most paralyzing accusations are those that we inflict on ourselves. If Lent is about conversion of heart and deeper knowledge of God, nothing could be more helpful than meditation on this precious gem from the gospel tradition.

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

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

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 3:8-14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



Pieter Bruegel the Younger (1564-1638), *Christ and the Adulteress*

GOSPEL

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, "Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?" They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "if there is one of you who has not sinned let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one sir," she replied. "Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus "go away, and don't sin any more."

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Has no one condemned you? The woman answered: No one, Lord. Neither do I condemn you: go and do not sin again.

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ST. JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18, 2025
10AM

ROSARY FOLLOWED BY LIVE RE-ENACTMENT

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Image credit: Edward Arthur Fellowes Prynne (UK), Jesus Meets His Mother, 1919, oil on canvas.

LENT & EASTER AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

5 MAR WED

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS
8AM | 8PM

13 APR SUN

PALM SUNDAY
9:30AM | 11AM | 6PM

FRIDAYS OF LENT
7, 14, 21 & 28 MAR,
4 & 11 APR

LENTEN REFLECTION GROUP
6PM @ PARISH HALL
WAY OF THE CROSS
7PM TO 8PM
NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
DURING WAY OF THE CROSS

17 APR THU

HOLY THURSDAY
10AM CHRISM MASS @ ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL
8PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION UNTIL 12AM
NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY THURSDAY

**10 MAR MON
TO 18 MAR TUE**
9 CONSECUTIVE DAYS

NOVENA MASSES
IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH
8AM | 8PM

18 APR FRI

GOOD FRIDAY

10AM LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
3PM COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
NO MASS CELEBRATED ON GOOD FRIDAY

19 MAR WED

**PARISH FEAST DAY
SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH**
8AM | 8PM

19 APR SAT

HOLY SATURDAY

NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY SATURDAY

5 APR SAT

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT
3PM TO 7PM
RETREAT TALK BY FR LAURIE FOOTE
OP, REFLECTION AND TESTIMONY
OF HOPE, FOLLOWED BY VIGIL MASS

19 APR SAT

EASTER VIGIL

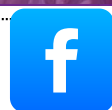
8PM CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

20 APR SUN

EASTER SUNDAY

9:30AM | 11AM | 6PM
EASTER LUNCH SERVED AFTER 9:30AM & 11:00AM MASSES

Our Parish Bulletin is published weekly online at
stjosephscamperdown.org.au



Visit our Facebook Page
facebook.com/StJosephCamperdown

Join the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma Michigan

for a **McAuley Teatime**
on Saturday 12th April, 3pm
at St Joseph's Convent (beside church)

for an afternoon tea or adoration, followed by Holy Hour at 4pm and a light meal with talk on aspects of the Holy Week.

This will end by 6pm for those who wish to attend Mass at the parish.

For more information, please email sydney@almamercy.org



Meet and chat over food and a cuppa! All are welcome!

PARISH MORNING TEA
2nd Sundays after 9:30am Mass

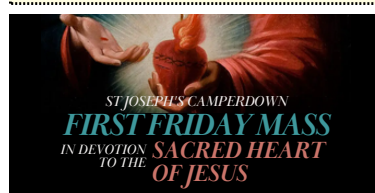
You are welcome to bring a plate to share! If you would like to regularly contribute to our **Parish Morning Tea**, contact our parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com.

PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY
HOME VISITATION



The Pilgrim Mary Home Visitation commemorates 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 at St Joseph's

7PM Eucharistic Adoration
8PM Mass for the Sick and Healthcare Workers with Anointing of the Sick



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 <small>If none indicated, the readers</small>
This Sunday 5-6 Apr	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F The Sisters Philip F Marc S	Francisco T The Sisters Elly Wong Gordon L	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - Louie Seras, Suzane
Next Sunday 12-13 Apr	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Alicia B Gigi Elizabeth C Louie Seras	Yvona W Menchu Agnes W Suzanne M	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - Marc S, Gordon L
Daily Mass	Morning Evening	Angeline L, Alicia B, Echie, Doris K (Thu), Garry C, The Sisters, Gemma T (Sat), Ricky L (Fri) Corazon F, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, 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
St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir

Fr Ruben, Dennis,
Gemma

Sunday 9:30 AM Mass
Sunday Morning Choir

Allen, Ethel | Yani

Sunday 11 AM Mass
Chinese Community

Louise | Dr Peter, Elsa

Sunday 6 PM Mass
St Joseph's Sunday Evening Choir

Gemma | Teresa

Have you got the heart to volunteer in the music ministry?

Come and join our parish choir! You can contribute in singing, playing an instrument, or operating the slides.

We would love for you to join -- beginner or not!

To join, please approach one of our choir members before/after mass or email our parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com.



ST. JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

GOOD
FRIDAY

APRIL
18, 2025
10AM

2 MISSENDEN ROAD
CAMPERDOWN

ROSARY FOLLOWED BY LIVE RE-ENACTMENT

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Image credit: Edward Arthur Fellowes Pryne (UK), Jesus Meets His Mother, 1919, oil on canvas.

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

Account Name

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPERDOWN

BSB Number 062-784

Account Number 10000 4825

Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$ 724.15
2nd Collection	\$ 275.50
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 778.29


Thank you for your generosity and support!



CADIS

CAMILIAN DISASTER SERVICE AUSTRALIA

Your contribution to CADIS helps provide food and services to disaster survivors, homeless, and refugees.

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Volunteer

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ACCT NO.: 371 579

To Volunteer, contact

Fr Meng or Robert and Maria

0424742571

0469898620



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

Your local charity

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

Support the charitable and pastoral works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.



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.



Visit our parish website



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 safeguarding@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.



Scan QR code for more details and to download your free devotional booklet

