

# A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

7 Sep 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, Wed, Fri 10AM - 4PM

📍 2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown

☎ (02) 9557 1181

✉ [stjocamper@gmail.com](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com)

🌐 [stjosephscamperdown.org.au](http://stjosephscamperdown.org.au)

📘 [fb.com/StJosephCamperdown](https://fb.com/StJosephCamperdown)

📷 @StJosephsCamperdown

## 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](mailto: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.

**Not the easiest of readings today. The First Reading, from the Book of Wisdom (9:13-18), reflects the pessimism about the human body prevalent in some strains of Hellenistic Judaism.** "A perishable body presses down the soul ...". Such sentiments found their way into Christian spirituality and had a long life there, despite Christianity's sense of God's embrace of the material in the Incarnation. A more balanced spirituality will recognise that it is not the body as such but rather selfishness that "presses down the soul", preventing release of the spirit. More on target is the text's scepticism about the ability of the human intellect, unaided, to know the mind of God. Such knowledge, essential for our salvation, is the gift of God. It comes in the form of Wisdom, imaged here as a kind of friendly companion that God sends among human beings for their instruction.

### RENUNCIATION OF WEALTH

The Gospel, Luke 14:25-33, contains some of the most demanding utterances attributed to Jesus in the New Testament. Certainly, the concluding statement, "None of you can be my disciple unless he or she gives up all possessions", is the most extreme statement on renunciation of wealth in the Gospel of Luke.

By prefacing the Gospel sequence and the warnings it contains with the passage from Wisdom the Lectionary seems to want to assert: "These extreme utterances of Jesus are nonsense to reason alone. They can only be grasped and accepted by those imbued with divine Wisdom, the gift of God". As Paul says concerning the "word of the cross" in 1 Cor 1:21-25; 2:14-15, such things are foolishness to the person operating purely on the rational level.

In a sense what Jesus is doing in the Gospel is simply being honest with his disciples. He foresees that those who follow him will inevitably become caught up in the suffering and death he now sees to lie ahead of him. It is no kindness to followers to keep them in ignorance of this. He must prick any illusions they have about where following him might lead.

### LOVE FOR MISSION

He does so, initially, in the strong language about "hating" one's "father, mother, wife, children, etc.". In this kind of language we must see a Semitic idiom operative. It is not a matter of literally coming to "hate" one's family members in the way the English expression might suggest. Semitic languages, by and large, do not have a word for "prefer". When a person prefers one thing over another, he or she is said to "love" one (the thing preferred) and "hate" the other. "Hate", then, is simply an expression of rejecting something (possibly something quite good in itself) in favour of something considered more desirable. While it would be wrong to water down the strength of Jesus' prophetic utterance, what he is saying, then, is that family allegiances – so strong in the Palestinian culture of Jesus – have to take second place as far as following him is concerned. Those who adopt his mission, his commitments, and his way of life will inevitably cause some pain and sacrifice to their loved ones, who perhaps have other plans for them.

### COUNT THE COST

Hence the need to count the cost – a process Jesus illustrates with the two parables that follow. The force of the one about the builder of the tower derives very much from the sense of societal shame that was so strong in the Palestinian culture of Jesus's day. The one about the king marching out to war draws on a mathematical calculation valid in the strategy of any age. The early Church may have particularly related these parables to the situation of persecution in which it so often found itself.

Christianity would hardly have survived beyond the first couple of generations if everyone had adopted the very radical concluding challenge about the need for a would-be disciple to give up "all possessions". The challenge has to be heard in the context of the invitation to the Kingdom central to Jesus' message. In comparison with this supreme good the losses entailed in the present conditions of discipleship find some proportion. It was consciousness of such divine generosity that led saints such as Francis of Assisi to embrace radical poverty so wholeheartedly.

### SUBTLE PERSUASION

St Paul's message to Philemon in the Second Reading, Philemon 9-10, 12-17, is a masterpiece of subtle persuasion in the name of the Gospel. Rather than simply commanding Philemon to release his runaway slave, Paul seeks to have him look upon Onesimus (who has since become a believer) in an entirely new way: not now as a slave, but as a brother in the Lord. It is from this new way of seeing a person that the consequences for Onesimus' acceptance and freedom should flow. As so often in the New Testament, right action flows from conversion of mind and heart.

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

**Lord, you are just, and the judgments you make are right. Show mercy when you judge me, your servant.**

## FIRST READING

Wisdom 9:13-18

What man indeed can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. **R**

You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. **R**

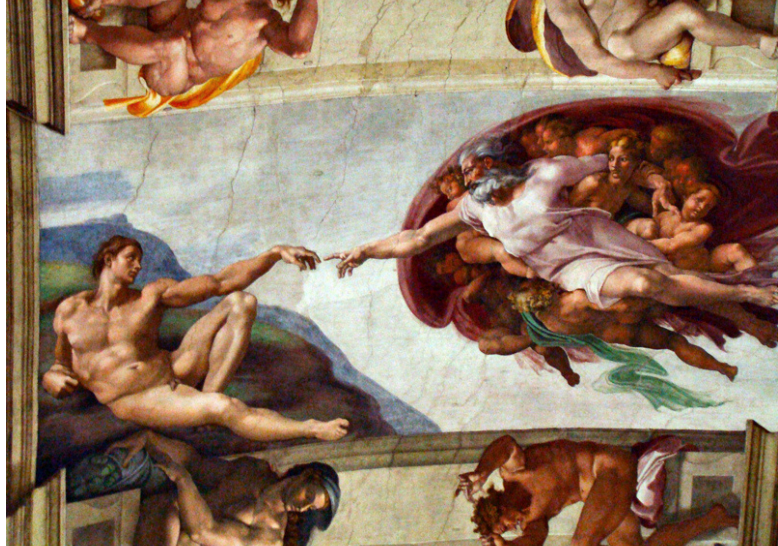
Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. **R**

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **R**

## SECOND READING

Philemon 9:10.12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that



Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1475-1564. Hand of God giving life to Adam, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/link.pl?RC=54258> [retrieved September 5, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sam821/3077868328/>.

## SECOND READING (cont.)

Philemon 9:10.12-17

we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God. My soul is thirsting for the living God.**

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## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS AND 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.

You may use one of the **Mass Intention Envelopes at the foyer of the church** or email us at [stjocamper@gmail.com](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com) with the following information.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Intentions:**

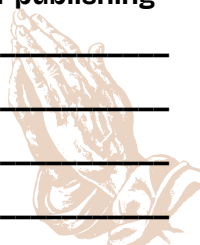
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# WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

CELEBRATING THE  
WORLD DAY OF  
MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

## ONE PARISH JOURNEYING IN LOVE

@ ST JOSEPH'S  
CAMPERDOWN

CELEBRATING YOUR  
TRADITIONS IN ETHNIC  
DRESSES, SONGS, DANCES,  
AND FOOD!



Join us in celebrating this year's  
**World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees at St Joseph's  
Camperdown!**

**SUNDAY 28 SEP, 9:30AM**  
Come wearing your **traditional/cultural**  
**clothing** and bring your **cultural**  
**delicacies** to share! All are welcome!

## Calling all crafters & creatives!

### Share Your Creativity at St Joseph's Camperdown!

As part of our Celebration for the World of Migrants and Refugees, we warmly invite all creative and crafty parishioners to showcase their skills and talents.

**When:** Sunday, 28th September, after the 9:30am Mass

**Where:** St Joseph's Camperdown

Bring along your handmade items to display, sell, or give away and be part of this joyful parish celebration of culture, creativity, and community.

Whether you paint, sew, knit, make jewellery, bake, or create in any way – we'd love to see and celebrate your gifts!

Interested? **Email** [stjocamper@gmail.com](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com)  
**Contact** Teresa Caxala – 0432 184 914

## SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors If none indicated, the readers
<b>This Sunday</b> 6-7 Sep	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	TBC TBC Philip F TBC	TBC TBC Elly W TBC	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - -
<b>Next Sunday</b> 13-14 Sep	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	TBC TBC Elizabeth C TBC	TBC TBC Agnes W TBC	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - -
<b>Daily Mass</b>	<b>Morning</b> <b>Evening</b>	Mon Garry, Tue Etchie, Wed Amy, Thu Doris, Fri Ricky, Sat Gemma Corazon F, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, Maria C, Tim L, Alexander M		

## 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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com).

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.





# St Joseph's Preschool & Long Day Care

## OPENING JANUARY 2026!

- Inspiring & comprehensive curriculum
- Caring and nurturing educators



**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY**  
(02) 9568 8628 • [scecs@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:scecs@syd.catholic.edu.au)



Join Us  
for a  
Bright Future!



**We're excited to announce the opening of our Early Childhood Education and Care service at St Joseph's, Camperdown – opening January 2026!**

Families interested in enrolling their child are welcome to **join the waitlist** via [scecs.nsw.edu.au/early-learning-childcare/scecs-upcoming-services-coming-soon](http://scecs.nsw.edu.au/early-learning-childcare/scecs-upcoming-services-coming-soon).

## 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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com) for assistance.

## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



## 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.

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

## PARISH MORNING TEA

**2nd Sundays after 9:30am Mass**



## Prayer of Blessing on Father's Day

God our Eternal Father,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
When you had given us  
your Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer,  
You chose to entrust Him to the care  
of St Joseph to be His earthly father.

We ask you to bless the fathers and grandfathers  
who are gathered here today.

Bless them with the strength of Your Spirit;  
may they love their wives with faithfulness and trust;  
may they establish their families with perseverance in work;  
and may they also be exemplar in Christian virtues.  
Give them the strength which comes from the Gospel  
so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others.

We also remember today the fathers  
who are working in other countries away from their families  
in order to provide for their daily needs.  
Keep them always true to Your commandments;  
keep them faithful in marriage  
And protect them from any harm.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever. Amen.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**



## 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

### Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$ To be posted
2nd Collection	\$ To be posted
EFTPOS Giving	\$ To be posted

*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

**Donate**

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.



**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Visit our  
parish  
website

