

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

The Exaltation of the Cross – Year C

14 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

🌐 stjosephscamperdown.org.au

📘 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.

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

Weddings require six (6) months notice.

This origins of this feast in honour of the cross of Jesus go back to the discovery of the true cross and the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem on 14 September, 326. Up till that time, Christians had been reticent in venerating something still in use as a terrible means of execution. But when the Roman emperor Constantine became a Christian, he abolished crucifixion and adopted the cross as a symbol of victory, clearing the way for Christians to publicly venerate and proclaim the cross.

In this sense the cross was 'exalted' in Christian consciousness from something shameful and repugnant to a triumphant symbol of God's victory over death and sin, and the gift of divine life – something well expressed in the Preface for today.

PASSION THEOLOGY

In a sense all this had already been anticipated in the Passion theology of the Fourth Gospel, where in contrast to the Synoptic presentation – especially that of Mark and Matthew – the lifting up of Jesus upon the cross is already seen as his 'glorification' and the beginning of his return to the Father and exaltation at God's right hand. It is appropriate, then, that the Gospel and First Reading for today are taken from the Gospel of John, 3:13-17, and a passage from the Old Testament, Num 21:4-9, to which it alludes.

The **First Reading** recounts a curious incident of Israel's desert wandering where the people have been punished with a plague of deadly serpents for complaining and grumbling against God and Moses. At the intercession of Moses, God, who had inflicted the punishment, also provides a remedy. Moses is told to construct a bronze image of the fiery serpents whose bites are proving fatal. When the Israelites look upon the image of what is afflicting them, it acts as an antidote to the bite, and they live. They find a remedy by confronting in this way the very instrument of punishment and the evil that brought it upon them.

The Gospel comes from the final part of Jesus' dialogue with the Pharisee Nicodemus. Jesus alludes to the incident of the bronze serpent erected by Moses as a comment, on the one hand, upon his superiority to Moses and as a foreshadowing or 'type' of his own coming 'exaltation' in death, on the other. He challenges a Jewish tradition that Moses actually 'went up to heaven' when he ascended Mount Sinai to receive the Law.

No human being, including the great figure of Moses, has ever gone up to heaven in this sense. But, to rescue the world from sin and death, One whose true 'home' is in heaven 'with God' (1:1) has 'come down from heaven', become 'flesh' (human) and 'pitched his tent among us' (1:14). As the true goal of this coming among us this same Son of God will be 'lifted up' in order to give life to the world.

LIFTING UP

The 'lifting up' will occur upon the cross, the instrument of Christ's return to the Father and ascent to heaven. Those who approach the cross in faith, who 'look upon it' in this sense, as the Israelites looked upon the figure of the bronze serpent, will receive what the Israelites received: rescue from death and the gift of life. As it was challenging for the Israelites to confront the serpent, the instrument of their affliction, so it is challenging for believers to confront the cross, which is at one level the instrument of a terrible execution. But those who 'look upon it' with faith confront at one and the same time their own sinfulness and the victory over that sinfulness that the cross represents. Beyond the terrible execution, Christ dying upon the cross becomes transparent to the extremity of divine love that has brought him there to give rescue and life to human beings.

DIVINE OUTREACH

In commentary upon this, the Gospel ends with two of the most celebrated sentences in the entire New Testament – ones that assert with utter clarity the divine outreach in love to the world represented by the whole mission, life and death of the Son of God. In contrast to summoning a human mediator (Moses) up to a meeting upon a mountain, God has in the person of the Son made a costly full 'descent' into the human condition, in order to abolish sin and death and raise human beings to share the life of God. This, not condemnation or punishment is the sole intent of God in our regard.

In the equally rich **Second Reading**, Phil 2:6-11, Paul quotes a very early Christian hymn expressing the same sense of costly divine entrance into the human condition. The hymn ends with the whole universe acknowledging Christ's eventual triumph, something anticipated in the liturgy of the Church.

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

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **R**

When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. **R**

But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. **R**

Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. **R**

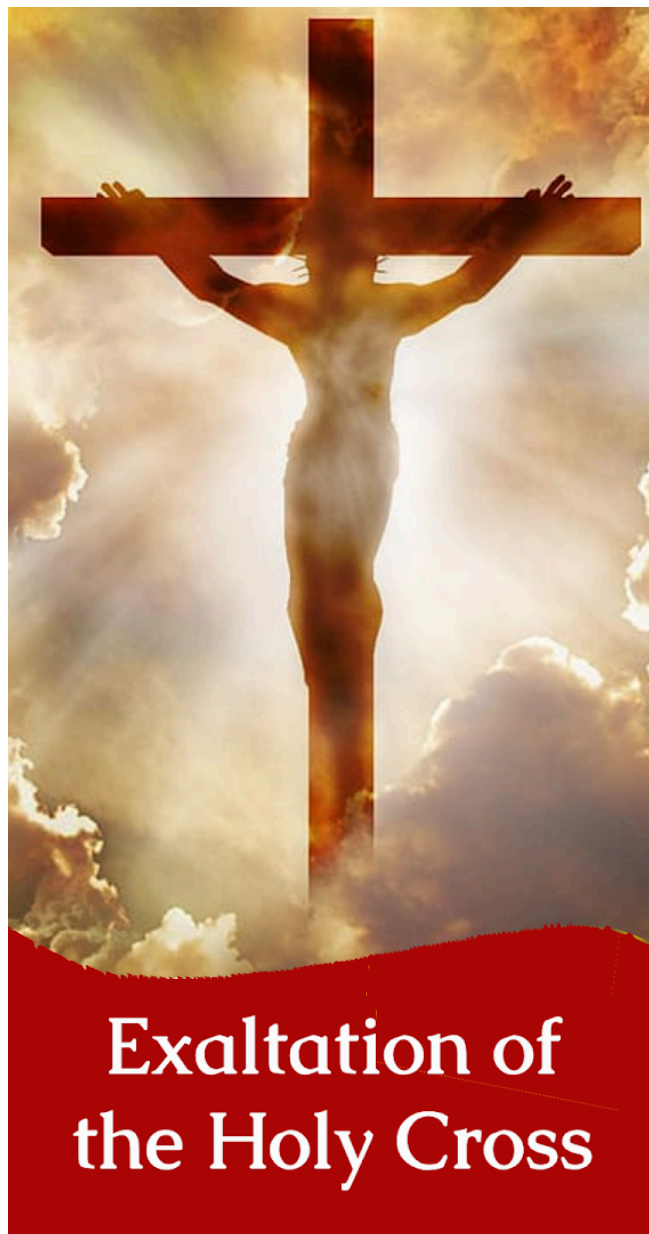
SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O God, how much we value your mercy! All mankind can gather under your protection.

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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 with the following information.

Date: _____

Intentions:

Requested by: _____

For publishing? ☐ Yes ☐ No



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!



MIGRANTS,
MISSIONARIES OF HOPE
BUILDERS OF PEACE
WITH CREATION

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
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 |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| This Sunday 13-14 Sep | Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM | Diana V Gigi Elizabeth C Joven | Angela C Menchu Agnes W Mark | Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - - |
| Next Sunday 20-21 Sep | Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM | Corazon F Rachel Sharon K Tanya | Francisco T Leslie John L James | Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - - |
| Daily Mass | Morning Evening | 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 Fr Ruben, Dennis, Jack

St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir

Sunday 9:30 AM Mass Allen, Ethel, Jack | Yani

Sunday Morning Choir

Sunday 11 AM Mass Louise | Dr Peter, Elsa

Chinese Community

Sunday 6 PM Mass Gemma | Teresa

St Joseph's Sunday Evening Choir

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.

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



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.

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.

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 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



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

Parish Collection

| | | |
|----------------|----|----------|
| 1st Collection | \$ | 798.05 |
| 2nd Collection | \$ | 519.30 |
| EFTPOS Giving | \$ | 1,441.25 |

Thank you for your generosity and support!

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Be Not Afraid: Catholic Men's Conference 2025

This year's theme is **Thorn in the Flesh, Finding Strength in Weakness**. What is your thorn in the flesh? What is its root cause? Learn to identify your predominant fault and imperfections, receive grace, and bring them to God for forgiveness, conversion, and healing.

Conference speakers include Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fr Daniel Russo, Fr Duncan Wong FSSP, Robert Falzon, Tomasz Juszczak, Andrew Condoleon, and Fr Ben Saliba as MC.

The conference will include Mass, a light breakfast, coffee/tea, an opportunity for confession, a Q&A panel, lunch, fraternity, and an expo.

Date: Saturday, 20 September 2025

Time: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Venue: St Mary's Cathedral - College Hall

Cost: \$60 or \$220 for a group of 4

For more information and to register, visit

trybooking.com/events/landing/1382525



CADIS
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AUSTRALIA

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

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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

Donating 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.

Visit our
parish
website

