

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'
**ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

First Sunday of Advent – Year A

30 Nov 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](https://www.instagram.com/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.

Advent is the time when the Church longs for the coming of the Lord. In this longing the Church looks in two directions, so to speak. Backward to the Lord's first coming as a child born to Mary in Bethlehem. Forward to his second coming as Son of Man at the end of time. What makes the Church focus upon the second coming of the Lord is the keen sense – arising out of the condition of our world – that the salvation promised us is far from complete. We may already enjoy its essentials of salvation in the form of renewed relationship with God. But as far as the outward conditions go we still have much to long for. The world is still captive to forces hostile to God that frustrate the achievement of a decent human existence for the bulk of its inhabitants.

SECOND COMING So, despite our belief that the Messiah has come, we long for the (second) coming of the Saviour as the people of the Old Testament longed for the first. The words of the prophets and the psalms express our own longing that the work of salvation be made complete.

Not that we take the allusions to the future coming of Jesus in a literal sense – as though he were suddenly one day to appear on a cloud, summoning the world to judgment.

What such statements in rich imagery and symbol, assert and communicate is the truth that our lives and indeed the whole of history stand under the eventual judgment of God and that the Crucified One, now risen Lord, remains the criterion of what truly human existence should be. His grace and his power continually knock at the door of our lives, seeking to move us along his way. It is this sense of the Lord's coming that the Advent season celebrates and proclaims.

VISION OF PEACE The readings for Advent begin with a magnificent passage from the early chapters of Isaiah, the prophet whose writings will dominate the entire season. The First Reading (Isa 2:1-5) gives us a vision of salvation which essentially a vision of peace.

The nations of the world, instead of going up against Jerusalem to attack it, will propose to each other that they should go up to "the mountain of the Temple of the Lord" to learn "the ways" of Israel's God. There they will freely imbibe the values of true humanity and peace enshrined in Israel's law.

Instructed in this way, they will respond by hammering their swords into ploughshares – a marvellous expression of commitment no longer to wage war but to work together building a new order of peace. The appeal of such a vision at the present time hardly needs to be stressed.

The controlling image in the Second Reading, from Rom 13:11-14, is that of people who rise from their beds just before dawn so as to be up and about ready to begin the new day. Paul appeals to the community in Rome to be who they are: "people of the light" and "of the day". Though it is still dark – in the sense that salvation is not complete – they must begin to live as though it were day. They must put aside the kind of behaviour that people get up to during the night. (Paul's list rather closely reflects accounts of Roman society mores in secular writers.) They must live as people whose lives are already bathed in the dawning light of the risen Lord.

NOTE OF WATCHFULNESS The Gospel, from Matt 24:37-44, is perhaps the least attractive of the three readings. Striking the same note of watchfulness, Jesus' prophetic warning stresses the suddenness and unexpectedness of the arrival of the Son of Man. His followers must not allow themselves to be so absorbed in the everyday affairs of life (eating, drinking, taking wives and husbands) as to be taken unawares.

The message is reinforced in the second part by an image to which Jesus frequently appealed: that of burglar breaking into a house at night. We should not allegorise the image, applying all its details to the way God acts in our regard. Jesus does not want to suggest that God deliberately waits to catch us out and find us wanting.

The image makes the simple point that since one never knows when a burglar (in contrast to any other kind of visitor) will strike, a prudent householder will not become absorbed and distracted by all kinds of activities but will keep a sharp ear and keen eye for anything unusual.

Christian life involves keeping a sharp ear and a keen eye for the coming of the Lord – not just his coming at the end of time but his coming in all the varieties and guises in which, as the Gospel and Christian spirituality instructs, he comes into our lives on a daily basis.

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.



**ADVENT
RETREAT**
AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

6 DEC SAT, 3PM

WITH GUEST SPEAKERS
**Br David Leary OFM &
Bridget Sakr**

FREE event;
RSVP appreciated.



Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into plough-shares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house." And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R**

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgment of the house of David. **R**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: "Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!" **R**

For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you!" For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!



Unknown (1220-1240). Swords Are Beaten into Ploughshares. Source: <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=29252>

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

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FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

November Mass Intentions

*Praying for our Departed
Brothers and Sisters*

For the whole Month of November, our parish will be praying for all our departed brothers and sisters. You may write the names of your departed loved ones in the envelopes provided at the foyer of the church or send us an email at stjocamper@gmail.com.



Join us in our preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord this Advent

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

FRIDAYS 28 NOV, 5, 12 & 19 DEC | 6PM @ PARISH HALL

PARISH ADVENT RETREAT

SATURDAY 6 DEC | 3PM RETREAT 6PM VIGIL MASS

WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

2025

FRIDAYS OF ADVENT
28 NOV, 5, 12 & 19 DEC

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP
6:00PM REFLECTION @ PARISH HALL

SAT 6 DEC

ADVENT RETREAT
3:00PM RETREAT | 6:00PM VIGIL MASS

TUE 16 DEC TO WED 24 DEC

NOVENA DAWN MASSES
5:00AM, *EVERYDAY FROM TUE 16 DEC - WED 24 DEC WITH BREAKFAST SERVED AFTER MASS*
REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE CONTINUES EXCEPT FOR WED 24 DEC*

WED 24 DEC*

5:00AM **NOVENA DAWN MASS** (Final)
8:00AM **WEEKDAY MASS**



CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00PM **CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS***

* To give way for the 24th Dec Christmas Eve Mass times, there will be **NO** 7PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, and the usual weekday 8PM Mass.

11:30PM **CHRISTMAS CAROLS**
12:00MN **MIDNIGHT MASS CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**



THU 25 DEC

CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM
CHRISTMAS MEALS SERVED AFTER 9:30AM & 11:00AM MASS

SUN 28 DEC

THE HOLY FAMILY
9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

2026

THU 1 JAN

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
8:00AM | 8:00PM

SUN 4 JAN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

A Peaceful Christmas and a Health-loving New Year to all!

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CAMPERDOWN 2 MISSENDEN RD, CAMPERDOWN NSW 2050

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 29-30 Nov	6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon Tanya Lisa C Ricky	Francisco Gordon Anna T Angeline	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - -
Next Sunday 6-7 Dec	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon The Sisters Philip F Mark	Francisco The Sisters Elly W Joven	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		

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
Fr Ruben, Dennis, Jack

Saturday 6 PM Vigil Mass
St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir

Sunday 9:30 AM Mass
Sunday Morning Choir Allen, Jack | Jayda, 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 Preschool & Long Day Care

OPENING JANUARY 2026!

- Inspiring & comprehensive curriculum
- Caring and nurturing educators



Join Us for a Bright Future!



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY
(02) 9568 8628 - scecs@syd.catholic.edu.au

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.

The statue of our Blessed Mother is continuously on a pilgrimage to our parishioners' homes each week. To **join this initiative** or the Legion of Mary, you may approach the **members of the Legion of Mary** who assist before the start of Sunday/Vigil Masses, or contact the parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com.

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.

PARISH GIVING

Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$	603.50
2nd Collection	\$	418.00
EFTPOS Giving	\$	833.77

Thank you for your generosity and support!

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.



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

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

a festival evening at St Mary's

17-25 DECEMBER

Celebrate the season with market stalls, delicious food, live entertainment and projections illuminating the cathedral.

CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU



LEARN MORE



CADIS
CAMILIAN DISASTER SERVICE AUSTRALIA

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

Transfer to CADIS AUSTRALIA LTD
BSB: 032-179
ACCT NO.: 371 579

To Volunteer, contact Fr Meng or Robert and Maria
0424742571 or 0469898620



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND
Your local charity

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.



Donate through the **QR code** or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

