

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Third Sunday of Advent – Year A

14 Dec 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.

As with the earlier Advent Sundays, the First Reading today, Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, gives expression to the messianic hope. The main point of the passage is to reassure the exiles returning from Babylonian captivity not to be afraid of the journey they have to make across the desert. Their homecoming will be accompanied by a complete transformation of the natural world, recalling the original harmony of Eden. This lends an "ecological" aspect to the messianic hope.

But the chief reason for the choice of this passage as First Reading lies in the references towards the end concerning the opening of the eyes of the blind, the unsealing of the deaf, the leaping of the lame and the singing of the dumb.

Jesus' response to the envoys from John the Baptist as told in the Gospel, Matt 11:2-11, picks up this description and adds a few more marvels (cleansing of lepers, raising of the dead, and the good news preached to the poor).

LANGUAGE OF THE TIME

A recently published text from the Dead Sea Scrolls from Qumran (the so-called "Messianic Apocalypse") uses an almost identical list of wonders to characterise the messianic age. This text coming from just a few decades before Jesus' own time shows us that he is using language that the hearers of his time would readily understand as saying, "The messianic times are upon us".

John's question is really asking whether Jesus is the coming and long-awaited Messiah. Perhaps John himself was having some doubts. The way he described the future ministry of the Coming One and the way Jesus actually behaved were not entirely consistent. Jesus had not turned out to be the fiery preacher of judgment that John had proclaimed (as we may recall from last week's Gospel).

Instead, Jesus had embarked upon a ministry of healing and of celebration of God's mercy. Such was the context of his summons to conversion of heart.

On the other hand, John, sensing that his own ministry was coming to an end (necessarily in view of his imprisonment), may have been gently recommending to his disciples that they transfer allegiance to Jesus.

As with all good teachers he knows that it is best if they discover something for themselves. So he sends them off with a question. Jesus, again like a good teacher, does not give a simple Yes or No answer. He points to his activity and implies, "In the light of your understanding of the promises in Scripture concerning the messianic age, draw your own conclusions. If my activity is 'messianic', then what is that saying about who I am?"

The miracles of Jesus are not perhaps the easiest parts of the Gospel tradition to handle in preaching. How nice for the afflicted people who managed to get access to Jesus and his healing power during the brief compass of his life. But where does that leave the vast mass of the afflicted down the centuries to our own day?

MESSIANIC AGE

Once again I think we confront here the "already-not yet" aspect of the onset of the Kingdom. The messianic age has dawned in the first coming of Jesus but it is by no means fully arrived. For that we have to await the second coming in the sense of the "two-ways" facing Advent hope, as I explained in the commentary for the First Sunday.

The miracles are a sign of God's ultimate will for humankind – a kind of "beachhead" of the Kingdom to give us hope. The Christian tradition has derived from Jesus a vision of the afflicted that sees them not as people punished by God – the conventional view, all too prevalent even amongst "religious" people – but as people particularly open to be receptacles and instruments of God's power. The same goes for the poor.

The "good news" preached to them is of a piece with the first Beatitude proclaimed by Jesus at the opening of his great Sermon (Matthew 5-7). The poor are "blessed" because God has adopted their cause and one day will see that it prevails.

Jesus' concluding commendation of John the Baptist is unstinting. Yet "the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he".

BANQUET OF THE KINGDOM

They are "greater" not necessarily in moral stature but in being privileged to be actually the ones who receive the invitation to the banquet of the Kingdom that Jesus is offering. As so often, Jesus is striving to communicate to his hearers a sense of the incredible richness to which he is calling them in God's name.

Anyone who has a farm or cultivates a garden will agree with St. James in the 2nd Reading from his letter today (5:7-10). You can't "push" crops or plants to grow. You just have to let them take their time. So it is with our waiting for the 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.

Let us continue to journey with one another this Advent Season

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

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

Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R**

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgment yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!



Giovanni di Paolo (1403–1482). Saint John the Baptist in Prison Visited by Two Disciples.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is'.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our God will come to save us.

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WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

THIS WEEK

5AM TUE 16 DECEMBER TO WED 24 DECEMBER

NOVENA DAWN MASSES

TO *Christmas*

AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

SCAN TO RSVP

What are Novena Dawn Masses?

Dawn Masses, also known as **Misa de Gallo** (Rooster's Mass) or in Tagalog - Simbang Gabi, is a cherished nine-day novena dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Expectant Mother of God. This tradition begins on December 16 (or December 15 when celebrated in the evening) and culminates on the morning of December 24. Introduced to the Philippines by Spanish friars in the 16th century, it has roots in the early Christian traditions of Spain, Mexico, and the Philippines. In the 1600s, the Holy See permitted these early dawn Masses to accommodate farmers and fishermen who worked at the crack of dawn. The name Misa de Gallo reflects the roosters crowing at dawn, signaling the time to attend Mass before starting the workday. [Source: dioceseofbrooklyn.org](http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org)

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 * the 1st & 2nd readers
This Sunday 13-14 Dec	6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon Gigi Elizabeth C Mark	Francisco Menchu Agnes W Joven	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco * *
Next Sunday 20-21 Dec	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Rachel Sharon K James	Angela C Leslie John L Jimmy	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, Jack | Jayda, 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

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for a
Bright Future!



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.

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.

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

PARISH GIVING

Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$	976.30
2nd Collection	\$	540.10
EFTPOS Giving	\$	1,182.16

Thank you for your generosity and support!

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Archbishop
Anthony Fisher OP
invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

17-25 DECEMBER

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

CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU

Christmas at the Cathedral

Join family and friends at the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, for 9 fun-filled nights of market stalls, delicious food, roaming entertainment and live performances.

Date: 17 - 25 December 2025

Time: 5:30pm - 10:30pm with lights on at 8:30pm each night

Venue: St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt, Sydney

For more information, visit christmasatthecathedral.org.au



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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0424742571 or **0469898620**



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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.



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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.



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

