

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

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year A**

**21 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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com)

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

📘 [fb.com/StJosephCamperdown](https://www.facebook.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](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.

### **On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we arrive at Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus.**

Preparing the way for the Gospel describing this event, Matt 1:18-24, is the First Reading, Isaiah 7:10-14 featuring an oracle of the prophet to King Ahaz at a time when Assyrian posed a great threat to the Kingdom of Judah.

When this far from admirable ruler refuses to ask God for a sign that would indicate divine protection, Isaiah responds by describing the sign that God will, nonetheless, give: the pregnancy of a young girl – presumably a princess of the royal house.

### **'GOD IS WITH US'**

In the Hebrew text of Isaiah the word used for "young girl" (almah) does not necessarily connote the idea of virginity – simply a young woman of marriageable age. Also part of the sign is the name she is planning to give her child: Emmanuel – "God is with us". Taken together, the conception of the child and the name he is to bear constitute a sign that, despite the present troubles, God remains "with" the People.

The annunciation of Jesus' birth in Matthew (1:18-24) follows straight on from the Genealogy (1:1-17) with which the Gospel begins. Four times within the otherwise relentlessly male list of Jesus' ancestors there are references to women: Tamar, whom Judah violated; Rahab, who had been a prostitute; Ruth, the Moabitess; and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba), whom King David adulterously took to himself.

In each case a note of sexual impropriety or irregularity attends the reference – not so much because of what the women themselves have done but because of what has been done to them. The genealogy shows how the divine thread of salvation has run through much unsavory human history.

### **PREPARE THE GROUND**

The four references to women in the account of Jesus' ancestry prepare the ground for the situation of Jesus' mother Mary. We, the readers, are told that her pregnancy has come about "through the Holy Spirit" (v 18). But no one else knows that, including, at this point, Joseph.

Since betrothal was considered equivalent to marriage, Mary's situation is precarious in the extreme; she stands liable to the severe penalties laid down in the Mosaic Law for adultery (stoning; cf. John 8:1-11). Obedience to the Law requires Joseph to divorce Mary but, being, as the text says, a "righteous person" (JB's "man of honour" is quite misleading), he wants to do so in a way that will spare her as much public shame as possible.

In this he "models" keeping the Law in the way that Jesus will commend, giving priority to values such as forgiveness, mercy and compassion (the "weightier matters of the Law" [23:23]).

The angelic messenger turns everything around for Joseph. Mary's pregnancy has not come about through infidelity but through the agency of God's Holy Spirit. The child she is to bear is to carry the name and role of Josue – the great "saviour" figure of Israel. Only, here the saving role will not be a matter of military conquest but that of rescuing the people from sin, freeing them, that is, from all that stands in the way of a vital and life-giving relationship to God.

### **DIVINE PURPOSE**

Characteristically, Matthew reinforces the sense of divine purpose by quoting the text from Isaiah that, in retrospect at least, seemed to indicate that this is how things would run in the messianic age. His quotation of Isa 7:14 follows the Greek (Septuagint) translation which in its choice of words – parthenos – does convey the sense that the young girl is a virgin.

Matthew finds, then, in this text, a clear prophecy that the birth of the Saviour will come about through a virginal conception, worked by the Holy Spirit.

But, of course, no less important for Matthew is the second part of the biblical verse stating that the child will be called "Emmanuel – God with Us".

"Emmanuel" indicates not so much a fresh name but the role the child is to have for Israel and the world. In the person of this child, God will be "with" the people in a unique way, far outstripping all conventional hopes for the messianic age. People will experience this divine saving presence in their encounters with Jesus throughout his earthly life. After his resurrection, he will continue to be "with" his Church in its communal life (18:19-20) and world-wide mission to the end of time (28:19-20).

### **GOD'S SAVING POWER**

The wonderful thing about Matthew's presentation of Jesus' birth is the way in which, through the genealogy and the public situation of Mary – and later through Herod's violence – it highlights the invasion of God's grace saving power into human society as we so often know it.

In the Second Reading, Rom 1:1-7, Paul solemnly introduces himself as the divinely appointed messenger of the messianic good news to the nations of the world.

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.

*All are invited!*  
**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
25 DEC (THU)

After 9:30am Mass and 11am Mass  
at St Joseph's Presbytery Grounds



# Readings

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart who desires not worthless things. **R**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

## SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!**



Gaetano Gandolfi (1734-1802). Joseph's Dream.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel**

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**THIS WEEK**  
ST JOSEPH'S  
CAMPERDOWN  
**5AM** TUE 16 DEC TO  
WED 24 DEC  
**NOVENA DAWN  
MASSES**  
TO *Christmas*

## CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DEC

6PM  
CHRIST'S MASS (VIGIL)

11:30PM  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

THU 25 DEC, 12AM  
MIDNIGHT CHRIST'S MASS



## CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DEC

9:30AM  
CHRIST'S MASS + MEAL AFTER MASS

11AM  
CHRIST'S MASS + MEAL AFTER MASS

6PM  
CHRIST'S 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>This Sunday</b> 20-21 Dec	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 * *
<b>Next Sunday</b> 27-28 Dec	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Tanya Cynthia C Poie	Angela C Gordon Chris W Raymond	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		

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com).

## RPAH CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

Seeking solace during illness or hospitalisation at RPAH 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).

## 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.



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

## PARISH GIVING

### Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$	n/a
2nd Collection	\$	n/a
EFTPOS Giving	\$	1,623.83

Thank you for your generosity and support!

## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

[gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events](http://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](http://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](http://christmasatthecathedral.org.au)



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AUSTRALIA

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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

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

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



**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

