

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

🌐 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.

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 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 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 * *
Next Sunday 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 * *
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
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.



St Joseph's Preschool & Long Day Care

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- Caring and nurturing educators



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(02) 9568 8628 • scecs@syd.catholic.edu.au



Join Us
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	\$	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

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

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Fr Meng or **Robert and Maria**
0424742571 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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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

