

# A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – Year A

28 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

Parish office reopens  
4 Feb 2026

- 🕒 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

For urgent anointing requests in hospital, please contact the Catholic priest RPAH Switchboard 02 9515 6111

### 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.



**ANNOUNCEMENT Parish Office Closure:** Dear parishioners, please be advised that our Parish Office will be **closed from Wed 31 Dec 2025** and will **reopen on Wed 4 Feb 2026**. During this period, our parish email will not be regularly monitored. For **anointing requests in RPAH**, please page the Catholic priest via **02 9515 6111**. Enquiries via call and/or email will be addressed upon our Parish Communication Coordinator's return. Thank you and God bless!

**This is not the easiest feast from a New Testament point of view. In respect to the family the New Testament shows a decided ambiguity.** Documents that stem from the developed Christian tradition, such as the Pastoral Letters (1-2 Timothy and Titus) and the excerpt from the Letter to the Colossians appearing at the close of the Second Reading for today (Col 3:12-21), commend family life in a highly traditional way. This reflects the situation of the early communities towards the close of the 1st century CE, when, as the price often of their existence, they were trying to find some measure of social acceptance in the Roman world. Highly respected in that world was the well-regulated, patriarchal household. To a large degree this became the model for church structure.

**MUTUALITY IN RELATIONSHIPS** Sensitive preaching will require some qualification of the injunction, 'Wives give way to your husbands' in the direction of stress on mutuality in relationships between spouses. It is probably best to see both this maxim and the one directed to the male partners ('Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness') as applying to both partners in the marriage.

The Synoptic tradition, however, with its roots in the teaching and practice of Jesus himself, insists that family ties can be a hindrance to following the call of the Kingdom. Is not Jesus recorded as saying that no one could be his disciple without 'hating' one's father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters (Luke 14:26)? Of course, such statements need not be taken at face value: Semitic idiom uses 'love' and 'hate' simply to express a preference for one thing over another (cf. Mt 10:37: 'Whoever loves father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me'). But the ambiguity remains.

Today's Gospel, Matt 2:13-15, 19-23, features a somewhat 'expurgated' version of part of the Infancy Story in Matthew. I say 'expurgated' because the sentences (vv. 16-22) telling of King Herod's slaughter of the male children under a certain age have been omitted – perhaps in an attempt to soften the violence for the purposes of the feast. One can appreciate the reasons for doing that (after all the Holy Innocents have a separate commemoration for themselves [28 December]). But it would be a pity to play down the realism of the complete narrative.

**LIGHT AND SHADE** In Matthew's account of Jesus' infancy, in some contrast with that of Luke, the Holy Family live in a brutal and violent world, with interchanging moments of light and shade. The coming of the Magi, with their consoling homage and their gifts, sets in train the jealous violence of Herod, whose murderous intent requires Joseph to flee with his wife and child into a foreign country – to become, in effect, refugees. Even the death of the tyrant does not allow them to settle back in Bethlehem. The threat posed by Herod's son, Archelaus, means that they must move on to Nazareth in Galilee, far to the north.

So, for Joseph and Mary, conditions for family life are far from ideal. What Matthew's account brings out, however, is that it is precisely the forced dislodgement to Egypt that enables the infant Messiah to recapitulate the experience and captivity of his people in Egypt and to come more directly in this way, like Israel, under the scope of God's liberating and saving power.

It renders applicable to Jesus what the prophet Hosea spoke in God's name with respect to Israel, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son' (11:1). All that has happened, therefore, including especially the disturbance and threat, is gathered up and woven into the divine plan foreshadowed in the scriptures. Israel was metaphorically God's 'son'. Jesus is God's Son in a unique sense. In his person, 'God is with us' (Emmanuel) in the intimacy and immediacy of family relationships.

**FAMILY LIFE** Later, Jesus will also say of those 'who do the will' of his Father in heaven that they are 'my brother and sister and mother, ...' (Matt 12:47-50). Jesus draws us into his own divine family life, teaching us to address God as, 'Our Father, ...' (Matt 6:9). This is where the true foundation for the dignity of all family life is to be found.

But the fact that neither Matthew's Infancy Story, nor that of Luke, presents an idyllic picture of the life of the Holy Family may be for us a greater consolation than if that were in fact the case. 'Holiness', according to the scriptural understanding, is where God is. And Matthew's account, in particular, brings out the way in which God is present to the family of Jesus amid violence, forced movement, and perplexity. If our own family life is not perfect nor totally immune from such trials, all the more reason to believe that God, our 'Emmanuel', is with us.

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

**The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **R**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life. **R**

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-9

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.



Fra Angelico (ca. 1400-1455). Flight into Egypt.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt. After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among men.**

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St John's College & St Joseph's Parish



Invite you to join us for our Community lunch!

You are invited to our

## Community Lunch

**Every First Thursday  
of the Month**

**12:30pm to 1:30pm**

**St Joseph's Camperdown  
PRESBYTERY GROUNDS**

This event is for **FREE!** Lunch will be provided.

ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

## FIRST FRIDAY MASS

IN DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

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



# 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> 27-28 Dec	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>Next Sunday</b> 3-4 Jan	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Amy McIntosh The Sisters Philip F James	Ricky Lopez The Sisters Elly W Mark	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**  
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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com).





## St Joseph's Preschool & Long Day Care

### OPENING JANUARY 2026!

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- Caring and nurturing educators



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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](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).

### 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.

Meet and chat over food and a cuppa! All are welcome!

### PARISH MORNING TEA

#### 2nd Sundays after 9:30am Mass

You are welcome to bring a plate to share! If you would like to **regularly contribute** to our **Parish Morning Tea**, contact our 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).

## PARISH GIVING

### Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$	1,582.75
2nd Collection	\$	339.40
EFTPOS Giving	\$	n/a

Thank you for your generosity and support!

## Where is God calling you to?



**Contact our Vocation Director**  
**Fr Renante Sentillas, MI**

[camillianvocationaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:camillianvocationaustralia@gmail.com)

(02) 9557 1181

**St Joseph's Catholic Church – Camperdown**  
2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown NSW 2050



**PREACH THE GOSPEL. HEAL THE SICK.**

**Read more**



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AUSTRALIA

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**Fr Meng** or **Robert and Maria**  
0424742571 or 0469898620



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Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



**Visit our parish website**



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.