

# A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

15 Feb 2026

*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://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.

**Today we enter into the heart of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.** In the Gospel he begins to offer the reinterpretation of the Torah (Law) of Moses that is so central to the presentation of him in the Gospel of Matthew.

The **First Reading**, Ecclesiastes (Sirach) 15:15-20, stresses the responsibility that flows from human freedom of choice. In line with Ben Sirach's identification of the Law with Wisdom, it insists on the necessity to observe the commandments (of the Law) if one is to obtain life. Its uncompromising tone seems to have been selected as a kind of foil or contrast to what is to follow in the Gospel. The **Responsorial Psalm**, a selection from Psalm 118, reflects in a more deeply personal way, the spirituality that Judaism draws from the Torah.

### MESSIANIC AGE

In the **Gospel**, Matt 5:17-37 (or selections therefrom) Jesus insists that he has not come to abolish 'the law and the prophets' but to 'fulfil' or bring them to completion. It is important to note how Jesus ranges 'the prophets' alongside 'the law'. The prophets indicate God's will for the messianic age. Jesus will fulfil the law by interpreting it in the light of the priority Israel's prophets gave to values such as justice, mercy and faith in human interrelationship (see Matt 23:23). This will entail a 'righteousness' ('virtue' is a lame translation) 'deeper' than that practised by the scribes and Pharisees.

There follow what we might call six 'case studies' illustrating this deeper righteousness. Four are cited in this week's Gospel, two left for next Sunday. As authoritative interpreter, Jesus cites a ruling from the Torah, appealing to Scripture, and then modifies, radicalises, or extends it in some direction. What he cites is usually a prohibition ('Thou shalt not ...'). What he sets over against it is a pronouncement that seeks to go beyond mere external restraint to plant the value enshrined in the prohibition deep within the human heart.

So over against the prohibition 'You shall not kill ...' Jesus addresses the anger in the heart that can lead to an increasing scale of insult and injury to another, of which murder would be simply the most extreme case. Reconciliation with an aggrieved brother or sister is so supremely important as to take priority over the duty of worship. Particularly noteworthy is the delicacy of what Jesus counsels: Not 'if you have something against your brother or sister,' but 'if you remember (= 'suspect') that your brother or sister has something against you, ...'.

### RADICAL RESPONSE

The same radical sense of going to the heart is explicit in the next ruling dealing with sexual behavior. The old commandment simply prohibited adultery. In a way that actually sounds very contemporary Jesus insists that the problem begins with perception: with a man's fundamental attitude to a woman. Is she an object for male sexual exploitation (lust)? Or is she a fellow human being with whom dealings in any area, including the sexual, must be based upon equality of relationship, fidelity and consent? When the latter prevails, the old prohibition simply becomes unnecessary.

The next pronouncement deals with the delicate area of fidelity in marriage. The old dispensation looked at the issue entirely from the male perspective and set in place (the Mosaic divorce ruling) what is basically a 'harm minimisation' procedure for the woman. Jesus excludes divorce absolutely, save in the case of adultery (also 19:9). His exclusion, again, stems from a more holistic view of marriage as a lifelong union of equals bound not by law but by mutual fidelity and companionship. In a contemporary situation where communities of believers contain many members in second marriages or whose family members are in such unions, preaching will have to handle this particular pronouncement with pastoral sensitivity. It will be important to ensure that Jesus' teaching (pronounced in a social situation very different from ours today, especially in terms of life expectancy), does not add to burdens already in place.

The same kind of quest for fidelity in relationships motivates the final pronouncement: against the taking of oaths. Such trust and faithfulness should prevail in the community of the Kingdom that, to have their word taken seriously, its members should not have to have recourse to such procedures – fraught with the danger of taking God's holy name in vain.

### RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Looking back, what draws all these pronouncements of Jesus together is a sense of human life as essentially relational: it flourishes where respect, faithfulness, and consideration of the other prevail.

The **Second Reading**, 1 Cor 2:6-10, reflects Paul's consciousness that what God has in store for us surpasses the capacity of ordinary human knowledge or imagination to grasp. It requires a 'hidden wisdom' communicated only through the gift of the Spirit. It is a consoling passage for those troubled by what life beyond death might involve.

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

**Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.**

## FIRST READING

**Sirach 15:15-20**

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every human action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's Law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **R**

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **R**

Bless your servant and I shall live, and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your Law. **R**

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your Law, to keep it with my heart. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Corinthians 2:6-10**

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is the wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eyes has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 5: 17-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.



Unidentified, (may have been made by Hardman and Co, mid 19th century). Spirit with Seven-fold Gifts.

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 5: 17-37**

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.**



# WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

## LENT & EASTER

AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN 2026

**18 FEB WED**

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

8AM | 8PM IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### FRIDAYS OF LENT

20 & 27 FEB,  
6, 13, 20 & 27 MAR

### LENTEN REFLECTION FRIDAYS

6PM LENTEN REFLECTION @ CHURCH  
7PM WAY OF THE CROSS  
8PM MASS

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING WAY OF THE CROSS

**10 MAR TUE TO  
18 MAR WED**

### NOVENA MASSES

IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
8AM | 8PM

**19 MAR THU**

### PARISH FEAST DAY SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH

8AM | 8PM

**28 MAR SAT**

### PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

3PM to 7PM | Retreat Talk, Reflections and Vigil Mass

**29 MAR SUN**

### PALM SUNDAY

9:30AM | 11AM | 6PM

**2 APR THU**

### HOLY THURSDAY

10:30AM CHRISM MASS @ ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL  
8PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION UNTIL MIDNIGHT

NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY THURSDAY

**3 APR FRI**

### GOOD FRIDAY

10AM LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
10AM SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION UNTIL 12 NOON  
3PM COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

NO MASSES CELEBRATED ON GOOD FRIDAY

**4 APR SAT**

### HOLY SATURDAY

NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY SATURDAY

**4 APR SAT**

### EASTER VIGIL

8PM CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**5 APR SUN**

### EASTER SUNDAY

9:30AM | 11AM | 6PM  
EASTER LUNCH SERVED AFTER 9:30AM & 11:00AM MASSES

## 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> 14-15 Feb	6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Rachel Sharon K Tanya	Angela C Leslie John L Ricky	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco * *
<b>Next Sunday</b> 21-22 Feb	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Rachel Cynthia C Poie	Angela C Leslie 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		

## 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).



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.





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 RPA Hospital? Our Catholic Chaplaincy offers comforting visits, pastoral care, and sacraments. For **emergency visit requests**, contact us via **RPA Hospital Switchboard (02 9515 6111)** and page the Catholic priest on call. For **non-urgent** requests, you may call our parish office **(02 9557 1181)**.

*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	\$	886.05
2nd Collection	\$	447.35
EFTPOS Giving	\$	1,051.41



*Thank you for your generosity and support!*



**CADIS**  
CATHOLIC AUSTRALIAN 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**  
**A/N: 371 579**

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

Donate through scanning 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.



## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

- 10 Feb** Saint Scholastica
- 11 Feb** Our Lady of Lourdes
- 14 Feb** Saints Cyril and Methodius
- 17 Feb** The 7 Holy Founders o/t Servite Order
- 18 Feb** Ash Wednesday
- 21 Feb** Saint Peter Damian (commemoration)
- 22 Feb** Rite of Election
- 23 Feb** Saint Polycarp (commemoration)
- 27 Feb** Saint Gregory of Narek (commem.)



# 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**



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**

