

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

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

3rd Sunday of Lent – Year A

8 Mar 2026

*Welcome to our parish!*

**NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH**  
10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH



**FEAST OF ST JOSEPH**  
19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## 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

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.

**LIVING WATER** This Third Sunday of Lent we begin the first of three Gospels taken from long narratives in the Gospel of John. My understanding is that they are read on these Sundays with the catechumens who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil particularly in view. They are wonderfully rich, theologically, spiritually, and pastorally. It's hard to do justice to them in the compass of a Sunday homily.

Today's Gospel (John 4:5-42) features the story of Jesus' meeting and conversation with a Samaritan woman who comes to draw water from a well. As a background to this, the First Reading (Exod 17:3-7) describes the episode where, in response to the Israelites' grumbling that they are dying of thirst in the wilderness, Moses, at the Lord's instruction, provides them with water from a rock.

The provision of life-giving water forms an obvious connection between the two passages. In some respects, however, a better background to Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well would have been one of the episodes taken from the patriarchal stories where leading figures meet their future spouses at a well (Isaac and Rebekah: Genesis 24; Jacob and Rachel: Genesis 29).

Earlier in the Fourth Gospel, Jesus had provided the 'best wine' at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11). It was the bridegroom's responsibility to provide the wine at a wedding. By doing so miraculously he has disclosed that he is Bridegroom of Israel (see also John 3:29). In his person and presence the long-promised 'nuptials' between God and Israel (Hosea 2:14-23) have been accomplished.

**BREAKS THROUGH BARRIERS** Now, in this scene by a well in Samaria, Jesus, the Bridegroom, breaks through a strong ethnic (Jews and Samaritans) and social (man talking in public to a woman not of his family) barrier to 'woo' the Samaritans, descendants of the long-separated Northern Kingdom of Israel. In this way he seeks to overcome the age-old hostility between Jews and Samaritans, reconstituting an inclusive People of God.

The long sequence follows a pattern common to most of the long narratives of the Fourth Gospel: all begins with a human need for something (for water [as here], for wine, for wholeness, for bread, for sight, for life); Jesus remedies the need miraculously – or at least, as here, implies that he can do so (getting water from the well without a bucket). The gift so provided then functions as a symbol of a much more profound gift tied to the person of Jesus: that he is the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Resurrection and the Life, etc.

In conformity with this pattern, the first part of the episode itself has two stages. The first concerns the provision of water. Overcoming the two barriers (ethnic and social), Jesus asks the woman to slake his thirst by providing him with a drink of water. When the woman expresses surprise at this, he begins to develop a deeper, symbolic meaning by speaking of a gift ('living water') that he could provide for her if only she knew who he was. At one level, 'living water' suggests providing a constantly gushing spring, rather than the inert water of a well. At a deeper level, however, what Jesus is driving at is 'water' that would give life – not life in the sense of mere existence but the 'eternal life' that is genuinely a share in the life of God (John 1:4; etc.).

**GIFT OF THE SPIRIT** As will become clear later in the conversation, the gift of 'living water' is nothing else than the gift of the Spirit (cf. Paul's wonderful statement in the Second Reading: 'the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' [Rom 5:5]).

The woman cannot at this point get beyond the sense of ordinary water. She thinks the mysterious stranger is offering to provide it 'on tap', as it were, thereby obviating her need to keep coming to this well for water. The conversation has reached an impasse – something familiar to all engaged in spiritual and pastoral direction. The woman cannot enter into a deeper appreciation of who Jesus is and of the real gift he has to offer until she has explored more deeply her own life and personal situation.

So we move to the next stage of the drama with Jesus' instruction to her to go and call her husband. Feminist exegesis has taught us to be careful about waxing lyrical – or lurid – about the shortcomings of the woman's private life. While the scene does ultimately suggest that she undergoes a profound conversion, she is also a symbolic figure, symbolic of her Samaritan people. Jews considered Samaritan religion debased and tainted with idolatry eyes.

The woman's 'five husbands' could refer to false gods they had at times worshipped. Her present lack of a husband could indicate the present readiness of the Samaritans to be 'wed' to Jesus, the Israel's true Bridegroom, Jesus. *Continue reading at*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/homily-3-lent-year-a-2026](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/homily-3-lent-year-a-2026)

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

**My eyes are ever fixed on the Lord, for he releases my feet from the snare. O look at me and be merciful, for I am wretched and alone.**

## FIRST READING

**Genesis 12:1-4**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R**

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 5:1-2,5-8**

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL

**John 4:5-42**

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep; how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank



Paolo Veronese (1528–1588). *Jesus and the Samaritan Woman* - Veronese.

## GOSPEL

**John 4:5-42**

from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know the Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder is he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do you have something to eat;' but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Whoever drinks the water that I shall give him, says the Lord, will have a spring inside him, welling up for eternal life.**

# WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

## LENT & EASTER

AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN 2026

<b>18 FEB WED</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY MASS</b> 8AM   8PM IMPOSITION OF ASHES
<b>FRIDAYS OF LENT</b> 20 & 27 FEB, 6, 13, 20 & 27 MAR	<b>LENTEN REFLECTION FRIDAYS</b> 6PM LENTEN REFLECTION @ CHURCH 7PM WAY OF THE CROSS 8PM MASS <i>NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING WAY OF THE CROSS</i>
<b>10 MAR TUE TO 18 MAR WED</b>	<b>NOVENA MASSES</b> <i>IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i> 8AM   8PM
<b>19 MAR THU</b>	<b>PARISH FEAST DAY SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH</b> 8AM   8PM
<b>28 MAR SAT</b>	<b>PARISH LENTEN RETREAT</b> 3PM to 7PM   <i>Retreat Talk, Reflections and Vigil Mass</i>
<b>29 MAR SUN</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30AM   11AM   6PM
<b>2 APR THU</b>	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> 10:30AM CHRISM MASS @ ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL 8PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION UNTIL MIDNIGHT <i>NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY THURSDAY</i>
<b>3 APR FRI</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 10AM LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS 10AM SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION UNTIL 12 NOON 3PM COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD <i>NO MASSES CELEBRATED ON GOOD FRIDAY</i>
<b>4 APR SAT</b>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> <i>NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY SATURDAY</i>
<b>4 APR SAT</b>	<b>EASTER VIGIL</b> 8PM CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
<b>5 APR SUN</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:30AM   11AM   6PM <i>EASTER LUNCH SERVED AFTER 9:30AM &amp; 11:00AM MASSES</i>

### SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors <i>* the 1st &amp; 2nd readers</i>
<b>This Sunday</b> 7-8 Mar	6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Amy Mcintosh Gigi Elizabeth C Joven	Ricky L Menchu Agnes W Mark	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco * *
<b>Next Sunday</b> 14-15 Mar	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Rachel Sharon K Tanya	Angela C Leslie John L James	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 <b>St Camillus &amp; Ave Maria Choir</b>	Fr Ruben, Dennis, Jack
Sunday 9:30 AM Mass <b>Sunday Morning Choir</b>	Allen, Jack   Jayda, Yani
Sunday 11 AM Mass <b>Chinese Community</b>	Louise   Dr Peter, Elsa
Sunday 6 PM Mass <b>St Joseph's Sunday Evening Choir</b>	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).



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.



# PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY

HOME VISITATION

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).



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.

**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 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).

## EUCHARIST28

*Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen.

## PARISH GIVING

### Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$	851.35
2nd Collection	\$	422.25
EFTPOS Giving	\$	1,241.22

*Thank you for your generosity and support!*

# Where is God calling you to?

**CADIS**  
 CAMILLIAN 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**

**CWF**  
 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.

**Caritas AUSTRALIA**

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.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
 FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

**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](#)

**THE 54<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

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**