

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

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

4th Sunday of Lent – Year A

15 Mar 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

🌐 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.

## NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH



## FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

**JOURNEY TO THE LIGHT** Today we continue with the sequence of long readings from the Fourth Gospel that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A. The Gospel is that of Jesus' cure of the Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41). This, of course, tells the story of a journey from darkness into light and so explains the inclusion, as Second Reading, of a passage from the Letter to the Ephesians (5:8-14) featuring what would appear to be a snatch from a baptismal homily built around the same theme.

Where the First Reading (1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13) fits into this is not altogether clear. The account of the selection and anointing of the young David as future king of Israel seems chiefly designed to bring out the truth that the choice of Jesse's youngest son, the one his father hadn't even bothered to produce, shows how radically God's criteria of selection differ from the human. Whereas human beings tend to stop at appearances, God looks to the heart. This theme will have some resonance in the Gospel where everyone, save Jesus, regards the blind man as a sinner because that is what his affliction, according to a conventional but very wrong view, denotes him to be. In interaction with Jesus, however, he becomes a paradigm of one who comes to faith in Jesus as the Light of the world.

Alternatively, we can find a link in the idea of 'shepherd'. In choosing a shepherd boy to be king of Israel, God established that the primary task of the ruler was to be shepherd for the people. The way Jesus seeks out the man born blind after he has been expelled by the authorities displays him to be, as Messianic Son of David, the 'Good Shepherd' (as he will in fact claim to be in the following sequence [John 10:1-18]).

**DRAMATIC NARRATIVE** The Gospel story of the Man Born Blind is a dramatic narrative of remarkably balanced construction. It consists of eight separate scenes, with Jesus appearing only in the first two and the last two. In between are four scenes featuring interaction between the man (or his parents) and Jewish religious leaders. The intensifying hostility he undergoes propels him on a journey of faith that comes to a climax when he falls down and worships Jesus. He is in fact relieved of his physical blindness very early on, through the action of Jesus. But, as the drama unfolds, his coming to physical sight becomes a symbol of the further journey that he then begins, a journey out of the 'darkness' of unbelief to the discovery of the 'Light of the world' in the person of Jesus.

In this sense, the narrative follows a familiar Johannine pattern. Jesus miraculously remedies a physical need (in this case blindness). The miracle then becomes a sign or symbol of a far deeper gift Jesus has to give. He is not simply one who gives sight – and in this sense physical 'light' – to the blind. He is the Light of the world (9:5; cf. 8:12), come to banish its darkness see the Prologue: 1:4-5).

In connection with this sense of Jesus as Light of the world it is important to remember that the episode takes place during the Jewish festival of Tabernacles (7:2). As the feast drew to its climax, the Temple was lit up every night by great braziers placed along its walls. Its lofty elevation and the high position of Jerusalem itself meant that the Temple appeared to pilgrims coming from afar as indeed 'the Light of the world'. Now Jesus, the new locus of God's presence in the world, proclaims himself, not the Temple, to be the Light. The man born blind, in his personal journey of faith, becomes a paradigm of all who come out of darkness to the world's true Light (3:19-21).

**DEEPER FAITH** One of the most attractive features of the episode is the way in which the man's character emerges as the story unfolds. Continually questioned about Jesus, he never goes beyond the evidence; he simply sticks to the facts and draws conclusions only as they are forced upon him. His journey into ever deeper faith and understanding of Jesus ('the man called Jesus'; 'a prophet'; 'a man from God'; 'the Son of Man') is a journey into ever deeper perception of reality in every sense of the word.

His adversaries, on the other hand, realising that they are losing their grip on the situation, resort more and more to denial of the obvious facts. Their desperate stratagem of summoning and browbeating the parents of the man backfires badly. In the end, they can only resort to unfounded accusations, personal abuse, and appeal simply to their own authority and status. In all this they, too, are shown to be on a journey, a parallel journey but one in the opposite direction. They refuse to come to the Light lest their deeds be exposed (3:19-20). Jesus' final comment in their regard brings out the irony with which the sequence ends.

At the beginning, the man was physically blind – a condition that led to his being judged a sinner (a judgment Jesus swiftly rejects); they, on the other hand, could see (physically). At the end, the man can 'see' in both senses – physical and spiritual – of the word. They, however, though they claim to be able to see, have been shown to be the ones who are really 'blind' and sinful.

**TWO JOURNEYS** So we will not appreciate the full force of this story unless we take note of the two 'journeys', in opposite directions, that it presents. At the same time, as so often in the case of the Fourth Gospel, its dubbing of the adversaries as 'the Jews' and 'the Pharisees' calls for careful handling in preaching. Personally, I would recommend speaking simply of 'the authorities' in both cases. In any case we cannot simply identify with the positive journey of the man and distance ourselves entirely from those who take the opposite direction. Doubtless, both 'journeys' find some resonance in our lives. Lent is the time to renew our baptismal orientation towards the Light.

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

**Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.**

## FIRST READING

**Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.



Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-1890). Healing of the Blind Man by Jesus Christ - Bloch

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## GOSPEL

**John 9:1-41**

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man. and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath'. Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord rubbed my eyes: I went away and washed; then I could see, and I believed in God.**

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Join us in our preparation for Easter during this Season of Lent

## LENTEN REFLECTION FRIDAYS

FRIDAYS FROM 20 FEB TO 27 MAR

6PM REFLECTION | 7PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS | 8PM MASS

## PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

SATURDAY 28 MAR | 3PM RETREAT 6PM VIGIL MASS

# 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 EUCHARISTIC 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> 14-15 Mar	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>Next Sunday</b> 21-22 Mar	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 <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.



## 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.



## THE PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY HOME VISITATION

The statue of our Blessed Mother is on a pilgrimage to our parishioners' homes each week. To join this initiative, 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).

# CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

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

## 2026 SYDNEY PROCESSIONS

**22 MAR**  
DAY OF THE UNBORN

**16 MAY**  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA

**22 NOV**  
WALK WITH CHRIST

### Day of the Unborn Child

**Sun 22 Mar**  
Beginning at 10:30am with Mass at St Mary's Cathedral followed by a Marian Procession at 12:15pm through the streets of Sydney for the dignity of human life.

### Holy Thursday Visitation of the Seven Churches

**Thu 2 Apr**

### Our Lady of Fatima Procession

**Sat 16 May**  
A candlelit Marian procession after the 6pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Cathedral.

### Walk with Christ

**Sun 22 Nov**  
This year, Walk with Christ will be celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King. **Festival** begins 1pm at Martin Place **Eucharistic Procession** to St Mary's Cathedral begins 2:30pm.

## FINDING SILENCE WITH ST. JOSEPH

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

PRAYING WITH THE LEADER, PROVIDER, PROTECTOR OF THE HOLY FAMILY

**SATURDAY 21 MARCH**  
9<sup>AM</sup> - 4<sup>PM</sup> | ST JOSEPH'S MOOREBANK

PRAYER  
SILENCE  
HEALING  
INSPIRATION  
DIRECTION

**ALL MEN WELCOME!**

WITH FR JOHNSON MALAYIL, JOSEPH CRS

[www.trybooking.com/DHKRV](http://www.trybooking.com/DHKRV)

### "Finding Silence with St Joseph: Praying with the Leader, Provider, Protector of the Holy Family"

It will be a day retreat for men dedicated to mental prayer and deep encounter with God. The theme of the retreat will focus on St Joseph's prayer life. The day will help men better understand their masculine identity by prayerfully reflecting on St Joseph and challenging them to keep prayerful silence in daily life. Can you handle the challenge of SILENCE?!

The retreat will be led by Fr Johnson Malayil Joseph CRS.

**Register here**  
[www.trybooking.com/DHKRV](http://www.trybooking.com/DHKRV)

**DATE:** Saturday 21 March  
**Time:** 9am - 4pm  
**LOCATION:** St Joseph's Catholic Church Moorebank

**COST:** \$50 per person - CLERGY, RELIGIOUS and SEMINARIANS are FREE.

## EUCHARIST28

# THIS IS my body GIVEN for you.

## 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.

## 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	\$	939.10
2nd Collection	\$	316.15
EFTPOS Giving	\$	2,799.32

Thank you for your generosity and support!

**CADIS**  
CAMILIAN DISASTER SERVICE AUSTRALIA

Transfer to **CADIS AUSTRALIA LTD**  
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**0424742571**    **0469898620**

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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.

**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