

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

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

5th Sunday of Lent – Year A

22 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.

28 MAR SAT

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT *You're Invited!*  
3PM to 7PM | Retreat Talk, Reflections and Vigil Mass

Today the sequence of long readings from the Fourth Gospel that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A comes to a climax with the account of Jesus' raising of his friend Lazarus from the dead. The remaining readings are short – possibly in view of the length of the Gospel. Each, however, in its own way takes up the theme of resurrection and so prepares the way for Jesus' calling forth Lazarus from the grave.

The short **First Reading** (Ezek 37:12-14) comes from the climax of Ezekiel's famous image of the valley of dry bones. When the prophet, in obedience to God's command, addresses the bones and bids them hear the word of the Lord, they come together and are clad with flesh and sinew to form once again a multitude of living people. The image indicates God's intent to recreate scattered and exiled Israel as a renewed people back in her own land. Then Israel will know God as One who truly brings life out of death.

### GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

The Pauline passage that forms **Second Reading**, Rom 8:8-11, really needs the previous seven verses to make full sense. Also, it is important to be aware that Paul's distinction between 'flesh' and 'spirit' does not correspond to one between body (matter) and soul (immateriality). Both indicate possibilities of living.

To live according to the flesh is to have one's existence determined by a deep-seated selfishness that can only lead to final separation from God. But the gift of the Spirit – imparted as a consequence of the sending of God's Son (8:3-4) – allows the influence of Christ's radical unselfishness (Phil 2:6-8; Rom 15:3) to flow through the lives of believers. Living 'according to the Spirit' in this way sets us in line to share Christ's risen life. In this sense the Spirit is truly the agent of resurrection.

Jesus' raising of Lazarus, read as today's **Gospel** (John 11:1-45), is really the climax of his public life in the Fourth Gospel. This miracle is the last straw, as far as the authorities are concerned, and leads immediately into the plot to arrest him and bring about his death (11:47-53). So it is important to grasp from the start that when Jesus leaves the 'safe country' (on the east side of the Jordan river), where he is when the news of Lazarus' illness is brought to him, and enters Judea to give life to his friend, he is putting his own life at mortal risk. In the end, as it turns out, he gives life to Lazarus at the cost of his own.

Note, however, the odd reaction of Jesus when the message from the sisters of Lazarus is brought to him.

The narrative underlines several times how much Jesus loves Lazarus and his sisters (v. 3, v. 5, v. 36). Yet immediately after being reminded of that we are told, 'Yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea' (v. 6). Is this the action of love? By delaying in this way and so (allowing time for the message to arrive and for travel to Judea) Jesus in effect lets Lazarus die.

### WORDS OF REMONSTRANCE

Gently, but quite clearly nonetheless, the sisters, Martha and Mary, bring this out in their separate but identical words of remonstrance when eventually Jesus arrives at Bethany: 'Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died' (v. 21; v. 32). Both sisters, then, give expression to an aspect of grief commonly felt by those mourn the recent death of loved ones: a numbing sense of God's absence.

Jesus' interaction with Martha (11:20-27) is the centrepiece of the whole story. After Martha's wistful remonstrance Jesus assures her, in a rather ambiguous way, 'Your brother will rise again'. Martha's response to this is simply to express belief in her brother's eventual share in the resurrection of the just at the last day – a comforting thought from her conventional faith but not one that really addresses the present loss. In response she hears from Jesus one of his most majestic utterances:

I am the resurrection and the life; those who believe in me, even though they die, will live; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this? Jesus sweeps the perspective from the indefinite future ('the last day') to the present: 'I am ...'. He also generalises it in the sense that no longer is Lazarus simply in view but all believers – and all those who, like Lazarus' sisters, will mourn the loss of loved ones. The statement does not deny that believers will continue to die, that is, die in a physical sense. But their 'living' and 'believing' in Jesus will ensure that physical death is not the end of the story.

### FAITH IN JESUS

In this sense they 'will live' and 'will never die', that is, die eternally. Two senses of 'die' are in view. Nor is it just a matter of rising 'on the last day'. Faith in Jesus and living in that faith communicates a share here and now in the eternal life that is the very life of God. The whole point of Jesus' mission from the Father is to communicate life in this exalted sense to human beings (John 1:4, 12-13; 10:10b, 28).

In the end, of course, Jesus does bring Lazarus back to life – after his being dead in the tomb for four days, a length of time after which, it was believed, corruption would have set in irreversibly. Continue reading at <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/homily-5-lent-yr-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

**Give me justice, O God, and defend my cause against the wicked; rescue me from deceitful and unjust men. You, O God, are my refuge.**

## FIRST READING

**Ezekiel 37:12-14**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord. **R**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 8.8-11**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL

**John 9:1-41**

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'



Luca Giordano (1632–1705). *The Rising of Lazarus*.

## GOSPEL (cont.)

**John 9:1-41**

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**He who lives and believes in me will not die forever, said the Lord.**

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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 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> 21-22 Mar	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>Next Sunday</b> 28-29 Mar	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F Gordon Lisa C Joven	Francisco T Tanya Anna T 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		

### 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.

WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

ST. JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

# LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3, 2026  
10AM



ROSARY FOLLOWED BY LIVE RE-ENACTMENT  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Image credit: Edward Arthur Fellowes Prynne (UK), Jesus Meets His Mother, 1919, oil on canvas.

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	\$	711.40
2nd Collection	\$	387.50
EFTPOS Giving	\$	1,593.40



*Thank you for your generosity and support!*



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AUSTRALIA

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To Volunteer, contact  
**Fr Meng** or **Robert and Maria**  
**0424742571**    **0469898620**



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Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



### 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.



### 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).

## EUCCHARIST28

*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.

**EUCCHARIST28**  
**THIS IS**  
*my body*  
**GIVEN**  
*for you.*



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

