

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

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

**Feast of the Ascension – Year A**

**17 May 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](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.

**The Ascension of the Lord presents more than usual difficulty for preachers.** Without being too technical about it, I think we have to make clear to people that the biblical account given in the **First Reading**, Acts 1:1-11 (see also Luke 24:46-53) does not mean that Jesus, at the end of his earthly career, literally ascended in way described.

The clear parallels with the description of the ascent into heaven of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-18) suggest that St Luke is completing here his characteristic depiction of Jesus in terms of that persecuted prophet. Having escaped the clutches of his enemies by rising from the dead, Jesus now makes an Elijah-like ascent to heaven.

### **GOD'S RIGHT HAND**

In biblical language and imagery this signals the truth that the One who had been crucified on the trumped-up charge of being a political Messiah, a rebel against Rome, and who God raised from the dead to vindicate his true messianic status, has now entered messianic glory at God's right hand.

He has indeed been removed from human sight to commence a reign in heaven but this does not mean an abandonment of either the disciples or his saving mission in the world. On the contrary, through the Spirit he will be present and active in a new mode of being.

The disciples had felt the power of the Spirit that was upon him during his earthly life. Now they are assured that, as a result of his messianic enthronement, an empowering 'clothing' with his Spirit will come down on them and accompany them as they take his Word and witness 'to the ends of the earth'.

### **UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN**

Just before Jesus departs, the disciples voice an understandable concern: 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

Here we seem to have the last flicker of the hope that Jesus would be a Messiah along the lines of conventional messianic expectation. Also present is a strong sense of 'unfinished business'. Jesus may be the Messiah, but neither now nor in the foreseeable future do the times and conditions look particularly 'messianic'. Same old world, same old patterns of violence, suffering and death.

Jesus does not give a direct answer to the disciples' query. The time of the Kingdom's full arrival and the completion of the messianic program remains shrouded in the mystery of God.

What the disciples must understand is that, empowered by the Spirit, they are to become instruments of its realisation in the new era – that of the Church – that lies ahead. Through their hands and feet and mouth Jesus will continue his messianic work until the end of time.

The conflict he faced will be their conflict too (something the Acts of the Apostles will abundantly demonstrate). But in all their trials and labours he will be with them, inspiring and guiding their work from heaven through the Spirit.

### **PLACED 'ABOVE'**

Much the same idea is communicated by the passage from Ephesians that forms today's **Second Reading**, Eph 1:17-23. It portrays the raising of Christ from the dead and his enthronement at God's right hand as one continuous exercise of divine power, involving a triumph over all powers hostile to God and God's plan for human beings and the cosmos as a whole. Christ has been placed 'above' all these powers not simply in a physical sense but in way that involves their subjugation.

The text speaks as though this is something already achieved (see also Phil 2:9-11). But, of course, as we noted above in connection with First Reading, the forces hostile to God and to true humanity have by no means been fully overcome; the 'messianic program' has yet to run its course. Putting it all in the past as though already achieved is simply the text's way of projecting an act of hope. The hostile forces may still be around, but the Paschal victory of Jesus has dealt them a fatal blow.

Preachers have to ask how themselves how to identify and name today the malign, transpersonal spiritual forces over which Paul saw Christ triumphant. The Ascension is not simply something that happened to Jesus – his departure, physically, from this world. It is the feast that celebrates the hope that evil and all that makes for dehumanisation and death in our world will not have the last word.

### **MISSION TO THE WORLD**

I have left little space to comment on the **Gospel**, taken from the final scene in Matthew (28:16-20), where the risen Lord sends out his disciples on mission to the nations of the world. Through baptism they are to draw those who respond in faith into the communion of love that is the Triune God.

They are to instruct them in all the ways in which they themselves have received instruction from Jesus as set out in the gospel. Unlike Luke, Matthew does not portray Jesus departing from the earth. He who at his birth was named 'Emmanuel'—'God is with us' (1:23) – will remain 'Emmanuel' for his missionary Church till the end of time.

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

**Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky? The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend, alleluia.**

## FIRST READING

ACTS 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R**

## SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.



Duccio, di Buoninsegna, (1319). *Christ Appears to the Disciples on the Mountain in Galilee.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 28:16-20

Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world, alleluia.**

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ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

# SCRIPTURAL ROSARY

*The Glorious Mysteries*

**30 May, 6pm  
Vigil Mass  
followed by  
the praying of  
the Scriptural  
Living Rosary**



# WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

CURIOUS ABOUT FAITH?

信仰之路 - 永恒的生命

CHINESE CATECHISM CLASS

Have you ever wondered about God, Jesus, or the meaning of life?

你是否曾經思考過有關神、耶穌、以及生命的意義?

The Catechumenate (RCIA) is a welcoming place for you to explore the Catholic faith.

慕道课程(RCIA)是探索天主教信仰的愉快旅程,你为提供发問和讨论的機會。

Contact 請联系

English  
Fr Rey or Simon Chan  
(02) 9567 1181  
stjocamper@gmail.com

华语和粤语

Mandarin & Cantonese  
Dr Peter Wong  
黄肇强医生  
請留言 0418281293

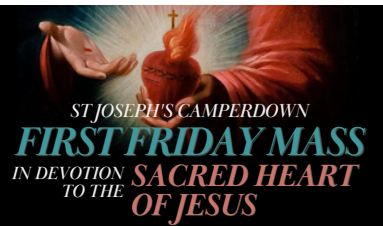
Join us for a monthly **Community Lunch**

at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Camperdown



Every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday  
12:30pm to 1:30pm

Lunch will be provided for **FREE!**  
All are welcome!



ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN  
**FIRST FRIDAY MASS**  
IN DEVOTION **SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

First Fridays

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

PARISH MORNING TEA

Every 2nd Sunday after 9:30am Mass

You're welcome to bring a plate to share!



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.

DISCERNMENT & RELIGIOUS LIFE  
**COME & SEE**



2026 SESSIONS  
25 JUL & 24 OCT  
9AM AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

FOR MEN

FOR WOMEN

CAMILLIAN FATHERS

ALMA MERCY SISTERS

Register via [trybooking.com/DKUYG](http://trybooking.com/DKUYG)



**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).



## SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors * the 1st & 2nd readers
This Sunday 16-17 May	6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Cora F Rachel Sharon K Tanya	Francisco T Leslie John L James	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco * *
Next Sunday 23-24 May	Vigil 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 * *
Daily Mass	Morning Evening	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  
Fr Ruben, Dennis, Jack  
Saturday 6 PM Vigil Mass  
**St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir**  
Sunday 9:30 AM Mass  
Sunday Morning Choir  
Allen, Jack | Jayda, Yani  
Sunday 11 AM Mass  
Chinese Community  
Louise | Dr Peter, Elsa  
Sunday 6 PM Mass  
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.

# YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

PARISH RENEWAL CONFERENCE 2026

SATURDAY 18 JULY  
LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB | 9AM-5PM



PARISH RENEWAL TEAM

gomakedisciples.org.au/prc26

## 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	\$	642.50
2nd Collection	\$	442.00
EFTPOS Giving	\$	1,091.77



*Thank you for your generosity and support!*



**CADIS**  
CAMILIAN 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

13 May	Our Lady of Fatima	26 May	Saint Philip Neri
14 May	Saint Matthias	31 May	<b>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY</b>
17 May	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	1 Jun	Saint Justin
24 May	<b>PENTECOST</b>	3 Jun	Saint Charles Lwanga
25 May	<b>OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS</b>	5 Jun	Saint Boniface

## 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

