

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

26 Jul 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.

Baptism are usually scheduled Sunday 12:30pm; Baptismal instructions to be arranged with parents before baptism.

Weddings require six (6) months notice.

The full Gospel for today features the final three parables in Matthew 13, together with a concluding summary (vv. 51-52). Once again, there is much to be said, as the Lectionary allows, for taking simply the two short parables, that of the Treasure in the Field (v. 44) and the Pearl of Great Value (vv. 45-46).

Seeing them as a pair allows a common pattern to emerge. Two persons from different situations (a day labourer? a merchant with professional expertise?) both come upon something which they dearly desire to possess. For both, however, immediate possession is not possible. There is a time gap between finding and possessing. Both have to sell all they have in order to finally obtain ('buy') what they so desire. But the mere sight of what they dearly long for so relativises the value of everything else as to render them free to make the sacrifice with joy.

THE FUTURE

The parables address a central feature concerning the kingdom of God (for Matthew 'kingdom of heaven'). The kingdom is essentially future; it is not yet something one can 'possess'. People who really catch a glimpse of it from Jesus' preaching know they have come on a treasure that will fulfil lifelong desires and aspirations. He cannot yet 'deliver' it to them or place them within it but the glimpse of it that he communicates fills them with such joy that they have the freedom to 'sell all' in order, one day, to gain it.

The parables are essentially descriptive. They are not about what one 'ought' to do; they simply describe what happens in the life of people who have caught a glimpse of the kingdom. While not yet within their grasp, it is already bringing joy, freedom and hope to human lives.

The outstanding historical example of such transformation would be St Francis of Assisi. His commitment to radical poverty did not come to him as a hard moral demand. It flowed in complete freedom from the 'treasure' of divine love that he had come upon in such high degree.

ESSENCE OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

The two brief parables encapsulate the essence of Christian spirituality. Christian life requires a measure of detachment. It requires freedom from being completely absorbed and immersed in the attractions, pleasures and concerns of this world – not because these are bad in themselves but because we have been 'captured' by a sense of God's love and God's future for us that relativises all these things and puts them in their place. We do not yet possess the treasure but the prospect of it, unseen but grasped in faith, is already working transformation.

The **First Reading**, 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, comes in here in the sense that what Solomon prayed for – and received – was a discerning heart, a heart that, amid all the wealth and opportunity with which he was surrounded, could tell what was of true and lasting value.

The parable of the Dragnet in itself (vv. 47-48; that is, less the negative interpretation about the 'end of time' [vv. 49-50]), aptly holds together two further truths about the kingdom: God's grace is a great 'net' thrown over all – good and bad alike; you don't have to be good to grasped by the kingdom. Once grasped, however, conversion, is required: those who do not over time respond positively to God's generosity will find themselves cast out.

FOCUS ON GOD'S GRACE

To this simple but most effective image the Matthean community, perhaps in its concern for growing laxity, has added a warning that focuses simply on the negative in tones heavily imbued with Jewish apocalyptic eschatology. It would be a pity to let the warning entirely 'swamp' the original parable. Without some caution against taking such imagery literally, inevitably all attention will focus on the negative warning to the detriment of the image of God and God's action Jesus seeks to promote.

The concluding statement about the scribe 'discipled for the kingdom of heaven' (v. 52) is often regarded, with some justification, as a 'cameo' description of the Evangelist himself within the narrative. Note how 'new' comes before 'old' in the things brought out of the storeroom: what has come about in Christ transforms older ways of seeing.

The short **Second Reading**, Rom 8:28-30, conveys Paul's case for hope deriving from his belief that we (believers) are all caught up within an inexorably unfolding divine plan that is already well under way.

The goal of this plan is that human beings become images of the risen Christ, who is himself the image of God (2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15). This will occur when believers fully share his risen life through their own resurrection (Rom 8:9-11). At that time, Christ will not only be the unique Son of God, but the 'eldest' of many brothers (and sisters) within the one family of God.

Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgment for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **R**

Let our love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **R**

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **R**

Your will is wonderful indeed: therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.



Possibly Rembrandt or Gerard Dou (~1630). Parable of the Hidden Treasure.

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 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O bless the Lord, my soul, and remember all his kindness.

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Saints Joachim and Anne
Patron Saint of Grandparents

*Pray for us and
Protect all grandparents*

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

你是否曾經思考過有關神、耶穌、以及生命的意義? 慕道課程(RCIA)是探索天主教信仰的愉快旅程, 你為提供發問和討論的機會。

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
请留言 0418281293

Join us for a monthly Community Lunch

at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Camperdown



Every 1st Thursday

12:30pm to 1:30pm

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



First Fridays

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



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 or any members of our Lay Camillian Family and avail of our pastoral services to our suffering parishioners.



Come & See: Discernment & Religious Life

Saturday 25 July, 9am to 4pm

The Camillian Fathers and the Alma Mercy Sisters invite you to a day of discernment and religious life both to men and women who would like to learn more about their vocation and day to day life. The day will begin with a combined session for men and women, learning about the religious life and community. This will be followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and Mass. Lunch and activities after will be held separately, tailored to each religious order. This is a **free** event.

Register via trybooking.com/DKUYG



ST JOSEPH'S PRESCHOOL & LONG DAY CARE CAMPERDOWN

Spacious learning environments, nurturing Educators



Book a Tour today

St Joseph's Preschool & Long Day Care Camperdown

To our dear parishioners: as you may know, St Joseph's Preschool and Long Day Care have opened their doors earlier this year here at St Joseph's Camperdown, welcoming families with children aged 6 weeks to 6 years.

You are invited to explore the newly refurbished St Joseph's Preschool and Long Day Care on a tour, and to meet their experienced educators and hear about their Catholic play based programs.

Government Funded Initiatives available at St Joseph's Preschool & LDC

Book a Tour Today
or call 02 8338 5500



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.



SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors * the 1st & 2nd readers
This Sunday 25-26 Jul	6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Lesley Cynthia C Poie	Amy M Rachel Chris W Raymond	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco * *
Next Sunday 1-2 Aug	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F The Sisters Philip F Edo L	Francisco T The Sisters Elly W John Renz	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		

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.

PARISH CHOIR

ORGANIST/PIANIST | CONDUCTOR

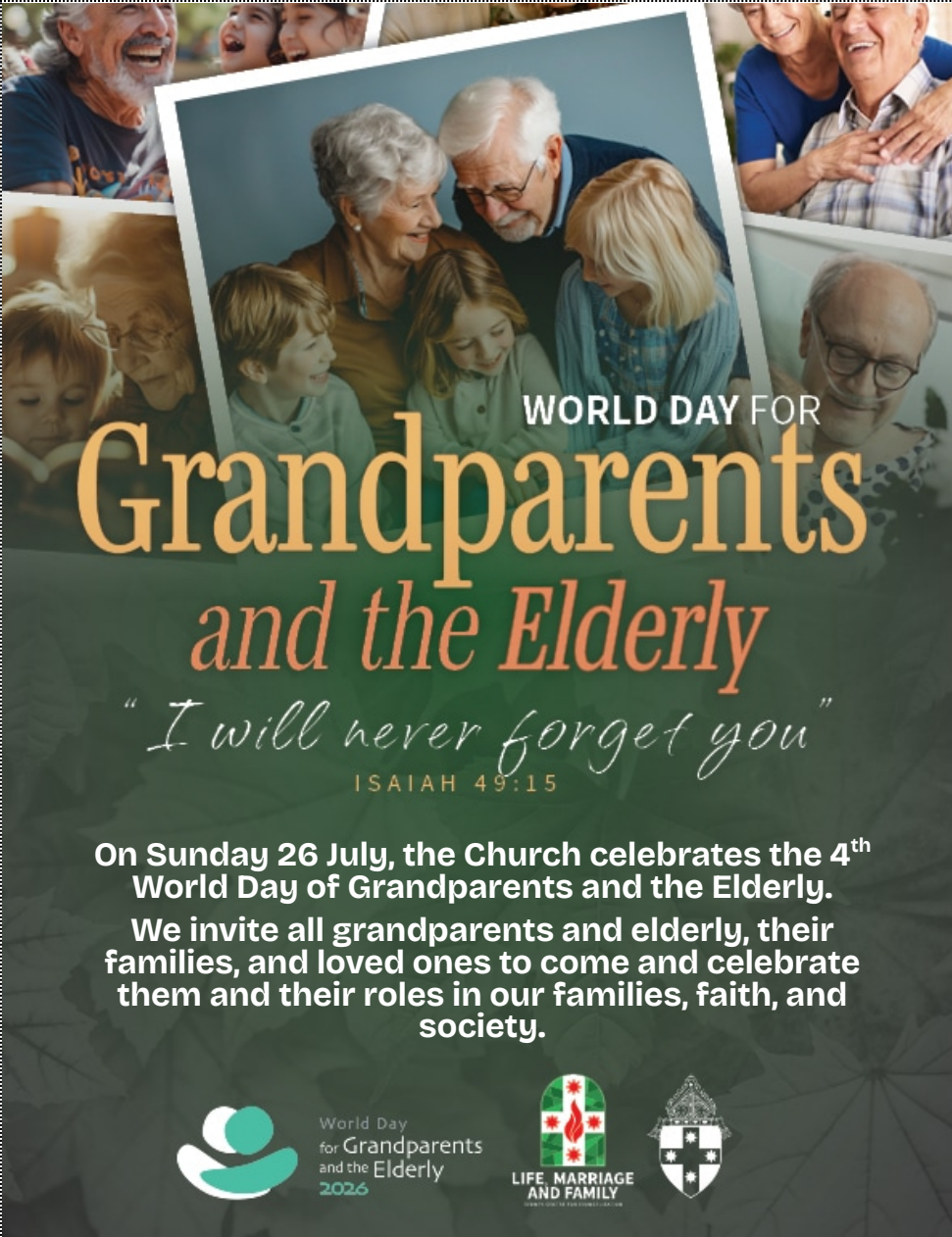
Saturday 6 PM Vigil Mass
St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir
Fr Ruben, Dennis, Jack
Sunday 9:30 AM Mass
Sunday Morning Choir
Allen, Jack | Jayda, Yani
Sunday 11 AM Mass
Chinese Community
Louise | Dr Peter, Elsa
Sunday 6 PM Mass
St Joseph's Sunday Evening Choir
Teresa

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.





WORLD DAY FOR

Grandparents and the Elderly

"I will never forget you"
ISAIAH 49:15

On Sunday 26 July, the Church celebrates the 4th World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly.

We invite all grandparents and elderly, their families, and loved ones to come and celebrate them and their roles in our families, faith, and society.



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

22 July	Saint Mary Magdalene	1 Aug	Saint Alphonsus Liguori
24 July	Saint Sharbel Mahkluf	3 Aug	Saint Dominic
25 July	Saint James	4 Aug	Saint John Vianney
29 July	Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus	6 Aug	The Transfiguration of the Lord
31 July	Saint Ignatius Loyola	8 Aug	SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS

EUCCHARIST28

EUCCHARIST28

THIS IS
my body
GIVEN
for you.

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.

PARISH GIVING

Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$	747.10
2nd Collection	\$	377.70
EFTPOS Giving	\$	n/a


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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



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 safeguarding@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

