

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

2 Aug 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](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

SPECIAL MASSES

1st Fridays

7pm Adoration & 8pm Mass for the Sick and Carers of the Sick

4th Fridays

7pm Adoration & 8pm Mass for Vocations

Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Fri 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Reconciliation available

Reconciliation

Sat & Sun 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM

Mon - Fri 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM

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.

National Vocations Awareness Week (2-9 Aug) (NVAW)

Thank you to those who attended our **Come and See: Discernment and Religious Life** event at St Joseph's Camperdown. To those who couldn't attend this time, we have another session on **Saturday the 24th of October**. If you or someone you know may be interested, the registration link and more details are included on page 3. Our commemoration of the **National Vocations Awareness Week** will continue with our Adoration and Mass for Vocations on the 28th August, the 4th Friday of the Month beginning at 7pm.

More Sydney Vocation events at www.sydneylvocations.org

The theme uniting the readings this week is clearly that of the boundless generosity of God: God gives freely and God gives in extravagant measure. This note is struck in First Reading, Isa 55:1-3. To the Israelites, who have known such a miserable existence during the Exile, the prophet holds out a vision of the messianic age (note the 'favours promised to David'). While the corn, wine and milk that is freely offered may refer in first instance to these foods in a material sense, the invitation to 'come to the water' echoes language associated in other parts of scripture with divine Wisdom (Proverbs 3; 8; Sirach 4; John 7:37-39).

This suggests that what is really on offer is a divine enhancement of life for which, in the depths of their being, most people thirst. All forms of spirituality, all techniques of prayer, seek to tap this source of life, which is the gift of God alone and which, like a perpetual spring of water, is freely given.

GOD'S GENEROSITY

The episode of the Multiplication of the Loaves that forms the Gospel, Matt 14:13-21, looks backwards to biblical traditions about God's generous provision of food, such as the manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16; Numbers 11) and the multiplication miracle of the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 4:42-44); it looks forwards to the gift of the Eucharist and, ultimately, to the final banquet in the Kingdom of God, of which the Eucharist is both foretaste and symbol.

Herod's execution of John the Baptist (Matt 14:1-12) has highlighted the danger in which Jesus himself now stands. So, he seeks to withdraw, going by boat to a lonely place. The people, however, thwart this move, gathering in large numbers to meet him as soon as he steps ashore.

In Matthew's account what they particularly seek from Jesus is healing (in Mark 6:34 he 'teaches'). When, despite his desire to withdraw, he accedes to their needs, they show no inclination to disperse. So, the disciples, functioning rather like 'minders' attached to a celebrity, urge him to send the crowds off to nearby villages to buy provisions for the night.

Jesus reacts to the word 'buy.' He will not send people away to buy anything – nor should his disciples (see the First Reading): 'There is no need for them to go; give them something to eat yourselves'. When the astonished disciples point out that they barely have enough for themselves (five loaves and two fish), Jesus freely provides more than enough food for the whole multitude through the miracle of the multiplication.

THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the more difficult miracles of Jesus to explain in terms of what might have 'really happened'. Preachers are probably wise to keep away from such speculations – ultimately fruitless since we simply haven't got sufficient information to ever know for sure. The fact that the tradition appears no less than six times across all four Gospels (twice in Matthew and Mark; once in Luke and John) points to its theological significance in the early Christian tradition. It is on this that we should chiefly focus.

Central to the theological significance is the way in which the episode anticipates the institution of the Eucharist. Jesus' gestures – 'taking (the loaves)', 'blessing', 'breaking', 'giving' – foreshadow those at the Last Supper (Matt 26:26). The Evangelist expects that readers will understand that when they participate in the Eucharist they are experiencing the same divine hospitality that the Galilean crowds in this 'lonely place' experienced from Jesus.

Instead of having to go off and 'buy' provisions, God satisfies their hunger in abundance ('all ate as much as they wanted'). The twelve baskets of left-over fragments highlight the abundance. Even the final comment about the non-inclusion of women and children in the reckoning, grating as it is to our more gender-inclusive ears, by enhancing the number of people fed, reinforces the same sense of abundant generosity.

FORESHADOWS THE EUCHARIST

The miraculous feeding and the Eucharist which it foreshadows make clear that what God wants to do for humanity is simply be a most generous Host at the banquet of eternal life.

At the same time, since it depicts people being fed with real food, it is also 'sacramental' in the sense of bearing directly upon the problem of hunger still affecting so large a proportion of our world. The Lord who looked on the large crowd and took pity on them, looks with similar eyes upon our world and instructs us, as he instructed his disciples, 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. In the words of Pedro Arrupe, 'The Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in our world'.

The Second Reading, Rom 8:35, 37–39, taken from the conclusion to Paul's splendid eighth chapter of Romans, certainly merits mention but hardly needs explanation.

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 PaulineBooksandMedia.

Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God, come to my help. Lord, quickly give me assistance. You are the one who helps me and sets me free. Lord, do not be long in coming.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R**

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. **R**

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:35.37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!



Giovanni Lanfranco (1582–1647). *Miracle of the Bread and Fish*

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food'. Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves'. But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish'. 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You gave us bread from heaven, Lord: a sweet-tasting bread that was very good to eat.

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CAMINO OF ST JOSEPH 2026

The Camino begins with **9pm Mass on Friday 21 August at St Patrick's Church Hill**. The Camino will conclude with 6.00am Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 22 August followed by a celebration in fellowship with hot breakfast & drinks.

Camino Stops (Each stop features a reflection on St Joseph, time in Eucharistic Adoration, and the Rosary in faith-filled brotherhood.)

1. St Patrick's, Church Hill – Opening Mass;
2. St Brendan's, Annandale;
3. **St Joseph's Camperdown;**
4. St Benedict's, Broadway;
5. St Peter's, Surry Hills;
6. St Canice's Elizabeth Bay;
7. St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney – Closing Mass

Cost: \$35 per person

Register today! trybooking.com/DLJWC



In partnership with
St John's College &
Sancta Sophia College

**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!

ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

IN DEVOTION
TO THE **SACRED HEART
OF JESUS**

First Fridays
**7PM - 8PM Eucharistic
Adoration**

**8PM Mass for the Sick and
Healthcare Workers
with Anointing of the Sick**

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

Come for some fellowship over a cuppa

PARISH MORNING TEA



Every 2nd Sunday after 9:30am Mass

You're welcome to bring a plate to share!



Come & See: Discernment & Religious Life

Saturday 24 October, 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



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.

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 1-2 Aug	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 * *
Next Sunday 8-9 Aug	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F Gigi Elizabeth C Edo L	Ricky L Menchu Agnes 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 Allen, Jack | Jayda, Yani
Sunday Morning Choir
Sunday 11 AM Mass Louise | Dr Peter, Elsa
Chinese Community
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.



CELEBRATING THE
WORLD DAY OF
MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

ONE PARISH JOURNEYING IN LOVE

@ ST JOSEPH'S
CAMPERDOWN



SUN 27 SEP, 9:30AM

OUR CELEBRATION BEGINS
WITH MASS, FOLLOWED BY
A CULTURAL PROGRAMME,
AND A FESTIVE LUNCH



You are invited to our annual celebration of the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** on **Sunday 27 September, 9:30am**. We encourage you to bring a plate (or more!) of a traditional dish or dessert unique to your place that you would like to share with others during our festive lunch. For any queries, you may email our parish office at office@stjosephscamperdown.org.au.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

22 July Saint Mary Magdalene
24 July Saint Sharbel Mahkluf
25 July Saint James
29 July Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus
31 July Saint Ignatius Loyola

1 Aug Saint Alphonsus Liguori
3 Aug Saint Dominic
4 Aug Saint John Vianney
6 Aug The Transfiguration of the Lord
8 Aug **SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS**

EUCCHARIST28

THIS IS
my body
GIVEN
for you.



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.

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	\$	733.35
2nd Collection	\$	2,364.45
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.



THE 54TH INTERNATIONAL
EUCCHARISTIC 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.

SAFEGUARDING | If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, or if you are worried about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please know that you are not alone and that help is available. The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office is available to listen, support you, and provide guidance about reporting options. You can contact the office on (02) 9390 5800 or at safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also wish to speak with your Parish Priest, who can offer pastoral care and assist you in taking the next step. The Archdiocese takes all safeguarding concerns seriously and is required to report criminal matters to police. If there is an emergency or someone is in immediate danger, please contact NSW Police on 000.