

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

16 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 emergency anointing requests in RPA Hospital, please contact the Catholic priest via the 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.

We can find a single theme running through all three readings this Sunday: the inclusive scope of God's saving plan. When the Israelites returned from Exile, they found that many foreigners and neighbouring peoples had moved into the land which once they had called their own. How was living cheek by jowl with non-Israelites compatible with Israel's sense of identity as a holy people, set apart for the service and worship of God?

In the **First Reading**, Isa 56:1, 6-7, the great prophet of the Exile (Isaiah 40-66) presents a bold vision where God will actually bring to the 'holy mountain' (the Temple mount) foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord, making of the Temple a house of prayer for all the peoples (cf. Mark 11:17). The privilege of worshipping God is so central to Israel's identity that it is hard to think of a stronger expression of inclusivity than this.

INCLUSIVENESS

The **Gospel**, Matt 15:21-28, telling of Jesus' encounter in the region of Tyre and Sidon with a Canaanite woman whose daughter was tormented by a devil, presents us with one of the most striking episodes of inclusiveness in the Gospel tradition.

Just before entering this Gentile region, Jesus had given a long instruction in response to criticism from Pharisees and scribes that he did not live according to the tradition of the elders concerning ritual purity, that is, what was 'clean' and 'unclean' in a technical religious sense (15:1-20). Rebutting the criticism, Jesus insisted that 'uncleaness' (meaning incapacity for worship) is not something that one 'catches,' like a contagious disease, from external objects or particular kinds of food. Rather, such incapacity is something that proceeds from within a person. It is not the failure to perform external rituals like hand-washing but evil intentions and behaviour that flow from the heart that renders a person unclean.

Having thus broken through the ritual cleanliness barrier in his teaching, Jesus now enacts such boundary-crossing 'geographically', so to speak, by crossing over into a region (Tyre and Sidon) where 'unclean' Gentiles made up the majority. There the faith of a Gentile woman brings about a breaking of the barrier in a far more significant way.

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

In the very full account of the episode given by Matthew, the sense of separation of 'holy' Israel from 'unclean' Gentile world emerges with increasing intensity.

Jesus first ignores the woman completely, despite the persistence and force of her plea, as she turns to the Jewish Messiah ('Son of David') for help. The disciples' urgent recommendation, 'Send her away', seems to imply 'Get rid of her by granting her what she wants', but Jesus he coldly insists that his mission is restricted to 'the lost sheep of the house of Israel' (cf. 10:5-6). When, in one of the most moving gestures in all the Gospels, she comes and kneels before him and simply begs, 'Lord, help me', all she receives is a third rebuff in the form of the heartless image about not throwing the children's food to dogs. But here, at last, is her chance. With superb wit, she takes up Jesus' image and turns it against him – or at least against the restrictive attitude he is displaying.

Certainly, food prepared for children is not intended for domestic animals. But children eat untidily and house dogs under the table seize any scraps that fall. 'Outwitted', Jesus gives in, agreeing to her request and praising the greatness of her faith.

Many readers of the Gospel will doubtless be troubled by the apparent coldness that Jesus initially displays towards this desperate person. By depicting him acting in such a way, however, the narrative first intensifies the sense of the barrier between Jews and Gentiles, only to highlight the significance of what is happening when, as a result of the woman's faith, the barrier comes crashing down.

HERO OF THE GOSPEL TRADITION

Recent feminist interpretation has rightly identified this Canaanite woman as one of the great heroes of the Gospel tradition. Jesus allows her to 'educate' him out of the narrow understanding of his mission that his early responses betray. He is not only Messiah for the Jews but also the One in whose 'name the Gentiles will place their hope' (12:21). The great mission charge to the nations at the end of the gospel (28:18-20) has its anticipation and impulse here.

In the **Second Reading**, Rom 11:13-15, 29-32, inclusiveness works the other way round, so to speak. The bulk of Israel has said 'No' to the Gospel of the Crucified. Does this mean they have forfeited the chance of salvation? No, says Paul: the God who in great fidelity has worked to include the nations of the world will not fail to act inclusively in favour of the original People of choice, for God's 'gifts and calling are irrevocable'.

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

God, our protector, keep us in mind; always give strength to your people. For if we can be with you even one day, it is better than a thousand without you.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 56:1.6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the Sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 11:13-15.29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.



Jean Germain Drouais (1763-1788). *Le Christ et la Cananéenne* - Christ and the Canaanite Woman.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. When out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel'. But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs'. She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table'. Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

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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



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 16 Aug	9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Rachel Sharon K Jimmy T	Leslie John L Amy M	Maria, Francisco * *
Next Sunday 22-23 Aug	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 * *
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 Fr Ruben, Dennis, Jack

St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir

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



wear your traditional
or cultural attire!

You are invited to our annual celebration of the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** on **Sunday 27 September, 9:30am**. **Come in your traditional or cultural attire!** We also invite 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 us at office@stjosephscamperdown.org.au.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

10 Aug Saint Lawrence
11 Aug Saint Clare
14 Aug Saint Maximilian Kolbe
15 Aug **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

20 Aug Saint Bernard
21 Aug Saint Pius X
22 Aug The Queenship of the Bl. V. Mary
24 Aug Saint Bartholomew
27 Aug Saint Monica

EUCARIST28

THIS IS
my body
GIVEN
for you.



EUCARIST28

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	\$	697.55
2nd Collection	\$	462.50
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**



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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.



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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.

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.**