

A parish with a 'Heart in our Hands'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

13 Sep 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

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.

Today's Gospel concludes the instruction on life in the community of the Church that makes up the 18th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Whereas last Sunday we saw structures of reconciliation set in place, today the concentration is simply on forgiveness itself.

Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian life. At the same time, we know that it is not something to speak of lightly. For people who have been deeply wronged or hurt finding the capacity to forgive may be the task of a lifetime. Such a capacity is a grace, the gift of God. It cannot simply be willed – still less be prescribed, urged or imposed upon a wronged person as something they 'ought' achieve. Believers at least have strong scriptural resources commending forgiveness-as in the total offering of readings for today.

DIVINE AND HUMAN FORGIVENESS

The **First Reading**, from Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 27:30-28:7, sets the tone, especially in the way it links divine and human forgiveness. What one will receive from the Lord depends on how one is prepared to treat others: whether with compassion or with desire for vengeance, as the case may be. The text almost gives the impression that human readiness to forgive determines whether one receives forgiveness from God, as if God waits to see how things are on the human side before moving to forgive. This would be contrary to the overall biblical sense that the initiative always remains with God.

The concluding instruction, 'Remember the covenant of the Most High', restores and safeguard the true perspective. The lives of all members of God's people are enclosed within the covenant relationship that God graciously initiated without any deserts on Israel's side. The quality of all relationships between members of the covenant people must flow from and reflect this exercise of divine generosity and grace.

GENEROSITY OF CHRIST

The brief extract from Rom 14:7-9 that forms the **Second Reading**, though taken somewhat out of context, supports this view with its opening statement: 'the life and death of each of us has its influence on others'.

Behind the 'new covenant' into which Christian believers have been drawn stands the unparalleled generosity of Christ, who, in giving himself up to death for our sakes, sealed a 'new covenant in his blood' (1 Cor 11:25; Luke 22:20). Relationships in the community must, therefore, be charged with this sense of generosity and self-sacrifice emanating from the risen Lord, who, through the Spirit, continues to pour into the community the love that brought him to his death (Rom 5:5; 8:3-4).

The parable that forms the **Gospel**, Matt 18:21-35, is sparked off by a question from Peter, who, as so often, stands in for every member of the church that is coming into being (Matt 16:18). His suggestion of a readiness to forgive seven times sounds quite generous. (Which of us can say it's a standard we regularly achieve?) Jesus' initial reply (whether it means 'seventy times seven' [=490] or 'seventy-seven times') goes deliberately 'over the top', requiring a readiness to forgive on a frankly unlimited scale. To show that a calculating approach to forgiveness, such as Peter proposes, is quite inappropriate Jesus goes on to tell the long parable (the Unforgiving Debtor) that follows.

The note of exaggeration present in Jesus' initial response to Peter continues in the parable itself. A 'talent' was the largest unit of monetary calculation at the time. 'Ten thousand talents' denotes an utterly fantastic sum: billions of dollars in present-day terms.

DEBT BEYOND REPAYMENT

The point being made is that the servant owes his royal master a debt that, despite his plea for time, he has no hope of ever repaying. He stands to lose everything – freedom, family, possessions-for his whole life long. This means that when the master, in a pure act of generosity, cancels the debt he is in effect restoring the servant's life.

In contrast to the vastness of the debt from which the servant has been discharged, what he himself is owed by a fellow servant and is violently unwilling to remit is paltry indeed. The sum involved, few hundred denarii, is a debt that, given time, could easily be repaid. The force of the parable rests on this comparison. Each member of the believing community should understand that they live as people who have received, through Christ's costly self-gift in love, remission of a debt (the debt of sin) that they could never themselves repay. How utterly inappropriate then an unwillingness to forgive fellow members of the community the 'debts' set up by injury on a vastly smaller scale.

As noted at the start, the capacity to forgive does not come easily. The Gospel invites believers at least to enter more and more deeply into the mystery of divine forgiveness in order to find the grace to live truly forgiving lives.

Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING

SIRACH 27:30 – 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R**

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.



Claude Vignon (1593–1670). Parable of the Unforgiving Servant - Vignon.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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HOLY MASS INTENTIONS AND OFFERINGS

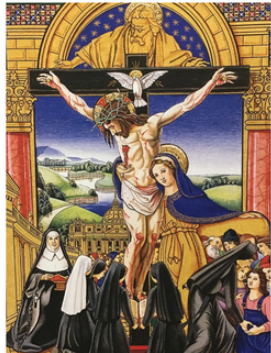
Please pray for the

- **Health and recovery of Raphael Petrazzuolo**

You may use one of the **Mass Intention Envelopes** or email us at **stjocamper@gmail.com** with your prayer intentions.

*Solemnity of
Mary, Mother of Mercy*

*Join us for 11am Mass
at St. Joseph's Parish,
followed by lunch
at the convent*



Thursday 24 September 2026



THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS of MERCY
of ALMA MICHIGAN

Email: sydney@almamercy.org

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
黃肇强医生
請留言 0418281293

Join us for a monthly Community Lunch

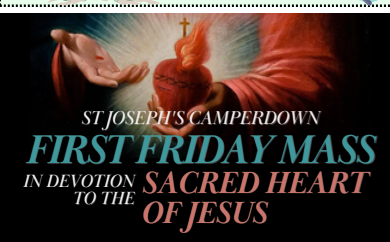
at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Camperdown



Every 1st & 3rd 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 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



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 12-13 Sep	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F Gigi Sharon K Edo L	Francisco T Menchu John L John Renz	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco * *
Next Sunday 19-20 Sep	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Rachel Cynthia C Jimmy T	Angela C Leslie Chris W Amy M	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



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.

Calling all crafters & creatives!

Share Your Creativity at St Joseph's Camperdown!

As part of our Celebration for the World of Migrants and Refugees, we warmly invite all creative and crafty parishioners to showcase their skills and talents. Bring along your handmade items to display, sell, or give away and be part of this joyful parish celebration of culture, creativity, and community.

Whether you paint, sew, knit, make jewellery, bake, or create in any way - we'd love to see and celebrate your gifts!

Interested? Email stjocamper@gmail.com
Contact Teresa Caxala - 0432 184 914

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.

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.

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	\$	630.05
2nd Collection	\$	1,061.85
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.

To Volunteer, contact
Fr Meng 0424742571



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

