

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A 18 Oct 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.

Uniting the readings this week is the issue of Christian responsibility to the state. This issue, emerging from the Gospel, has presumably prompted the choice for the **First Reading**, Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, where the non-Israelite ruler, Cyrus of Persia, is portrayed as God's chosen instrument for the liberation of Israel from exile in Babylon.

Granted the attitude to foreign rulers normally displayed in the Old Testament, this presentation of Cyrus is really quite striking. Just before this passage (44:28), he has actually been called 'my shepherd', a title and a role otherwise reserved for Israel's own kings. What the prophet wants to bring out is that, while Cyrus, as conqueror of Israel's Babylonian captors, is her liberator on a political and military level, at a deeper level he is merely the instrument of Israel's God, now understood to be sole God of the entire universe. Israel's real liberator from her Babylonian Exile, as from her former Egyptian slavery, is the Lord her God.

POWER AND AUTHORITY OF GOD

While this is the what the text principally asserts, implied is also the significant – and for its time, novel-truth that behind foreign rulers, as behind Israelite ones, stands the power and authority of God. This not simply the case in a punitive sense, as when such rulers become instruments of divine chastisement, but also in a saving sense, as is the case here with Cyrus. The positive portrayal of a non-Israelite ruler in this text paves the way for the episode related in the Gospel.

Traditionally, the question put to Jesus in the **Gospel**, Matthew 22:15-21, concerning the legitimacy of paying taxes to the Roman Emperor, has been the occasion for addressing Christian responsibility to the state. Taken in itself, however, the main point is not to present Jesus giving an instruction on this issue. We are at a point in the Gospel where Jesus, having entered Jerusalem as its messianic king, is engaged in a power struggle with representatives of various groups who, under the overall control of the Romans, currently wield authority in the city. They, rightly, perceive the threat posed by Jesus to their hold on the people and seek to bring him down. They want to portray him as dangerous to the Romans and also to lessen his authority with the people by getting the better of him in public dispute.

The tax question offers a perfect stratagem to achieve these ends. It proceeds from an unlikely alliance between Pharisees (who, in general, would be hostile to paying taxes to Rome) and the Herodians (who, on the contrary, represent the chief collaborators and instruments of the Roman occupation). If Jesus supports the payment of the highly unpopular poll tax, he will lose standing with the people. If he rejects payment, he runs the risk of being identified with groups (such as those later known as Zealots) who were in more or less perpetual rebellion against Rome, and so of appearing as a significant threat to peace and public order.

MAJESTIC RESPONSE

Jesus' majestic response not only frees him from the dilemma but actually goes on the offensive against his adversaries. By calling for them to produce a coin with Caesar's image on it he shows them up as people who carry around the offensive coinage, something he does not himself do. In this sense, they are revealed as already collaborating whereas his own position is not disclosed.

Then his dual 'Render' instruction throws back the dilemma on them. They had set the issue simply in terms of obligation to Rome; they had not brought God into the equation at all-though they would claim to be religious authorities. Jesus takes possession of the religious and moral high ground by setting responsibility to the civil power (which he does not deny) within the broader and higher framework of obedience to God.

It is difficult to derive from Jesus' response any clear indication of his attitude to the Roman military occupation. Certainly, he distanced himself from the kind of Zealot fundamentalism that required absolute theocracy in the name of God – a religious attitude all too resurgent in our world today. His followers, especially as portrayed by Luke (Gospel and Acts), would commend a peaceful and loyal existence within the Roman Empire so long as allegiance to Christ Jesus and the Rule of God had priority (Acts 5:29). The later Christian sense of the separation of Church and State has its origins here, along with the recognition that believers have responsibilities in both realms that oblige in conscience before God.

The **Second Reading**, 1 Thess 1:1-5, features the opening words of what is generally held to be the earliest document in the New Testament. Note the triad – faith, love and hope in Paul's commendation of the community.

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

I call upon you, God, for you will answer me; bend your ear and hear my prayer. Guard me as the pupil of your eye; hide me in the shade of your wings.

FIRST READING **ISAIAH 45:1, 4-6**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R**

Worship the Lord in his temple, O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king,' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R**

SECOND READING **1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5**

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Prayer Intentions



Please pray for:

Good Health & Recovery of Pope Leo XIV

Repose of the soul of Kingsley Chambers

Do you have Mass intentions you would like our parish to pray for? e.g. sickness, repose of the soul, thanksgiving, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, exams, etc.

You may use one of the **Mass Intention Envelopes at the foyer of the church** or email us at **stjocamper@gmail.com** with the following information.



Bernardo Strozzi (1581–1644). The Tribute Money

GOSPEL **MATTHEW 22:15-21**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

See how the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those who hope in his love; that he may rescue them from death and feed them in time of famine.

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FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

November Mass Intentions

Praying for our Departed Brothers and Sisters

For the whole Month of November, our parish will be praying for all our departed brothers and sisters.

You may write the names of your departed loved ones in the envelopes provided at the foyer of the church or send us an email at stjocamper@gmail.com.



WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

THIS OCTOBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY



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

Rosary Making Workshop

Saturday 24 October 2026, 9:30am | St Joseph's Camperdown Parish Hall

Our Young Adults Ministry invites you to a morning of crafting to celebrate this month of the Holy Rosary.

Come and learn how to work with pliers, wires, and beads to make your own rosary!

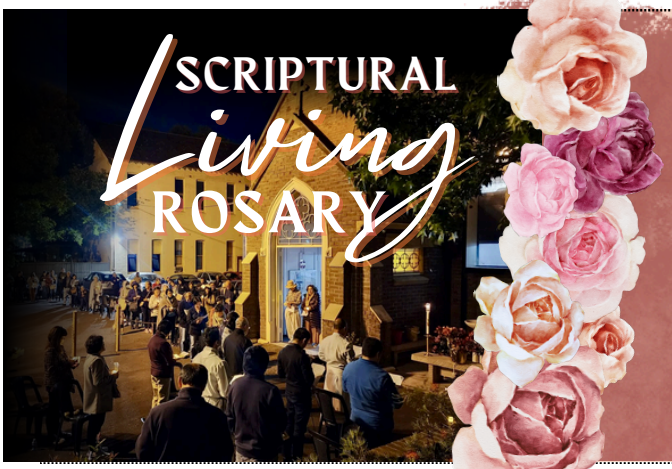
$5 entry fee. All rosary making supplies and morning tea will be provided!

RSVP via stjocamper@gmail.com



"The holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you'll be amazed at the results."

— ST JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA



SATURDAY
31 OCT 2026
6PM VIGIL MASS
FOLLOWED BY THE
SCRIPTURAL LIVING ROSARY

Let us come together as one parish in prayer during the month of the Holy Rosary

REGULAR IN OUR PARISH



1st Friday
for the Sick & Healthcare Workers; Sacred Heart of Jesus
4th Friday for Vocations

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!

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!

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, please contact the parish office or approach the members of the Legion of Mary who assist on Sunday/Vigil Masses.



SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors * the 1st & 2nd readers
This Sunday 17-18 Oct	Vigil **6 PM** **9:30 AM** **11 AM** **6 PM**	**Diana V** **Rachel** **Sharon K** **Jimmy T**	**Angela C** **Leslie** **John L** **Marissa T**	**Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco** * *
Next Sunday 24-25 Oct	Vigil **6 PM** **9:30 AM** **11 AM** **6 PM**	**Diana V** **Tanya** **Cynthia C** **Poie**	**Angela C** **Gordon** **Chris W** **Beng**	**Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco** * *

Daily Mass	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat (8am)
Morning	Gary	Etchie	Amy	Doris	Ricky	Gemma
Evening	Cora	Marissa	Cora	Jimmy	Josie	-

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.

WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

FEAST OF OUR LADY

Health of the Sick PROCESSION



SUNDAY
8 NOV 2026

4PM PROCESSION
6PM MASS

PROCESSION BEGINS AND ENDS AT
ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

FOR OUR SICK, HOMEBOUND, AND ELDERLY PARISHIONERS, FOR OUR LOCAL HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND WORKERS

RED NOVEMBER

CATECHISTS' CORNER



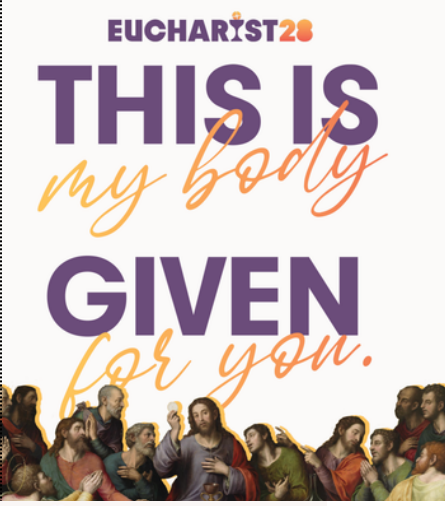
Have you ever wondered about God, Jesus, or the meaning of life? The Catechumenate (RCIA) is a welcoming place for you to explore the Catholic faith.

你是否曾經思考過有关神、耶穌、以及生命的意義? 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 请联系

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

华语和粵语
Mandarin & Cantonese
Dr Peter Wong
黃肇强医生
请留言 0418281293



THE 54TH INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

EUCHARIST28 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.

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

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.

PARISH GIVING

Parish Collection

1st Collection	$	504.90
2nd Collection	$	325.30
EFTPOS Giving	$	n/a

Thank you for your generosity and support!

CADIS
CAMILLIAN DISASTER SERVICE AUSTRALIA

Your contribution to CADIS helps provide food and services to disaster survivors, homeless, and refugees.

To **Volunteer, contact**
Fr Meng 0424742571

CWF
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.

Caritas AUSTRALIA
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.

St Joseph's Preschool & Long Day Care Camperdown

.Tour the St Joseph's Preschool and Long Day Care; Meet their educators and know more about their Catholic play based programs. Government Funded Initiatives available at St Joseph's Preschool & LDC. Welcoming families with children aged 6 wks to 6 yrs.

Book a Tour Today
or call 02 8338 5500

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.