

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A 8 Nov 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.

All three readings this Sunday find some unity around the theme of the right attitude to adopt towards the future. Matthew's Gospel devotes a long section to this theme, culminating in the three parables that make up chapter 25. Today's **Gospel**, Matt 25:1-13, features the first of these parables, the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids (literally, "virgins").

Interpretation of the parable has to deal with the problem that our knowledge of the wedding customs of the time is not secure and some details (e.g., the feasibility of young women going out to buy oil at midnight) seem unrealistic. In any case, as Matthew has Jesus tell the story we seem to be dealing with an allegory providing an extended lesson rather than a parable making a single point.

As it appears in the Gospel, the story seems to presuppose a wedding custom whereby unmarried young women, who have been waiting with the bride at her family's house, go out to meet the bridegroom when he arrives to take her to his own house. When his arrival is announced, they go out to meet him with blazing torches ("torches" is a preferable translation of the Greek lampshades than the traditional "lamps") and escort the couple back to his house, where the marriage feast has been prepared and the guests are waiting for their entry.

The use of torches presupposes that the procession to the bridegroom's house takes place at night. The parable further presupposes a late-arriving bridegroom, though whether this is due to custom or is a simply an instance of unpunctuality on this particular occasion we do not know. In any case, the lateness of the hour leads to sleepiness on the part of the waiting women. But what shame for five of the bridesmaids who, when the bridegroom is said to be well on the way, are not in a position to carry out their welcoming role! Their torches have gone out during the long wait and there is no oil to rekindle them.

Despite the concluding warning, "Stay awake, because you do not know the day or the hour", it is not falling asleep that is reprehended. All ten bridesmaids, both the wise and the foolish, fall asleep. The difference between them is that the former have made sure to have sufficient oil to rekindle their lamps when they are roused, while the foolish have not taken this precaution. Their absence on the errand to buy it frustrates the whole purpose of their role when at last the bridegroom appears.

As I suggested above, the parable appears as an allegory for life in the Church during the time of waiting for the return of its Lord (the "Bridegroom"). The five wise and five foolish bridesmaids represent members of the Church, who, as so often in Matthew, are of mixed quality. The oil represents the kind of good deeds that Jesus commends-"justice, mercy and faith" (23:23)-and which will be so graphically illustrated in the concluding parable of the Great Judgement (25:31-46). The five foolish bridesmaids represent the kind of believers depicted towards the close of the Sermon on the Mount: those who cry out, "Lord, Lord" but have no good works to accompany this confession of faith (7:21-27). The wise may "sleep" (in death) before the coming of the Lord but when he does come they will go out to meet him with the "lamps" of their good works shining (cf. 5:16). Thus the final warning about "staying awake" because neither "the day or the hour" is known really means, in the light of the parable, "Be prepared", rather than "stay awake".

The parable-and the Gospel as a whole-remind us that the words of dismissal at the Eucharist, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord", are no perfunctory conclusion to the rite but a programme for living the twin commandment of love of God and love of neighbour (Matt 22:37-40). Those who take them to heart have always with them the "oil" required for salvation; they can "sleep" without anxiety about being caught short by the Lord's sudden arrival.

The kind of attentive waiting upon and pursuit of Wisdom commended in the **First Reading**, Wis 6:12-16, coheres well with the Gospel in the light of Matthew's portrayal of both Jesus himself and his teaching as the true Wisdom (see esp. Matthew 5-7; 11:28-30).

In regard to Paul's clarification to the Thessalonians in the **Second Reading**, 1 Thess 4:13-18, it is important to point out that his description of the events of the end is not to be taken literally (as in the "Rapture" foreseen by some Pentecostal sects). It offers a symbolic portrayal of the truth that believers who have already died, no less than the living, will share the final triumph of the risen Lord.

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

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

FIRST READING **WISDOM 6:12-16**

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **R**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **R**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R**

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R**

SECOND READING **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those that have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

Prayer Intentions

Good Health & Recovery of Eoin Woods, Amanda, Rick, Rom, Pope Leo XIV; Repose of the soul of Kingsley Chambers, Florina Clark

Do you have Mass intentions you would like our parish to pray for? 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.



Peter von Cornelius (1783–1867). The Parable of Wise and Foolish Virgins (unfinished)

GOSPEL **MATTHEW 25:1-13**

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps but they took no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour."

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

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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



FEAST OF OUR LADY

Health of the Sick PROCESSION

SUNDAY
8 NOVEMBER 2026

4PM PROCESSION | 6PM MASS

PROCESSION BEGINS AND ENDS AT
ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN



RED NOVEMBER

During the month of November, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) invites everyone around Australia and New Zealand to remember and pray for Christians who suffer persecution for their faith.

for our sick brothers and sisters, local healthcare institutions, healthcare workers, and our sick, homebound, and elderly parishioners

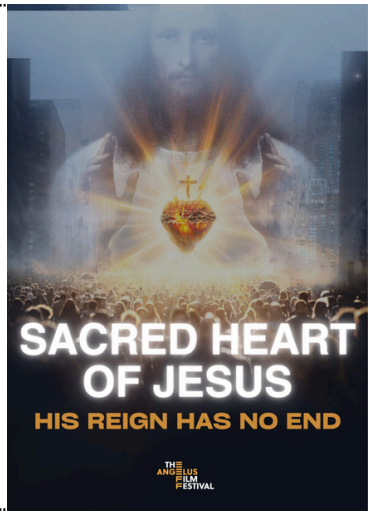
Sacred Heart of Jesus: His Reign Has No End

Join us for a movie night! Discover the inspiring story of St Margaret Mary Alacoque and the revelations of Jesus' Sacred Heart. A moving docu-drama celebrating His endless love, mercy and transforming power.

Location: St Joseph's Camperdown, Parish Hall
Date: Saturday 28th November
Time: After the 6pm Vigil Mass
Fees: FREE!

Please **RSVP** by 26 Nov 2026
via the QR Code or by visiting
forms.gle/Qq9YVjeeEnDRPpP99

RSVP HERE



5AM 16 DECEMBER TO 24 DECEMBER NOVENA DAWN MASSES TO Christmas

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CAMPERDOWN

Sponsor a Morning Tea or offer a Mass Intention
FOR ONE OF THE DAWN MASSES

Approach our priests or contact our parish office at **stjocamper@gmail.com**

EMAIL US

Full Christmas Schedule at St Joseph's Camperdown will be available soon on our social media platforms.

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 7 - 8 Nov	Vigil **6 PM** **9:30 AM** **11 AM** **6 PM**	**Corazon F** **Gigi** **Elizabeth C** **Edo L**	**Francisco T** **Menchu** **Agnes W** **John Renz**	**Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco** * *
Next Sunday 14 - 15 Nov	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** * *

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**.



Join us for the 2026 Walk with Christ on Sunday 22nd of November, the Feast of Christ the King. Festival from 1:00pm in Martin Place. The procession will begin at 2:30pm from the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street.

CATECHISTS' CORNER



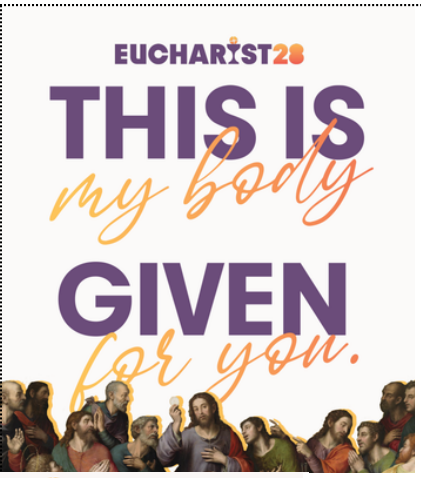
Have you ever wondered about God, Jesus, or the meaning of life? The Catechumenate (RCIA) is a welcoming place for you to explore the Catholic faith.

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

华语和粤语
Mandarin & Cantonese
Dr Peter Wong
黄肇强医生
请留言 0418281293



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

		Cash	EFTPOS
1st Collection	$	680.10	1,025.26
2nd Collection	$	445.45	683.50

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.**