

A parish with a Heart in our Hands

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

25 August 2024

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, Thu** 10AM - 4PM
Sat 10AM - 3PM

📍 2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown

☎ (02) 9557 1181

✉ stjocamper@gmail.com

🌐 stjosephscamperdown.org.au

📱 /StJosephCamperdown

SCHEDULE OF MASS & SACRAMENTS

Weekend Mass

Saturday 6:00 PM (Vigil)
Sunday 9:30 AM
11:00 AM
6:00 PM

Weekday Mass

Mon - Fri 8:00 AM
8:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM

Adoration

Mon - Fri 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
after 8:00 PM Mass

Reconciliation

Sat & Sun 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM
Mon - Fri After 8:00 PM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Anytime (in hospital, page the Catholic priest on-call)

Baptism

Usually Sunday (Baptismal instructions are arranged with parents before Baptism)

Weddings & Funerals

By appointment; 6 months notice required for weddings

Today's Gospel features the last of the readings from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. At this stage the "Bread of Life" discourse has ended and what we have is the reaction to it from Jesus' audience. In a divided response, many of the hearers, including even a number of disciples, describe it as "intolerable" and choose at this point to leave him and go elsewhere.

As a background for this crisis in discipleship, the Lectionary offers as **First Reading** an extract from the Book of Joshua, 24:1-2, 15-18. Sensing that he is soon to die, Joshua summons a plenary assembly of Israel for a solemn act of recommitment to the covenant. From now on the people will be dwelling alongside other peoples with other gods and will be tempted to give their allegiance to them. Hence the necessity to recommit themselves solemnly to serve alone the God who has brought them through so many dangers to the present good situation in which they now stand. Confronted with the choice of going over to the gods of other nations or serving the Lord, the people renew their allegiance, "We too will serve the Lord."

TODAY'S IDOLS Believers today are hardly confronted with temptations to idolatry in the literal sense. However, there are so many forces at work in society – wealth, social status, ambition, addictions of various kinds – that can become, sometimes very subtly, real idols in the sense of creating in people a dehumanising dependency that amounts to enslavement.

Joshua's challenge and the Israelites' unqualified commitment, "We also will serve the Lord," makes its claim upon God's people today, just as it did of old.

In regard to the **Gospel** itself (6:60-69) it is not immediately clear just what is the "hard teaching, impossible to accept" (v. 60) that is being referred to. If the final part of the preceding discourse is interpreted in a Eucharistic sense, then it is natural to relate the "hard teaching" to Jesus' claim that his flesh is real food and his blood real drink. However, Jesus' comment in response, "What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? (v. 62), suggests that the negative response relates to the central claim of the entire discourse rather than just to the eucharistic allusions in the final section.

Jesus has consistently claimed to be the Bread of Life that has come down from heaven, a new "Manna" sent down by God, superior in life-giving power to the Law of Moses.

ACCEPTANCE IN FAITH What gives 'eternal life' is acceptance in faith of the revelation of God communicated through the human 'flesh' of Jesus. Some of the disciples, it seems, would feel more comfortable if they had been given a set of precepts to live by, such as the Law brought down from Sinai by Moses. God would remain in heaven and they would keep the laws and all would be well; they could be comfortable with this notion of God.

Instead, Jesus reveals a God who doesn't just remain in heaven or summon an intermediary for a meeting upon a mountain, but who, in the person of the Son, descends to 'pitch a tent among us' (1:14). In response (v. 62) and alluding apparently to the cross.

Jesus seems to be saying, 'If you have difficulty with this idea of One descended from heaven to reveal God, how will you cope with the still more radical revelation when the same Son of Man returns to where he has come from via a cross!' Here we meet the Johannine idea that Jesus' being lifted up upon the cross is the first stage of his return (ascension) to the Father and reveals his absolute union with the Father as the God, who is love.

THE HOLY ONE OF GOD The division of the disciples reflects, then, an incapacity to accept the image of God that Jesus is revealing – something for which, as Jesus says, the gift of the Spirit is necessary (vv. 63). When Jesus turns to the inner circle of the Twelve (vv. 67-69), Peter's response reflects full belief: there is nowhere else to turn to gain life; Jesus is 'the holy one of God,' that is, the One who was 'with God in the beginning' (1:1-2) and who has come down from God.

The **Second Reading**, from Ephes 5:21-32, has played its part in the determining the view of marriage as a sacrament in the Catholic tradition. But its primary focus on the husband and sense of subordination of the wife jars not only with modern sensibility but also the mutuality and balance of Paul's statements elsewhere: e. g., 1 Cor 7:7-17; Gal 3:28. Interpretation may need to point out the limitations as well as the riches of the passage and evolve an understanding reflecting that mutuality and balance.

Commentary by Fr Brendan Byrne, SJ, F.A.H.A. 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

Listen, Lord, and answer me. Save your servant who trusts in you. I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord.

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2.15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 33(34):2-3, 16-23

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. **R**

They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R**

Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. **R**

Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.



Jerome Nadal (1507-1580), Jesus teaches the disciples the message of eternal life

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lord, the earth is filled with your gift from heaven; man grows bread from earth, and wine to cheer his heart.

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How may we pray for you?

Share your **Mass / Prayer intentions** with us via the **envelopes** at the church foyer or **email us** at stjocamper@gmail.com.



ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN
PRESENTS

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS



Saturday, 31 August
5pm Holy Hour | 6pm Vigil Mass

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

31 August (Sat) | 5PM Holy Hour | 6PM Vigil Mass

As a culminating activity of our Parish Vocation Month, we call all parishioners and especially volunteers:

- Readers & Collectors
- Greeters & Ushers (Legion of Mary)
- Choir & Music Ministry Members
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Acolytes & Sacristans
- RCIA Coordinator & Catechists
- Events Ministry Members
- Martha Ministry Members
- Lay Camillian Family Members
- Parish Pastoral Council Members, and
- Parish Finance Council Members

to join in our **Holy Hour for Vocations** this coming **31st of August (Saturday)**. The Holy Hour for Vocations begins at 5pm, and is shortly followed by the 6pm Vigil Mass.

We continue to pray for Vocations as a parish:

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fundamentals of Flourishing Parishes

If you're wondering how to share your faith with others, but not sure how, this series is for you. We will dive deeper into the natural and supernatural skills to speak about Christ in everyday life and as a parish community. Come along to any or all workshops!

DATES AND TOPICS

- Wed, 21 Aug: The Art of Christ-Centred Conversation
- Wed, 28 Aug: Sharing Your Faith Without Fear
- Wed, 4 Sep: Authentic Invitation and Welcome
- Wed, 11 Sep: Five Tips for Running Effective Parish Events
- Wed, 25 Sep: Capstone

TIME: 7:15 - 8:30 PM, doors open at 7:00 pm

VENUE: St Martha's, 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040

Free Admission. For more information and to register go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/I257816>

FUNDAMENTALS OF
Flourishing
PARISHES

Dive deeper into the skills that will build your confidence and strengthen your parish as an invitational, vibrant, and Christ-centred community. Come to any or all workshops!

WEDNESDAYS 7:00 - 8:30 PM

The Art of Christ-Centred Conversation	21 AUG
Sharing Your Faith Without Fear	28 AUG
Authentic Invitation and Welcome	4 SEPT
Five Tips for Running Effective Parish Events	11 SEPT
Capstone	24 SEPT

ST MARTHA'S
38 RENWICK STREET, LEICHHARDT
REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL. PLACES ARE LIMITED.
gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

QR CODE:

Logos: GOMAKE DISCIPLES, CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY, GO MAKE DISCIPLE

SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors
This Sunday 24-25 Aug	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F Rachel S Nancy T Tim S	Francisco T Lesley A Sharon K Maddi S	Alicia, Amy Maria, Francisco - Santa, Corazon
Next Sunday 31 Aug - 1 Sep	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F Rachel S Philip Fan Gemma T	Louise S Lesley A Cathy W Maria C	Alicia, Cora Maria, Francisco - Corazon, Santa
Daily Mass	Morning Evening	Angeline L, Alicia B, Echie, Doris K (Thu only), Garry C, The Sisters, Gemma T (Sat only), Isabelle K (Fri only), Ricky L Corazon F, Joan E, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, Genalor F, Maria C		

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

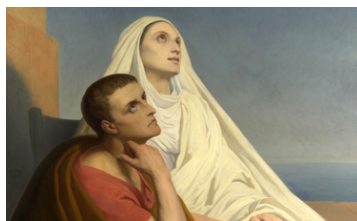
	ORGANIST/PIANIST	CONDUCTOR
Saturday 6 PM Vigil Mass		Tim, Dennis
St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir		Fr Ruben, Gemma
Sunday 9:30 AM Mass		Allen, Ethel, Tim Yani
Sunday Morning Choir		
Sunday 11 AM Mass		Louise Dr Peter, Elsa
Chinese Community		
Sunday 6 PM Mass		Teresa, Gemma Michael
St Joseph's Sunday Evening Choir		

If you would like to serve in the parish through singing or playing instruments such as piano/organ/guitar/etc., please don't hesitate to express your interest by **approaching our choristers before or after Mass** or messaging **Angeline 0431 718 137.**



FEAST DAYS

- 27 Aug Saint Monica
- 28 Aug Saint Augustine
- 29 Aug The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
- 3 Sep Saint Gregory the Great
- 6 Sep Ember Day
- 9 Sep Saint Peter Claver



St. Augustine and Monica
Arty Scheffer (1796-1858)

RPAH CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

Seeking solace during illness or hospitalisation at RPAH Hospital? Our Catholic Chaplaincy offers comforting visits, pastoral care, and sacraments. Contact us via the Hospital Switchboard (02 9515 6111) or via our parish office (02 9557 1181 or stjocamper@gmail.com).

We're here for you

PARISH NEWS



ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY HOME VISITATION

This Pilgrim Mary Home Visitation is facilitated to commemorate the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025 as we are called to do so by our Holy Father Pope Francis and to encourage our St Joseph's parishioners to pray the Holy Rosary in their homes with their families.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday 15th August 2024 8pm Mass, marks the beginning of our year-long Pilgrim Mary & Her Holy Rosary Home Visitation.

From 15 August 2024 to 15 August 2025, our Blessed Mother will be "on a pilgrimage" to our parishioners' homes, with each visit lasting for a week.

Parishioners are to reserve a week by entering required details in the booking form available at the foyer of our church. These parishioners will be Our Blessed Mother's "caretakers" each week.

By the end of a parishioner's booking reservation, the **Pilgrim Mary Home Visitation Kit** will be handed over from the previous caretaker to the next during the 6PM Vigil Masses.

If any of the parishioners cannot attend the 6PM Vigil Masses, they should have a representative to hand over or receive the kit on their behalf.

To join this initiative, please ask help from the members of the Legion of Mary who are assisting before the start of Sunday Masses.

What's included in the Kit?

A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, some rosaries, and prayer booklets to assist you in praying while she visits your homes.

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.

Would you like to be a catechist and teach children about Jesus and the scriptures?

For queries, please contact our Parish Catechist Coordinator, Alicia Buxton 0412155967.



PARISH GIVING

LAST WEEK'S Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$ 880.80
2nd Collection	\$ 469.05
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 801.50

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.

Transfer to
CADIS AUSTRALIA LTD
BSB: 032-179
ACCT NO.: 371 579

To Volunteer, contact
Fr Meng or Robert and Maria
0424742571 or 0469898620



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.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

FREE ACCOMODATION (OWN BEDROOM)

including paid utilities, in exchange for assistance for person with mobility issues, e.g. meal preparation & feeding. Sydenham/St Peters area, close to Sydney CBD, universities, hospitals. Would suit student and part-timer workers. Please send queries / expressions of interest to rayterre32az@gmail.com or call Ray on 8060 5676.

To see more initiatives within the Archdiocese, visit and subscribe to gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events



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.



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.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or email safeguardinginquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.