

A parish with a Heart in our Hands

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

8 September 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*

* Please see the **Parish Announcement** at the Parish News Section on page 3.

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

At the beginning of 2025, a new schedule for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take effect. **Please see the full Parish Announcement included in the Parish News Section on page 3.**

The healing miracle – of a deaf person who also has an impediment in his speech – which forms today's Gospel, Mark 6:31-37, alludes explicitly to a passage from Isaiah 35:4-7, describing the blessings of the messianic age. It is appropriate then that the same passage should also form the **First Reading**.

The healing miracle performed by Jesus shows him fulfilling the promise that it announces. The passage from Isaiah 35 is actually an addition to the oracles of the pre-Exilic 'First' Isaiah and anticipates the tone and content of the great prophet of the Exile who speaks in Isaiah 40-66. It should be noted that the coming 'vengeance' and 'retribution of God' which it speaks is to be directed not against Israel but against Israel's enemies (here Edom); it is, therefore, part of Israel's liberation, not punishment.

ACT OF COMPASSION

In a way that is typical of Mark's Gospel, Jesus attempts to perform this act of compassion in as secluded a way as possible. He takes the man away from the crowd and performs the healing gestures in private. After the healing, he strictly tells all those around to say nothing of it. But, in vain – the more he enjoins silence on them, the more they spread the news abroad. Out of compassion for wounded humanity, Jesus performs the acts of healing expected of the Messiah. But he does not want the crowds to conclude that he is the Messiah from acts such as these. His messianic identity must be kept a secret for the time being. It is only to be revealed in conjunction with his destiny to suffer and die on the cross. Otherwise, the people will see him entirely in terms of conventional messianic expectation, which had a large element of political leadership bound up with it. As in John 6:15, they will want to take him away and make him their king. Such a messianic role would be totally at odds with the path set out for him by the Father, which is to be the Son of Man who has come 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (10:45).

The healing is one of the most 'physical' of all Jesus' miracles described in the Gospels. In this predominantly Gentile region through which he is passing Jesus acts like a pagan wonder-worker, with special gestures and words (Ephthatha). The man is deaf and has an impediment in his speech. His condition places him at a great disadvantage as regards communication: he can neither receive verbal communication nor freely communicate his own thoughts, feelings and reflections to others. His condition is lonely and isolated. What Jesus does for this marginalised person is to bring him into the hearing and speaking community where interpersonal communication can truly flow through him.

SYMBOLIC INTERPRETATION

Despite this physical aspect, the healing is probably best interpreted symbolically. This is, of course, the case when the Ephphatha ritual is included in the liturgy of Christian Baptism. The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the person being baptised and prays, 'May (the Lord Jesus) soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father'.

In a symbolic sense, then, the man healed by Jesus represents all believers. Apart from the grace of God, we are 'deaf' to the Word of life spoken to us by the Creator. In the sacrament, Jesus gives us the capacity to hear the life-giving Word, which he then speaks to us in the Scriptures as proclaimed by the Church. Having heard that Word in the context of our own life experience, we then can turn to praise God and share what we have discovered with our fellow believers. Our ears are opened, and our tongues are 'loosened' for full participation in the community of faith.

The readings from the Letter of James that provide the Second Readings these Sundays can seem moralising.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

In line with the prophetic tradition of Israel, however, the primary stress of James is upon social justice. The reading today, from James 2:1-5, brings this out in a most effective way with its evocation of a Christian assembly where distinctions between rich and poor are all too obvious.

The final reminder echoes the Beatitudes of Jesus found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (Matt 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26). The poor should have a particularly privileged place in the Christian gathering because they are the objects of God's predilection – rich in faith and especially set in line to inherit the future kingdom. To despise or belittle them is to go directly against the choice and intention of God. Despite nearly two millennia of hearing the Gospel, most Christian churches and parishes will still find a chastening message here.

Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Lord, you are just, and the judgments you make are right. Show mercy when you judge me, your servant.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. **R**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R**

SECOND READING

James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



Andrea Mantegna (1431-1506), Mark the Evangelist

GOSPEL

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened'. And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God. My soul is thirsting for the living God.

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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**.



HOLY MASS INTENTIONS AND OFFERINGS

Date: _____

Requested by: _____

Intentions: _____

Public Private



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

For over two years, our parish has held Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament according to the following schedule: Monday to Friday from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM, and Monday to Friday from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. After careful consideration, several concerns have emerged:

- 1 Our three Camillian priests need to balance their commitment to Religious Community Life with their parish duties, particularly following the 8:00 PM Mass.
- 2 According to liturgical norms, it is more appropriate to hold the Holy Hour before the 8:00 PM Mass rather than after, as it serves as a profound preparation for the Eucharistic celebration.
- 3 The afternoon Exposition from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, has consistently low attendance, calling into question the need for its continuation.
- 4 Devotion to the Divine Mercy, such as praying the Chaplet, can still be meaningfully practiced in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, even without formal Exposition, as demonstrated by the daily prayers following the 8:00 AM Mass from Monday to Saturday.

Following the Pastoral Visit of Bishop Danny Meagher on March 22 and 24, 2024, and based on his recommendations, the following changes will then be implemented:

- 1 **The Monday to Friday Holy Hour will be moved to 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.**
- 2 **The Monday to Friday 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Holy Hour will be discontinued.**

We, the Parish Pastoral Council, after a thorough discussion and reflection on the matter, hereby support the decision to make these changes as to the Schedule of Holy Hours/Expositions of the Blessed Sacrament in our Parish.

The Parish Pastoral Council has discussed these changes thoroughly and supports them wholeheartedly. We ask for the understanding and cooperation of all parishioners as we implement these changes at the beginning of 2025. Let us continue to pray for a smooth transition.

Signed by the Parish Pastoral Council
17 August 2024

Canonical and Liturgical Considerations

1 Timing of the Holy Hour	It is considered more liturgically appropriate for the Holy Hour, or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, to take place before Mass rather than after. This practice allows for proper spiritual preparation for the Mass, which is the source and summit of Christian life. The current schedule with the Holy Hour after Mass may not align with this principle.
2 Exposition After Mass	
3 Attendance and Adoration	

SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors
This Sunday 7-8 Sep	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Genalor F Angeline L Elizabeth C Gemma T	Alicia B Ricky L Agnes W Corazon F	Ricky, Marc Maria, Francisco - Corazon, Gemma
Next Sunday 14-15 Sep	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Ricky L Sr Maliya Agnes C Gemma T	Marc S Gordon L John L Genalor F	Corazon, Francisco Maria, Francisco - Gemma, Genalor
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, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, Genalor F, Maria C, Tim L		

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**.



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.

FEAST DAYS

- 3 Sep Saint Gregory the Great
- 6 Sep Ember Day
- 9 Sep Saint Peter Claver
- 12 Sep The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 13 Sep Saint John Chrysostom
- 14 Sep **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**



RPAH CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

Seeking solace during illness or hospitalisation at RPA 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

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.

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.

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.

To join this initiative, you may approach the members of the Legion of Mary who assist before the start of Sunday/Vigil Masses or alternatively contact the parish for assistance.

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

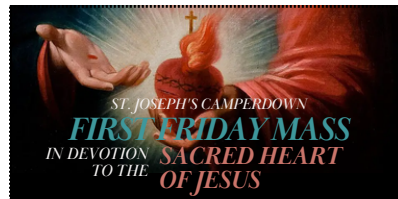
1st Collection	\$ 971.20
2nd Collection	\$ 493.45
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 672.10

Thank you for your generosity and support!



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.



First Fridays | 8PM
followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Blessing until 10PM

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

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

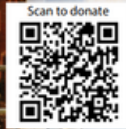
Donate to the Priests' Retirement Foundation Father's Day appeal

1 September 2024

Our Fathers are there for us in our happy and sad times. When they are sick or retire to lesser duties, it is our responsibility to look after them.

You can show our Fathers they are not forgotten this Father's Day. Donate generously now.

Donate at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-prf
Or complete the parish envelope.



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 0469898620



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.



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.



Fundamentals of Flourishing Parishes

If you're wondering how to share your faith with others, but not sure how, this series is for you. **TIME:** 7:15 - 8:30 PM, doors open at 7:00 pm. **VENUE:** St Martha's, 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040. **Free Admission.**

DATES AND TOPICS

- Wed, 4 Sep: Authentic Invitation and Welcome
- Wed, 11 Sep: Five Tips for Running Effective Parish Events
- Wed, 25 Sep: Capstone

To register, visit trybooking.com/events/landing/1257816



5 LOVE LANGUAGES

Saturday, 14th | 2PM - 5PM
September 2024 (Refreshment Provided)
OLSH Parish - 193 Avoca Street, Randwick NSW 2031

Charbel Raish
Founding Partner of Parousia Media

Praise and Worship • Teaching by Charbel Raish • Q&A (Question & Answer) • Adoration •



HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY

HOLYTRINITYSYDNEY.ONLINE

#ShareTheJoy

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.