

A parish with a Heart in our Hands

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year C

22 December 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 Eucharistic Adoration will take effect. **Please see full the Parish Announcement on page 3.**

Please be advised that there will be **NO 3pm-4pm Eucharistic Adoration** on the **24th, 25th, and 26th of December** to accommodate our Christmas schedule.

See Christmas Schedule on page 4. Thank you for your understanding!

Today's Scripture readings bring us at last to the threshold of Jesus' birth. The **First Reading**, from the prophet Micah, 5:1-4, is famous for designating Bethlehem as the place of the Messiah's birth. The early Christians found it rich with pointers to what they believed God had done in Christ: salvation coming from what is 'least' in human terms; the sense of the 'ruler' to be born 'out of her' who, in contrast to most of the rulers of the time, will be a 'shepherd' who will feed his flock (a theme picked up in the Responsorial Psalm). Finally, there is the pledge that his rule will be synonymous with 'peace', something that the angels will echo when they announce the birth of a Saviour to the shepherds of Bethlehem (Luke 2:14).

The **Second Reading**, from Hebrews 10:5-10, stresses the superiority and effectiveness of what Christ has achieved, in comparison with the sacrificial ritual of the old covenant. To bring this out the writer appeals to a passage from one of the psalms (Ps 40 [39]:7-9). This makes the point that what God wants from worshippers is not so much material sacrifices – holocausts of animals and the like – as an inward commitment to do God's will. The text of Hebrews exploits a curious variant featured, it would seem, in the author's copy of the Greek version of the psalm. Instead of reading 'ears you have opened for me', as in the Hebrew original, it reads: 'a body you have prepared for me'. This makes the psalm all the more applicable to Christ in that it perfectly describes the obedience with which he offered up his body to death on Calvary.

Along with this, the Advent setting invites us to hear in the phrase, 'You ... prepared a body for me', a reference to the Incarnation, about to become manifest in the birth of the Lord. The human life of Jesus, from its very first moment to its end on Calvary, will be a continual act of bodily obedience offered for the salvation of the world.

FAITH OVERFLOWS The **Gospel**, Luke 1:39-45, at last brings us to the major players in the story of Jesus' birth. Presuming our knowledge of the Annunciation to Mary, it describes the meeting between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. In this 'Visitation' story, the two women share their remarkable experience. As their two stories come together, faith overflows in new insight, knowledge and celebration.

Mary has surrendered in faith and obedience to the extraordinary role that Gabriel has announced to her. In faith, too, she has obeyed the angel's additional command to go and seek out the 'sign' to be seen in the pregnancy, at an advanced age, of her cousin Elizabeth. Biblical faith does not presuppose signs already given: it acts, goes on its journey, and then discovers signs that confirm what has been believed. This is how Elizabeth's pregnancy functions for Mary. This lesser wonder brought about by God's power (the conception of a child to parents of advanced years) confirms her faith in the far greater marvel: that with God's Spirit replacing the role of male parent she is to become the mother of her people's Messiah.

The account makes much of Mary's greeting, which in the language of the time, would have been 'Peace' (Shalom). Mary brings the 'peace' that is to characterise the messianic age. As soon as she utters this messianic greeting, Elizabeth experiences the infant John within her womb leaping with 'messianic' joy. The Baptist is already exercising his role of pointing to the presence of the Messiah. Hence Elizabeth confirms what Mary has hitherto simply believed: that she is indeed pregnant with the infant Messiah whose role and destiny Gabriel had announced. She now has the 'sign' that she was sent to find.

BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED It is important to note Elizabeth's insistence that Mary is 'blessed', not simply because she is 'the mother of my Lord', but because of her faith: 'Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled'. What Mary had to believe far outstripped the faith required of Zechariah. Her faith was the essential channel through which salvation would flow into the world. It is people of faith who open up the world to God's power. All the scriptural promises heard through Advent come to their point of focus in the faith of Mary, the beginning and the model of all subsequent Christian believing.

This presentation of Mary as a paramount example of faith goes along with the decision of the Second Vatican Council not to devote a separate schema to her but rather to place her within the great Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium (§§52-69), signifying her role as the Mother of the Church's faith.

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

Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:1-4a

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel. His origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.



Fra Angelico (circa 1395–1455), Visitation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out at the time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Virgin is with child, and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel.

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5AM MONDAY 16 DECEMBER TO
TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER
NOVENA DAWN MASSES

TO *Christmas*

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CAMPERDOWN

RSVP HERE



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



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

Beginning 1 January 2025, our Schedule of Masses, Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Adoration will be as follows, in accordance with our notice of changes in the schedule of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

2025 SCHEDULE OF MASS, RECONCILIATION & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

MASS

Monday to Friday 8AM, 8PM
Saturday 8AM, 6PM (Vigil)
Sunday 9:30AM, 11AM, 6PM

RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday **7PM - 8PM** (New time)
Saturday & Sunday 5:15PM - 5:45PM

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday to Friday **7PM - 8PM** (New time)
 (Reconciliation available)



First Friday of each month | 8PM
 followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Blessing until 10PM



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.

SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors If none indicated, the readers
This Sunday 21-22 Dec	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, Genalor Maria, Francisco - -
Christmas 24-25 Dec	Vigil 8 PM 12 MN 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F Angeline L Sisters (RSM) Lisa L Gemma T	Francisco T Ricky L Sisters (RSM) Anna T Corazon F	- Maria, Francisco - - Amy
Next Sunday 28-29 Dec	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Yvona W Lesley Nancy T Tim S	Francisco T Rachel Chris W Maddi S	- Maria, Francisco - -
Daily Mass	Morning Evening	Angeline L, Alicia B, Echie, Doris K (Thu), Garry C, The Sisters, Gemma T (Sat), Ricky L (Fri) Corazon F, Josie M (Fri only), Louise S, Maria C, Tim L, Alexander M		

PARISH CHOIR

ORGANIST/PIANIST | CONDUCTOR
 Saturday 6 PM Vigil Mass
St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir Tim, Dennis, 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.

Christmas

AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

2024

MON 16 DEC
TO
MON 23 DEC

NOVENA DAWN MASSES
5:00AM, EVERY DAY FROM MON 16 DEC - TUE 24 DEC

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE CONTINUE

MONDAY TO FRIDAY MASSES
8:00AM | 8:00PM

SATURDAY MASSES
8:00AM | 6:00PM (VIGIL)

SUNDAY MASSES
9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

TUE 24 DEC

5:00AM **NOVENA DAWN MASS** (Final)
8:00AM WEEKDAY MASS

NATIVITY OF THE LORD
8:00PM VIGIL MASS
12:00AM MIDNIGHT MASS



WED 25 DEC

CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM
CHRISTMAS MEALS SERVED AFTER 9:30AM & 11:00AM MASS

SUN 29 DEC

THE HOLY FAMILY
9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

2025

WED 1 JAN

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
8:00AM | 8:00PM

SUN 5 JAN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
9:30AM | 11:00AM | 6:00PM

A Peaceful Christmas and a Health-Loving New Year to all!

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CAMPERDOWN 2 MISSENDEN RD, CAMPERDOWN NSW 2050

PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY HOME VISITATION



From 15 Aug 2024 to 15 Aug 2025, our Blessed Mother will be "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 alternatively contact the parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com for assistance.

The 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 Pope Francis and to encourage our St Joseph's parishioners to pray the Holy Rosary in their homes with their families.

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

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	\$ 613.80
2nd Collection	\$ 532.45
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 888.10

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.

Donate

Volunteer

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

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



CWF
CHARITABLE WORKS FUND
Your local charity

Support the charitable and pastoral works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Donate

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.

Donate

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to

PRESENTED BY DEICORP

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

12TH-25TH DEC

Discover a festive wonderland with market stalls, delicious food and live performances. Each evening, marvel at the stunning light projections illuminating the cathedral.



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS*

- 21 Dec Saint Peter Canisius*
- 23 Dec Saint John of Kanty*
- 25 Dec THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
- 26 Dec St Stephen
- 27 Dec St John
- 28 Dec The Holy Innocents
- 29 Dec THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
- 31 Dec Saint Sylvester I*

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 safeguardingenquiries@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.