

A parish with a Heart in our Hands

ST JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year C

30 Mar 2025

Welcome to our parish!

- 1. Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration times have changed since 1 Jan 2025.** Please be advised accordingly. New times are marked with 🟡.
- 2. Our Lent and Easter Schedule is available on our website and Facebook.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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

📘 fb.com/StJosephCamperdown

SCHEDULE OF MASS

Weekend Mass

Saturday 8am, 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 9:30am, 11am, 6pm

Weekday Mass

Mon - Fri 8am, 8pm

Devotion to the Sacred Heart

Every First Friday 8pm, we celebrate the Mass for the Sick and Carers of the Sick with Anointing of the Sick

Eucharistic Adoration

🟡 Mon - Fri 7:00 PM
Before 8PM Mass;
Reconciliation available

Reconciliation

Sat & Sun 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM

🟡 Mon - Fri 7:00 PM
Before 8PM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

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

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.

It is hard to imagine a richer fare for the preacher than the content of today's long Gospel: the Parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. For once too, the Second Reading, 2 Cor 5:17-21, fits well with the Gospel. According to Paul the essential action that God brings about for our benefit through Christ is that of reconciliation (see also Rom 5:5-11; Col 1:19-20). And it climaxes in what is perhaps the most extreme expression on Paul's part of the Son's union with the sinful, alienated human condition: God made him (Christ) who "knew no sin" (the sinless one) "into sin" that we might become in him the "righteousness of God" (the Jerusalem Bible's translation, "the goodness of God" is unforgivably lame). "God made him into sin". Paul could make that daring statement because of his sense of the radical depth of God's action in our regard. In the person of the sinless Son, God's reconciling presence and power entered into the most "ungodly" reaches of the human condition to transform it and bestow upon it the holiness and love of God.

GOOD OF EXTRAVAGANT LOVE The parable told in the Gospel is the final and largest of three parables in Luke 15 (the first being the Lost Sheep, the second the Lost Coin). Jesus tells all three as a defence against criticism of the welcome he gives to "tax collectors (social outcasts) and sinners" and his "eating with them" – his celebration with them of their discovery of the mercy and hospitality of God. The three parables defend this behaviour in the light of a particular image of God that, cumulatively, they build up and project – a God who displays love to an extravagant and, humanly speaking, foolish degree.

The first two short parables, with some slight variation, display a pattern that goes like this: someone loses something precious, makes a "foolish" response to find it (neglecting 99 sheep, turning the house upside down to find a small coin), finds it, rejoices and calls for a communal celebration. The great parable – with a significant addition (the response of the older brother) – follows essentially the same pattern. The father loses a son. (That is why, of all the suggestions made for a title, I think the best remains: "The Lost Son".) The young man's behaviour is very callous. Culturally understood, he is in effect saying to the father: "You're as good as dead to me. Give now what I'm due to inherit when you at last are".

The parable vividly describes the gradual dehumanisation of the young man. Reduced to wanting to eat the pigs' food – what could be worse for a Jew! – "he comes to his senses" (literally, "comes to himself" – a painful moment of self-knowledge). But this is hardly a moment of true conversion. He is calculating: "I can't go back as a son. But at least if I can get back as a servant, I'll be clothed and well fed".

OVERCOME WITH COMPASSION The father, the parable hints, has been watching day and night for his son's return. Seeing him afar off, he is overcome with compassion (the Greek is much stronger than the JB translation "moved with pity" suggests). He runs out to meet the boy, embraces and kisses him tenderly. In the culture of the time, for a middle-aged man of means to run in public, to display extravagant signs of affection to a son who has caused the family disgrace is foolish behaviour in the utmost degree – as the older brother will soon so "reasonably" point out.

But this is not the end. The father does not allow the young man to finish his prepared speech about coming back as a servant. Bring out the best robe, the ring (sign of authority in the household), sandals (servants went barefoot) – all symbols of full reinstatement as son. And then the great communal celebration. Why? Because the one who was dead has come back to life; the lost one has been found.

This refrain – sounded here and again at the end – imposes a trajectory of "lostness" and "foundedness" over the more conventionally religious one of sin and forgiveness. Let's admit: the older brother has very reasonable grounds for complaint. His "conversion" to the way his father sees things and behaves is difficult. We never learn whether he goes in and shares in the music and dancing or whether anger and resentment keep him forever outside.

And that is the real bite of the parable. Are you inside with the younger brother joining in the celebration of God's mercy or does anger and resentment keep you stamping your foot with the older son outside? Like so many of Jesus' parables this is one is basically saying, "Come to the feast". The only blockage is what may lie, unconverted, in your heart.

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.

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT
with talk on Jubilee: A Year of Hope for the Future

SAT 5 APR | 3PM TO 7PM
6PM VIGIL MASS

Scan to
RSVP



Readings

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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**

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. **R**

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



Rembrandt (1606–1669), *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

My son, you should rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.

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PARISH NEWS

LENT & EASTER AT ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN

5 MAR WED	ASH WEDNESDAY MASS 8AM 8PM	13 APR SUN	PALM SUNDAY 9:30AM 11AM 6PM
FRIDAYS OF LENT 7, 14, 21 & 28 MAR, 4 & 11 APR	LENTEN REFLECTION GROUP 6PM @ PARISH HALL WAY OF THE CROSS 7PM TO 8PM <i>NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING WAY OF THE CROSS</i>	17 APR THU	HOLY THURSDAY 10AM CHRISM MASS @ ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL 8PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER EUCHARISTIC ADORATION UNTIL 12AM <i>NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY THURSDAY</i>
10 MAR MON TO 18 MAR TUE <i>9 CONSECUTIVE DAYS</i>	NOVENA MASSES <i>IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH</i> 8AM 8PM PARISH FEAST DAY SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH 8AM 8PM	18 APR FRI	GOOD FRIDAY 10AM LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS 3PM COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD <i>NO MASS CELEBRATED ON GOOD FRIDAY</i>
19 MAR WED	PARISH LENTEN RETREAT 3PM TO 7PM <i>RETREAT TALK BY FR LAURIE FOOTE OP. REFLECTION AND TESTIMONY OF HOPE, FOLLOWED BY VIGIL MASS</i>	19 APR SAT	HOLY SATURDAY <i>NO MORNING MASS CELEBRATED ON HOLY SATURDAY</i>
5 APR SAT		19 APR SAT	EASTER VIGIL 8PM CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
		20 APR SUN	EASTER SUNDAY 9:30AM 11AM 6PM <i>EASTER LUNCH SERVED AFTER 9:30AM & 11:00AM MASSES</i>

Our Parish Bulletin is published weekly online at stjosephscamperdown.org.au

 Visit our Facebook Page facebook.com/StJosephCamperdown

Join the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma Michigan

for a **McAuley Teatime** on Saturday 12th April, 3pm at St Joseph's Convent (beside church)

for an afternoon tea or adoration, followed by Holy Hour at 4pm and a light meal with talk on aspects of the Holy Week.

This will end by 6pm for those who wish to attend Mass at the parish.

For more information, please email sydney@almamercy.org



Meet and chat over food and a cuppa! All are welcome!

PARISH MORNING TEA
2nd Sundays after 9:30am Mass

You are welcome to bring a plate to share! If you would like to regularly contribute to our Parish Morning Tea, contact our parish office at stjocamper@gmail.com.

PILGRIM MARY & HER HOLY ROSARY HOME VISITATION



The Pilgrim Mary Home Visitation commemorates 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.

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.



First Fridays at St Joseph's

7PM Eucharistic Adoration
8PM Mass for the Sick and Healthcare Workers with Anointing of the Sick

Have you got the heart to volunteer for 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 us stjocamper@gmail.com.



SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors <small>If none indicated, the readers</small>
This Sunday 29-30 Mar	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F The Sisters Philip F Marc S	Francisco T The Sisters Cathy Wong Louie Seras	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - -
Next Sunday 5-6 Apr	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F The Sisters Philip F Marc S	Francisco T The Sisters Elly Wong Gordon L	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - Louie S, Suzane
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 Fr Ruben, Dennis, Gemma
St Camillus & Ave Maria Choir
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 Gemma | Teresa
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 our parish office stjocamper@gmail.com.

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.



WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

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

Account Name

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPERDOWN

BSB Number 062-784

Account Number 10000 4825

Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$ 1,000.00
2nd Collection	\$ 544.00
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 1,172.21

Thank you for your generosity and support!



CADIS
CAMILIAN 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



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND
Your local charity

Donate

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible and can be credited to your local parish.

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



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.



ST JOSEPH'S CAMPERDOWN PRESENTS

Jubilee: Hope

A YEAR OF

FOR THE FUTURE

SAT 5 APRIL | 3PM TO 7PM

A Parish Lenten Retreat with Talk by Fr Laurie Foote, OP, Reflections, Testimony of Hope, and 6pm Vigil Mass



RSVP HERE NOT REQUIRED BUT APPRECIATED



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



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.

Scan the QR code to stay updated on our events and ministries!





or email us at stjocamper@gmail.com

Where is God calling you to?

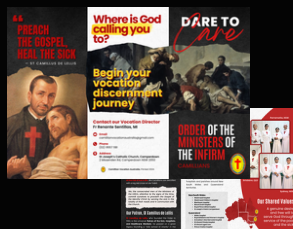


Contact our Vocation Director Fr Renante Sentillas, MI

 camillianvocationaustralia@gmail.com

 (02) 9557 1181

 St Joseph's Catholic Church - Camperdown
2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown NSW 2050



PREACH THE GOSPEL. HEAL THE SICK.

Read more



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
Visit gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

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 safeguarding@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.

Visit our parish website

