

A parish with a Heart in our Hands

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

The Epiphany of The Lord – Year C

5 January 2025

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

📘 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 usually Sunday 12:30pm; Baptismal instructions arranged with parents before baptism.

Wedding Six (6) months notice required.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be guided by our updated parish information section reflecting our **Schedule of Mass, Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration, effective 1 January 2025.**

📌 **New times are marked with this yellow icon.**

Read the full Parish Announcement on p.3.

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

The ancient Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the fact that Israel's Messiah is also the Saviour of the entire world. We believers of later generations take this for granted. But it is clear that for the earliest Christians of non-Jewish ("Gentile") origin it was a source of immense wonder and gratitude. [...] Faced with this "mystery" of the extraordinary richness and scope of God's salvation, the early Christians sought to find some foretelling of it in the Scriptures of Israel. [...] The oracles of the post-exilic prophet(s) we hear in [Isaiah] chapters 40-66, proved a rich mine for this purpose. The prophecies feature the kind of inclusive vision that emerges so magnificently from the text set for today's First Reading (Isa 60:1-6). It has clearly influenced Matthew's account of the coming of the Wise Men, which forms the Gospel.

BREAK OF DAWN The reading from Isaiah addresses the holy city, Jerusalem. The image seems to be that of the break of dawn. All around, in the valleys, is darkness ("night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples"). But the highly elevated city of Jerusalem is beginning to catch the rays of the rising sun, a magnificent illumination identified with the "glory of the Lord". At this, the nations begin streaming to Jerusalem, bringing their riches to the God of Israel.

Providing the Gospel for today's Feast, the story of the coming of the Wise Men ("magi") from the East (Matt 2:1-12) catches up and expands upon this vision. It is interesting that Matthew's gospel, so much at pains as it is to portray Jesus in Jewish light, lets this pilgrimage from the Gentile world dominate the story of Jesus' childhood. Matthew's gospel will conclude on the same note when, standing on a mountain, clad with all authority in heaven and on earth, the risen Lord commissions his disciples to go and "make disciples of all nations, ..." (28:16-20).

There are so many ways to draw rich reflections from the coming of the Wise Men. I think it is important to bring out the blend between pagan wisdom and (Jewish) scribal information that led them to the Saviour. Their own natural gifts, the wisdom of their people and their scientific investigations (astronomy) have impelled their quest. With many peoples in the ancient world they shared a belief that the birth of persons destined for greatness, especially as rulers, was signalled by extraordinary manifestations in the heavens. So they have seen in their eastern homeland a "star", according to biblical prophecy (Num 24:17), signalled the birth of a "king of the Jews" who would have universal significance. They have followed this star in their journey and it has brought them to Jerusalem. But to locate more precisely the One whose birth it announces they need to consult the scribal wisdom of Israel. The chief priests and scribes tell them of the prophecy of Micha that points them, accurately as it turns out, to David's city, Bethlehem.

A PATTERN OF REVELATION We see here a pattern whereby revelation springs from a combination of natural wisdom and biblical prophecy. The human gifts and learning of these representatives of the Gentile world play an essential role in leading them to the Saviour.

Foreshadowing the later adherence of multitudes of Gentile believers to the faith, the wise men discover the child with his mother Mary (Joseph at this point has faded from view) and pay homage to him as their ruler. They place before him the gifts of their culture—gifts graciously received. Much has been made in Christian tradition of the symbolism of the three gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh [a pleasing aromatic substance]). In the original account the gifts fulfil significant details contained in the biblical (OT) texts lying behind the story: Isaiah 60 (... First Reading) and Psalm 71[72] (... Responsorial Psalm). They complete the biblical picture of the nations of the world bringing their wealth to Jerusalem in exchange for the spiritual riches they will receive from the Jewish Saviour.

Their journey has been one of faith and risk. Their coming has caused "disturbance" in Jerusalem. The treacherous and murderously calculating figure of Herod looms over all, presaging the Passion that is to come. But the riches of God's salvation will go to the Gentiles. We walk in the footsteps of the wise men. We share their wisdom, their longing, their faith, and the joy of their discovery, and all nations of the world continue to bring their gifts to the 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

The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall and prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–1682), Adoration of the Magi

GOSPEL (cont.)

Matthew 2:1-12

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the east and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

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

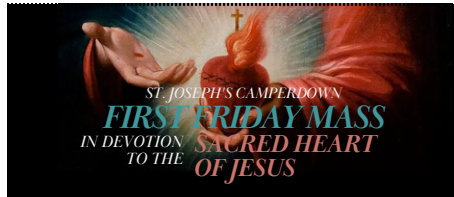
Monday to Friday 8AM, 8PM
Saturday 8AM, 6PM (Vigil)
Sunday 9:30AM, 11AM, 6PM

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.

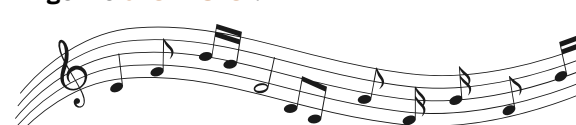
SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors If none indicated, the readers
This Sunday 4-5 Jan	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Diana V Marc S Philip F Gemma T	Bradford B Gordon L Elly W Corazon F	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - c/ Gemma
Next Sunday 11-12 Jan	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Alicia B Angeline AL Elizabeth C Gemma T	Yvona W Ricky L Agnes W Marc S	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - c/ Gemma
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

Account Name

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPERDOWN

BSB Number 062-784

Account Number 10000 4825

Parish Collection

	W/E 29 Dec '24	22 Dec '24
1st Collection	\$ 689.05	\$ 717.35
2nd Collection	\$ 566.40	\$ 551.75
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 971.08	\$ 1,108.03

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 or 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.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

THE WAY OF WONDER
WITH BILL DONAGHY
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FAMILY EVENT
SATURDAY, 18 JANUARY 2025
ST JOACHIM CATHOLIC PARISH | 2 MILLS ST, LIDCOMBE
TIME: 6:45PM DOORS OPEN FOR 7:00PM EVENT START
TRYBOOKING.COM/CWNXL

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS*

- 5 Jan Epiphany of the Lord
- 7 Jan Saint Raymond of Penyafort
- 12 Jan The Baptism of the Lord
- 13 Jan Saint Hilary
- 17 Jan Saint Anthony
- 20 Jan Saint Fabian, Saint Sebastian
- 21 Jan Saint Agnes
- 22 Jan Saint Vincent
- 24 Jan Saint Francis de Sales
- 25 Jan The Conversion of St Paul

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@sudneycatholic.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

