

# A parish with a Heart in our Hands

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAMPERDOWN NSW, AUSTRALIA

The Baptism of The Lord – Year C

12 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](mailto: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!*

**With the feast of the Baptism we make a swift transition from Jesus' childhood to the event that, in all four gospels, inaugurates his adult public ministry.** The first two readings are the same as in Year A (as in the commentary below), though the Lectionary gives the option of substituting Isa 40:1-5, 9-11 and Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 in Year C. The Gospel account of Jesus' Baptism for Year C is that of Luke, 3:15-16, 21-22.

In the Gospel (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22), Luke's account begins with a notice about 'a feeling of expectancy' that had arisen among the people. What they are 'expecting' of course is appearance of the long-promised Messiah. They wonder whether John the Baptist might fill this role. But John's disclaimer is clear: he baptises with water – a simple rite of conversion and preparation for the messianic age. A 'stronger One' is coming who will baptise, not with water, but 'with the Holy Spirit and fire'. It is probably right to take these two terms, 'Holy Spirit' and 'fire', closely together. At Pentecost the 'baptism' with the Spirit that the disciples are to receive will involve the appearance upon them of tongues 'as if of fire' (Acts 2:3). Essentially, then, the role of the Stronger One (Jesus) will be to cleanse and empower people with the gift of the Spirit, the force of the messianic era that is now at hand.

### PRAYER THEME

Luke notes but does not particularly stress (contrast Matthew 3:13-17) the baptism of Jesus at the hands of John. It is what happens next that is truly significant. Distinctive to Luke is the notice that the experience Jesus is about to undergo takes place while he is 'at prayer' (v. 21). Prayer is a notable theme in Luke. Jesus prays at significant moments in his ministry (6:12; 9:18; 9:28; 22:40-46; 23:34, 46). Prayer erases the barrier between heaven and earth. While Jesus is praying, the 'heavens are opened', responding to a plea in Isa 64:1 ('O that you would tear open the heavens and come down'), signalling the onset of the messianic age.

The descent of the Spirit ('in bodily form like a dove') has been variously explained. In view of the address that follows: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased', there are grounds for thinking that Jesus' experience of the Spirit here is essentially an assurance of the Father's love (cf. Paul in Rom 5:5: 'God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us'). This is his 'anointing' with the Spirit that he will announce when inaugurating his ministry, proclaiming the fulfillment of Isa 61:1-2, in the synagogue of Nazareth (4:16-22). His mission, empowered by the Spirit (4:14), will be to rebuild a People of God upon that same assurance of love.

### TRINITARIAN

Without wanting to suggest an anticipation here of the fully formulated doctrine of the Trinity, it is important, I think, to note the 'trinitarian' dimension of the scene: the divine communion of love that is the Trinity (Father, Son, and Spirit) is operative, not in heavenly remoteness, but here on earth at the Jordan river. The mission of the Son which will be to draw human beings (the 'lost family' of God for Luke) back into the warmth of the Father's home, into the 'fire' of that divine communion of love.

In this way, I think, today's feast, while overtly about the baptism of Jesus, is also about us as well. Every baptised and confirmed believer can hear the Father's voice from heaven: 'You are my beloved son; you are my beloved daughter; in you I am well pleased'.

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

**When the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased.**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear' say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R**

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. **R**

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. **R**

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. **R**

You take back your spirit, they die, turning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **R**

## SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was



Andrea del Verrocchio (1435-1488) & Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), *The Baptism of Christ*

## SECOND READING (cont.)

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God.**

## 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

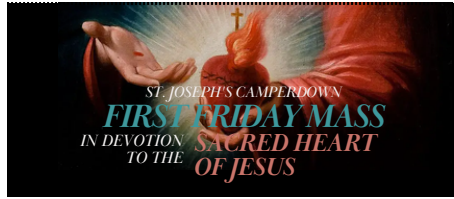
**Monday to Friday** 8AM, 8PM  
**Saturday** 8AM, 6PM (Vigil)  
**Sunday** 9:30AM, 11AM, 6PM

### 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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com) or any members of our Lay Camillian Family and avail of our pastoral services to our suffering parishioners.

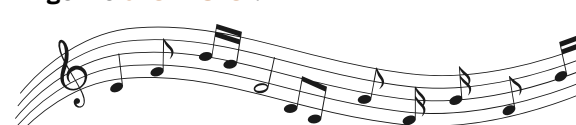
## SCHEDULE OF READERS & COLLECTORS

Week	Mass Times	Commentator & 1st Reader	2nd Reader & Prayers of the Faithful	Collectors If none indicated, the readers
<b>This Sunday</b> 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 Louise S	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - c/ Gemma
<b>Next Sunday</b> 18-19 Jan	Vigil 6 PM 9:30 AM 11 AM 6 PM	Corazon F The Sisters Sharon K Marc S	Francisco T The Sisters John L Louie S	Acu, Santa Maria, Francisco - Marc, Gordon
<b>Daily Mass</b>	<b>Morning</b> <b>Evening</b>	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.



## Martha Ministry

We are looking for parishioners who can help with the regular upkeep of our church, e.g. vacuuming the inside of the church including the choir loft and cleaning the toilets, ideally every Saturday to prepare the church for the Sunday Masses.

Having multiple volunteers will help to divide the tasks and form a roster.

If you would like to help, please send us an email at [stjocamper@gmail.com](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com) or you may approach one of our priests. Thank you!

*Your help is very much appreciated!*

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### LAST WEEK'S Parish Collection

1st Collection	\$ 1,283.95
2nd Collection	\$ 494.90
EFTPOS Giving	\$ 780.05

*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

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.



**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Donate through scanning the QR code or by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

Donate

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



## 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](mailto:stjocamper@gmail.com) for assistance.

## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

[gomakedisdisciples.org.au/cas-events](http://gomakedisdisciples.org.au/cas-events)

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

STORIES, WISDOM, AND ENCOURAGEMENT

## MATT & CAMERON FRADD 2025

WEDNESDAY 7:00PM-9:00PM  
5TH FEBRUARY

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH HOLSWORTHY

[SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/LMF](http://SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/LMF)



## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS\*

- 12 Jan The Baptism of the Lord
- 13 Jan St Hilary
- 17 Jan St Anthony
- 20 Jan St Fabian, St Sebastian
- 21 Jan St Agnes
- 22 Jan St Vincent
- 24 Jan St Francis de Sales
- 25 Jan The Conversion of St Paul
- 27 Jan Sts Timothy and Titus  
St Angela Merici
- 31 Jan St John Bosco
- 2 Feb The Presentation of the Lord
- 3 Feb St Ansgar, St Blaise

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](mailto: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

