

Churches reopened

www.stmelscampsie.org.au

Even though mass attendance is now unlimited we are still required to **comply with the social distancing rule which is 4sqm per person. This means with the area available in our Church we can only accommodate 100 people per mass.** In line with this requirement on every pew you will find a sticker indicating where you are to sit during masses. We realize that families have indicated that they would like to be seated together however if we allow families to sit as groups we would need to separate people further apart and that would restrict our numbers in the area we have. So out of respect of others we kindly ask if you could adhere to the social distancing rules in place.

If you would like to attend mass or know somebody who would like to attend, we ask you first to register at our parish website at:

www.stmelscampsie.org.au

(This website is a work in progress so again we appreciate your patience.)

If you do not have access to a computer or internet call or email the parish office and we will be able to assist you to register for your preferred mass.

We do understand the frustration of not being able to attend mass as usual, however, we ask you to be patient and abide by the current restrictions.

Please note that on weekends you will need to enter the Church via the front entrance, and during the weekday you will need to use the side door only, (presbytery side).

On entering and leaving the Church you must sanitise your hands using the sanitiser dispensers available.

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs in a parish, every person who has registered as an attendee of the parish will be contacted with further instructions.

JRS Appeal for Foodbank Donations

The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile food bank is a huge and growing operation. Since 1 April, they have collectively fed more than 5,000 women, children, and men who have lost jobs, been excluded from Federal Government financial support and cannot return home. In one week alone they fed close to 800 people, including by providing more than 300 kg of rice, 300 kg of pasta, 300 litres of long life milk, 500 cans of tuna and much more! Regardless, their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna, and long life milk are **RUNNING LOW**. If you can donate these items we have drop off spots around Sydney here. In the absence of Federal Government support for people in need, we continue to need your help. Please visit: <http://jrs.org.au/how-to-help-refugees-and-people-seeking-.../> and learn how you can support people who have no other means to buy these basics for their families. This short video also shows what happens to the food donations that are made: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=293160638622911>



You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'



St Mel's Parish

Est 1915

7 Evaline Street Campsie NSW 2194
Ph. 9787 1582

Email: stmelscampsie@bigpond.com

Website: www.stmelscampsie.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Anthony Mifsud

Parish Secretary: Diane Daher

Parish Office Opening hours: 9.30am-3pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
Monday & Wednesday office is closed.

St Mel's Catholic Primary School:
9789 3800

PARISH MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10am and (5pm mass during COVID-19 restrictions)
Weekdays: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
Wednesday: 7pm followed by adoration.

SACRAMENTS:

Reconciliation: Saturday 10am to 10.30am & 4pm to 4.30pm.
Baptismal Preparation: First Tuesday of The Month. Call Parish Office to register.
Baptisms: 11am Sundays
Weddings: By arrangement with six months notice
Care for the Sick: Please call the presbytery.

DEVOTIONS: *(currently cancelled until further restrictions ease)*

Rosary: After weekday masses
Adoration: 9.30am Saturday & first Friday of the month
Italian Prayer Group: Tuesday. 10am - Lower Parish Hall.

SAINTS and FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

SATURDAY 1st August: St Alphonsus Liguori (bishop, doctor)
MONDAY 3rd August: St Dominic (priest)
TUESDAY 4th August: St John Vianney (priest)
THURSDAY 6th August: The Transfiguration of The Lord
SATURDAY 8th August: St Mary of The Cross (virgin)
MONDAY 10th August: St Lawrence (deacon, martyr)
TUESDAY 11th August: St Clare (virgin)
FRIDAY 14th August: St Maximilian Mary Koebe (priest, martyr)
SATURDAY 15th August: The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary
THURSDAY 20th August: St Bernard (abbot, doctor)
FRIDAY 21st August: St Pius X (pope)
SATURDAY 22nd August: The Queenship of The Blessed Virgin Mary
MONDAY 24th August: St Bartholomew (apostle)
THURSDAY 27th August: St Monica
FRIDAY 28th August: St Augustine (bishop, doctor)
SATURDAY 29th August: The Passion of St John The Baptist (martyr)

FIRST READING *Is 22:19-23***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8, R. v.8*

(R.) *Lord, Your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of Your hands*

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *Rom 11:33-36***A reading from letter of the St Paul to the Romans**

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Mt 16:18***Alleluia, alleluia!**

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mt 16:13-20***A reading from the Holy Gospel according Matthew**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said ‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.’ Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

GOSPEL OF THE LORD**We remember in our Masses**

Lord, we commend to your loving care all the sick of our parish: Iris Eagleson, Dyan Rivai, Jerome Evan Carrillo, Joan Karam, Violet El-Kazzi, Elena Lorenzo, George Mattar, Nicholas Galvez Sr, Jeanette Lahood, Michelle & Toufic El-Dib, Leila Machaalany, John Duigan, Helena Knox, Cong Hen Khong, Peter Xu, Flordeliza Gonzales, Joshua & Francesco Frascella, Lisa Santo, Cindy Williams, John Heirlehy, Mary Maney, Chahid Hanna, Joseph Romain, Maura Turija, Betty Williams, Ampy Bollman, Mark & Merle Batterson, Ramon Alonzo, Rosalie Ferraren, David Sheumack, Claude & Jeanette Chidiac, Madeline Abouzeid,

Lord, we pray for our recently deceased especially: Antonious Constantine, Eileen MaCarthy, Clara Baet, Wiyano Hindarto, Nancy McAppion, Habib Safi, Youmana Farhart, Rolly Madrona, John James Lee, Maria Di Noia, Antointette Pace, Marie Varini, Clara Baet, Avelina Jimenez, Eddie Doran, Veejay Hernandez, Anna Maria Stergion,

We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed: Quintino Ferreira, Maria Amelia & Martinho, Maria Jose Ramos, Hesnay Moses, Joseph Dann, Maria Schembri, Rodolfo & Carmelita Constantino, Leodegario Chan, Francesco Viterale, Maria Morais, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, Shirley Gorrie,

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Annie Samuel, George Rego, Frank Samuel. Isabelo Corpus, Sarkis Karam, Ane Khong, Ron Coorey, Mary Miles Navarez, **Lord Hear Us.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Phillipi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

Have you thought? What's in a name?

On many occasions in the Bible a character is given, or takes on, a new name when they take on a new role or move to a new level in their faith and relationship with God. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; and Saul became Paul. In all of these circumstances the person took on a new name to reflect their new relationship with God. This tradition has continued right to this day. Men and women entering religious life have traditionally taken on a new name to indicate the new life they are entering. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became pope he took on the name Benedict to indicate the new role and the new life he was beginning.

Living the Gospel ... Who do YOU say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.

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Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.