

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.

Solemnity of The Assumption

Friday 14th August: 7pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of The Assumption.

Saturday 15th August: 9am Mass

PLEASE REGISTER FOR MASS ONLINE

If you are unable to attend mass on the Solemnity of The Assumption please be aware that you can always participate in the mass via youtube at St Mary's Cathedral:

www.stmaryscathedral.org.au

Parent Line

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don't know where to start. Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage. Call us **7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.**

COVID-19 Update

The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.



Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering Whom you are trying to follow.

Do not be afraid.

Love one another, bear with one another and let charity guide you all your life. God will reward you as only He can.

*St Mary of the Cross
MacKillop
(1842-1909)*



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 1 Kgs 19:9-11-13***A reading from the book of Kings***

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.’ Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) *Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Rom 9:1-5***A reading from letter of the St Paul to the Romans***

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 19:38*Alleluia, alleluia!*

I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.

*Alleluia!***GOSPEL** Mt 14:22-33***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew***

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost’ they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, ‘Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.’ It was Peter who answered. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.’ ‘Come’ said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. ‘Lord! Save me!’ he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. ‘Man of little faith,’ he said ‘why did you doubt?’ And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’

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, Max Lay, 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, Lyn Martin, Irene Antonio, Bill Gaynor, Cindy Williams, John Heirlehy, Francisco De Felipe, Marie Varini, Mary Maney, Chahid Hanna, Joseph Romain, Maura Turija, Betty Williams, Vicky Pineda, Leonardo Hasham, Ampy Bollman, Mark & Merle Batterson, Ramon Alonzo, Rosalie Ferraren, David Sheumack, Claude & Jeanette Chidiac, Madeline Abouzeid,

Lord, we pray for our recently deceased especially: Eileen MaCarthy, Clara Baet, Wiyano Hindarto, Nancy McAppion, Habib Safi, Youmana Farhart, Rolly Madrona, John James Lee, Maria Di Noia, Antoinette Pace, Habib Safi, Marie Varini, Clara Baet, Avelina Jimenez, Eddie Doran, Veejay Hernandez, Anna Maria Stergion, **We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed:** Maround & Rose Diab, Amin Lay, Maria Amelia & Martinho, Maria Jose Ramos, Da Silva family members, Edward Joseph Jacobs, Ena Mary Jacobs, Edwin James Jacobs, Francis Joseph Jacobs, Anne Delores Jacobs, Hesnay Moses, Joseph Dann, Maria Schembri, Kerry Johnson, Rodolfo & Carmelita Constantino, Leodegario Chan, Jose & Maria Da Silva, Francesco Viterale, Mantoura Makhoul, Jose Miguel De Andrade, Maria Morais, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, Shirley Gorrie, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Maria Portia Mariano, Vince Samuel, Isabelo Corpus, Sarkis Karam, Ane Khong, Ron Coorey, Mary Miles Navarez, **Lord Hear Us.**

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

I don't know that we've ever properly understood the significance of the disciples in the gospels; our attention is always focused on Jesus. The disciples certainly got the inside running on all of Jesus' teachings; they witnessed the miracles; and were themselves empowered to carry on the work of Jesus. They can be seen as the prototypes for all the followers of Jesus that have come since. When we read the gospel stories we can perhaps place ourselves in the position of James or John or Peter or Andrew.

To be a disciple to a rabbi was not just to be a supporter or an interested bystander. To be a disciple was to hungrily learn from your rabbi. The fact that all of Jesus' disciples were called from other walks of life means that no other rabbi had already chosen them. They had been passed over as not good enough to study with a rabbi. When they were called by Jesus it was an opportunity they would never have dreamed possible; of course they left everything and followed him.

To be a disciple was effectively an apprenticeship to becoming a rabbi. To be discipled to a rabbi was to believe that you could do what your rabbi did. It is this belief that makes Peter get out of the boat. His rabbi is walking on the water and Peter believes that he can do what his rabbi does. And extraordinarily, Peter begins to walk on the water just like Jesus. It is only when he starts to think about what he's doing that he sinks. When Jesus asks Peter, ‘Why did you doubt?’ he is asking Peter why he doubted himself. It wasn't that Peter doubted Jesus; he doubted his own ability to be the equal of his rabbi!

Historical Context – Separation

The image of Jesus still ashore while the disciples battled against strong winds and rising seas must have been an evocative one for the Matthean community. Like the disciples, they were acutely aware of their separation from Jesus. Unlike the disciples, they were separated by time and the raging storm that beset them was a tide of suspicion and persecution. At times they felt the strength and courage of Peter to step out of the boat and be Jesus in their world, but at other times they doubted their own abilities. It is a message for the Church of the day and the Church of today.

Living the Gospel – Christian

What does it mean to describe oneself as a Christian today? A common understanding might be ‘one who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ’. Perhaps, based on the understanding of what it meant to be a disciple, we might better describe a Christian as one who learns from the teachings of Jesus and seeks to emulate the work of Jesus. That is, a Christian is someone who models their life on the example of Jesus and is the face of Jesus to others. That's a tougher job description than just turning up to church once a week or putting a bumper sticker on your car.