

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.

Padre Pio Sculpture

Our Padre Pio sculpture has now been completed.

These are photos of the completed sculpture taken just before it was being prepared to be shipped. We are expecting the delivery in late September, however due to COVID restrictions this could be longer.

The formwork in preparation for the sculptures arrival will begin shortly on the grounds just between the Church and Presbytery. We have also set up a security camera where the sculpture will be situated on the Parish grounds.

We look forward to Padre Pios' safe arrival from Canada!



St Mel's Parish

Est 1915

7 Evaline Street Campsie NSW 2194

Ph. 9787 1582

Email: stmelcampsie@bigpond.com

Website: www.stmelcampsie.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

THURSDAY 3rd September: St Gregory the Great (pope, doctor)
TUESDAY 8th September: The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary
MONDAY 14th September: The Exaltation of The Holy Cross
TUESDAY 15th September: Our Lady of Sorrows
WEDNESDAY 16th September: Sts Cornelius, (pope, martyr) & Cyprian (bishop, martyr)
MONDAY 21st September: St Matthew (apostle, evangelist)
WEDNESDAY 23rd September: St Pius of Pietrelcina (priest)
TUESDAY 29th September: Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, (archangels)
WEDNESDAY 30th September: St Jerome (priest, doctor)

FIRST READING Sir 27:30 – 28:7**A reading from the prophet Ecclesiasticus**

A reading from the book of Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,

who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another,

can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,

can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,

remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;

remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults **(R.)**

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Rom 14:7-9**A reading from letter of the St Paul to the****Romans**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 18:21-35**A reading from the Holy Gospel according****Matthew**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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: Mervyn Baldwin, Joyce Nip, Antonios Khoury Boulos Constantine, Eileen MaCarthy, Clara Baet, Wiyano Hindarto, Nancy McAppion, Habib Safi, Youmana Farhart, Rolly Madrona, John James Lee, Maria Di Noia, Antoinette 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:** Manuel & Frederica Alapide, Nunzio Marsiglione, Fariyda & Antoun Mrad Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, Shirley Gorrie, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Ramez & Rada Constantine, Frank Stanton, John Chakty, George Melhem Azzi & family, Michael & Souad Chidiac & family, George Farid Azzi & family, Saidi & Fred Stanton, George Melhem Azzi & Family members, Michael & Souad Chidiac & family members, **Lord Hear Us.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

Have you thought?

The parable sees the unforgiving servant putting his fellow servant in prison 'until he paid back the debt'. This is almost exclusively what prisons were used for until only a few hundred years ago. When a person could not repay a debt, they were held in prison until the debt was paid. Of course, being in prison, they had little opportunity to repay the debt themselves and relied on friends and relatives to repay the debt on their behalf. To pay someone's debt was to 'redeem' them. The earliest ideas of Christ as a 'Redeemer' were based on the idea of Christ paying a debt on behalf of humankind.

Scriptural context – A Scriptural Sandwich: The placement of this discourse about confronting your brother **Living the Gospel – Just like Peter**

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship.