

**Churches reopened**  
[www.stmelscampsie.org.au](http://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](http://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.

**Holy Places Appeal 2020**

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land normally takes place on Good Friday. This year, due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date for this collection to Sunday September 13th to coincide with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on 14th September. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It also maintains over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, rural droughts and the increasing cost of living. This year, we are again facing great challenges due to COVID-19, but your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Sunday September 13th and please also keep them in your prayers. Therefore, in line with Pope Francis request, at all masses this weekend 19th/20th September at St Mel's, we are having a leaving collection in aid of this appeal. Anyone who is unable to attend our parish for weekend masses and would like to donate to this appeal can still do so by using the **"Support Us"** link on our website which is: [www.stmelscampsie.org.au](http://www.stmelscampsie.org.au) Please reference your donation with Holy Land 2020.

**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:** [stmelscampsie@bigpond.com](mailto:stmelscampsie@bigpond.com)

**Website:** [www.stmelscampsie.org.au](http://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:**

**Rosary:** After weekday masses  
**Adoration:** 9.30am Saturday & first Friday of the month *(cancelled until further notice)*  
**Italian Prayer Group:** Tuesday. 10am - Lower Parish Hall. *(currently cancelled until further restrictions ease)*

**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** Is 55:6-9**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

**WORD OF THE LORD.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18**(R.) The Lord is near to all who call Him.**

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Phil 1:20-24. 27**A reading from letter of the St Paul to the  
Philippians**

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or  
by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death  
would bring me something more; but then again, if living in  
this body means doing work which is having good results –  
I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this di-  
lemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would  
be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this  
body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be un-  
worthy of the gospel of Christ.

**WORD OF THE LORD.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** See Acts 16:14**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Mt 20:1-16**A reading from the Holy Gospel according  
Matthew**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is  
like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire work-  
ers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the  
workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his  
vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw  
others standing idle in the market place and said to  
them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you  
a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour  
and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did  
the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went  
out and found more men standing round, and he said  
to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all  
day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered.  
He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In  
the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his  
bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages,  
starting with the last arrivals and ending with the  
first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh  
hour came forward and received one denarius each.  
When the first came, they expected to get more, but  
they too received one denarius each. They took it, but  
grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came  
last” they said “have done only one hour, and you  
have treated them the same as us, though we have  
done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He an-  
swered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not  
being unjust to you; did we not agree on one de-  
narius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay  
the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right  
to do what I like with my own? Why be envious be-  
cause I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and  
the first, last.’

**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 Yip, 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:** Kevin Cooper, Helen George, Francesco Viterale, Teofisto Mandanas, 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:** Jose Antonio Guerrero, 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**

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus’ story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, ‘The kingdom is like ...’ and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner’s final comment in the parable, ‘the last will be first, and the first, last’, is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus’ kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

**Historical Context – Labourers for hire**

Jesus’ parable describes a situation that would have been very familiar to his audience. At the time, there were many quite wealthy landowners who controlled large vineyards, orchards and crop fields. They would have employed a certain number of permanent workers but come harvest time there was a need for more workers and, much like today, they sought to employ part time workers for a short period of time until the rush was over. Men looking for work would gather in the marketplace of a village and landowners would select workers and send them to their property to work.

**Scriptural context – Kingdom parables**

A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging ‘shift’ to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn’t. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This ‘shift’ is sometimes called a ‘discombobulating shift’.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our ‘normal’ relationships.