

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. The statue has now been shipped and should arrive by mid October however due to COVID restrictions collection of the statue could take a little longer.

The formwork in preparation for the sculptures has begun 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.

At his canonization, St. John Paul II invoked the intercession of Padre Pio and asked for strength to endure any trial. St. Padre Pio endured much suffering in his life, but also did all he could to relieve the suffering of others. His example of selfless sacrifice has inspired many over the years, including St. John Paul II, who visited him and later canonized him. For the canonization, John Paul II composed a beautiful prayer invoking Padre Pio's intercession, looking to his heavenly assistance in enduring any trial.

Teach us, we ask you, humility of heart so we may be counted among the little ones of the Gospel, to whom the Father promised to reveal the mysteries of his Kingdom.

Help us to pray without ceasing, certain that God knows what we need even before we ask him.

Obtain for us the eyes of faith that will be able to recognize right away in the poor and suffering the face of Jesus.

Sustain us in the hour of the combat and of the trial and, if we fall, make us experience the joy of the sacrament of forgiveness.

Grant us your tender devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.

Accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage toward the blessed homeland, where we hope to arrive in order to contemplate forever the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



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:

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 Ez 18:25-28**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6**(R.) Remember Your mercies O Lord**

Lord, make me know your ways.

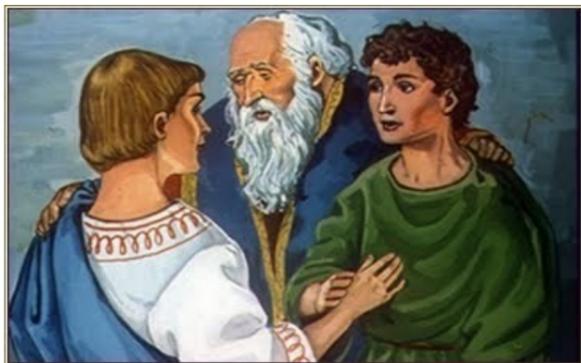
Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Phil 2:1-11**A reading from letter of the St Paul to the Philippians**

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 21:28-32**A reading from the Holy Gospel according Matthew**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

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: Celine Haykal, 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:** Salim & Hesnay Moses, Reda & Chafic Khoury-Boulos, Aaron Vidal, Habib & Fayez Safi, Lionel McKenzie, Abraham Sabbagh, John George, Maurice Shaya, members of the Shaya, Allison & Coorey families, Kevin Cooper, Manuel & Frederica Alapide, Nunzio Marsiglione, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, Shirley Gorrie, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Jose Antonio Guerrero, John Chakty, George Melhem Azzi & family, Michael & Souad Chidiac & family, George Farid Azzi & family, George Melhem Azzi & Family members, **Lord Hear Us.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week’s gospel passage is one of many within Matthew’s gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew’s gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week’s passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons, each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says ‘No’ but later does his father’s bidding. The second says ‘Yes’ but doesn’t follow through on his commitment.

Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said ‘Yes’ to God but by their actions said ‘No’. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as ‘sinners’ beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said ‘No’ to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying ‘Yes’ to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said ‘Yes’ to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a ‘religious profile’ but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said ‘Yes!’

From the perspective of ... A Tax Collector

Hey, Jesus is talking about me again! I love it when he says that I’m better than some of those stuck up chief priests. All my life they’ve looked down on me; pretending they’re better than me. I’ve seen the way some of them behave when they think no-one’s watching! They’re no better than me! And Jesus says that people like me will enter the kingdom before people like them! Yes! I know I’ve done the wrong thing plenty of times – Jesus has helped me to see that. Maybe that’s what makes me different from those priests; I don’t pretend that I’ve never done anything wrong.

Historical Context – Chief Priests and Tax Collectors

Only men of the Israelite tribe of Levi could become Priests and Levites. Men from the other eleven tribes were prohibited. It was not a religious ‘call’ but rather a fact of birth that led men to be priests. The chief priests and high priest performed all the rituals in the Temple in Jerusalem – it was they who performed sacrifices on behalf of others. They were very important and influential. Tax collectors were regarded poorly because they acted on behalf of the Romans – collecting revenue for an occupying and pagan force. They made their living by collecting extra amounts. They were looked down upon by most people.

Living the Gospel – Saying ‘Yes!’

In many ways, it is easy to say ‘Yes’ and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say ‘Yes’ when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It’s easy to say ‘Yes’ and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It’s pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the ‘right’ thing. But if our faith doesn’t change the way we live, then maybe we’re really saying ‘No’ to God.