

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 Ez 33:7-9*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 94:1-2,6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to His voice.

Harden not your hearts

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ **(R.)**

SECOND READING Rom 13:8-10*A reading from letter of the St Paul to the Romans*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself,
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 18:15-20*A reading from the Holy Gospel according Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

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: Antonios Khoury Boulos 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:** Boutros Hanna Boutros, Abraham Sabbagh, Agnes Theseira, Safi & Sabbagh family members, Francis Samia, Quintino Ferreira, Maria Amelia & Martinho, 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, Maria Dang, William McFarlane, Saidi & Fred Stanton, Barbara Farhat, Isabelo Corpus, George Melhem Azzi & Family members, Michael & Souad Chidiac & family members, Georges Farid Azzi & family members **Lord Hear Us.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week’s gospel provides us with a lesson that could be well heeded in our contemporary world. Matthew relates a discourse on dealing with a grievance or sin between two ‘brothers’ – community members; fellow disciples. Matthew advises his audience that the first step is to try to resolve the matter privately between the offender and the one offended. This is a practice that seems to have almost disappeared today. When one person feels offended or hurt by another, it seems the last thing they do is to go and speak to the person, confront them with the hurt and try to resolve it. Soap operas and TV sitcoms promote avoidance of issues. The sub-text of so many TV shows is about lying to cover up a mistake; seeking revenge for some perceived (usually incorrect) insult; or working through others to try to deal with some hurt. If characters on these TV shows were to confront one another with a perceived hurt and seek to resolve the difference between them, then there would be no ‘drama’ to play out in the show. Admittedly, it doesn’t make for great television, but it does make for much better relationships.

Matthew advises his community that only after a failed attempt to address an issue face to face should other members of the community become involved to further confront the offender through witnessing to their fault. The third step is to bring the person before the church community to be confronted with their actions and only after these three attempts to challenge the person fail should they be shunned. There is a very strong message of reconciliation that comes through this process. The person is given every chance to face their error and to seek amends with the one they have hurt. The whole process works towards bringing the community back together in harmony, not to seek revenge and punishment.

Historical Context – Tell the Church: The idea of bringing a ‘sinner’ or offender before the church community to be confronted is one that the early Christians borrowed from the Jewish culture out of which they were formed. In Jewish society, the local synagogue was effectively a community centre. It was a gathering place, not only for worship and education, but also for meeting, debating and seeking solutions to problems. The synagogue community took on the role of mediator, witness, jury, judge and, if needed, punisher. The role of the scribes in Jewish society was to interpret the Law – the Torah – in resolving everyday situations.

Scriptural context – A Scriptural Sandwich: The placement of this discourse about confronting your brother within the gospel of Matthew helps to shed light on its meaning. Immediately preceding this passage is the parable of the Lost Sheep, about leaving the 99 to go out in search of the one lost sheep. Immediately following this week’s passage is the parable of the unmerciful or unforgiving servant who, despite receiving forgiveness of his own debt from his master, throws a fellow servant in debtors prison for failing to pay back money owed. The three passages together give a detailed discourse on forgiveness and reconciliation – dealing with those who have sinned, even against you personally and the powerful call to compassion and mercy.

Living the Gospel – Facing the issue: It can be very difficult when we feel that someone has hurt us to actually go and speak to them about how we are feeling. It is so much easier to revel in our hurt or seek payback for the hurt. Sometimes we feel that we might ruin a friendship by speaking to our friend about a way in which they have hurt us. But a hurt that goes unaddressed will continue to hurt and will probably be repeated. This week’s gospel reminds us of the need to challenge our friends when they hurt us but it also reminds us that when we have hurt others we need to be challenged about it and called to account for our actions.