

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



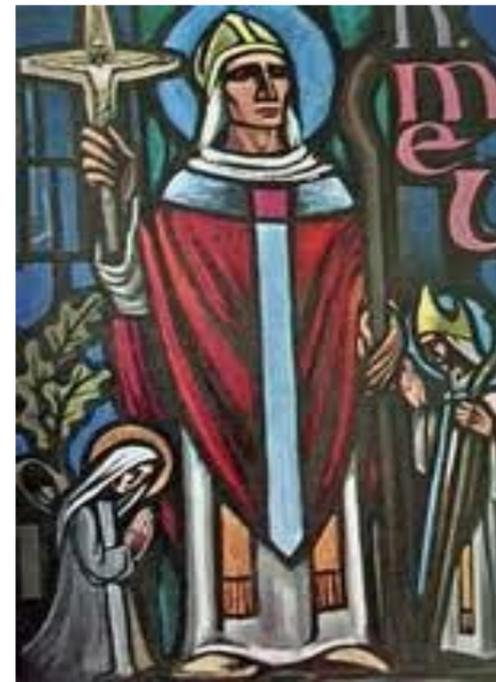
Our Padre Pio sculpture has now been completed. These are photos of the completed sculpture taken just before it was being prepared to be shipped. The statue has now been shipped and should arrive by mid October however due to COVID restrictions collection of the statue could take a little longer. The 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.

Month of November Mass Intentions (Book Of Remembrance)

November is a special time when we pray for all our deceased family, friends, relatives and all souls in Purgatory.

In preparation for masses during November, we will have our 'Book of Remembrance' which will include all the names of our deceased loved ones whom you would like to pray and offer masses for. In order for us to prepare the Book of Remembrance we invite you to place a November Mass envelope with the names of your deceased loved ones whom you would like mass offered for in the basket that will be placed beside the Altar during the whole month of October. (Envelopes can be found at the back of the Church and at each side entrance of the Church). This will give us enough time to print the names and have the book ready for the 1st November. The Book of Remembrance will be part of each mass during November and part of the Offertory Procession at weekend masses. **Please note that during the month of November, no separate mass intentions will be mentioned; every mass will be offered for all intentions that are written in the Book Of Remembrance.** It is good to offer mass for all our deceased loved ones, yet it is even more rewarding to attend mass and pray for them yourself.



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:

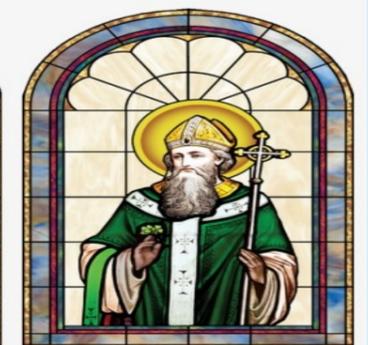
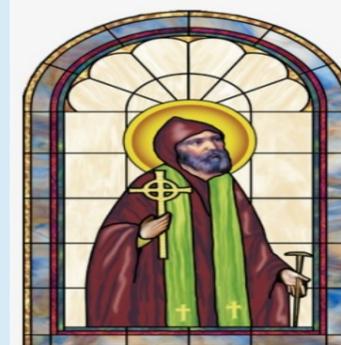
Reconciliation: Saturday 10am to 10.30am & 4pm to 4.30pm.
Baptismal Preparation: First Tuesday of The Month. Call Parish Office to register.
Baptisms: 11am Sundays
Weddings: By arrangement with six months notice
Care for the Sick: Please call the presbytery.

DEVOTIONS:

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 1st October: St Therese of The Child Jesus (virgin, doctor)
FRIDAY 2nd October: The Holy Guardian Angels
WEDNESDAY 7th October: Our Lady of The Rosary
THURSDAY 15th October: St Therese of Jesus (virgin, doctor)
SATURDAY 17th October: St Ignatius of Antioch (bishop, martyr)
WEDNESDAY 28th October: Sts Simon and Jude (apostles)



FIRST READING *Is 25:6-10***A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 22. R. v.6*

(R.) *I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *Phil 4:12-14. 19-20***A reading from letter of the St Paul to the Philippians**

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen. **WORD OF THE LORD.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *See Eph 1:17-18***Alleluia, alleluia!**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!**GOSPEL** *Mt 22:1-14***A reading from the Holy Gospel according****Matthew**

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.' **GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

We remember in our Masses

Lord, we commend to your loving care all the sick of our parish: Therese Shmely, 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: Elizabeth Khoury, Celine Haykal, Mervyn Baldwin, Joyce Yip, Antonios Khoury Boulos Constantine, Eileen MaCarthy, Clara Baet, Wiyano Hindarto, Habib Safi, You-mana Farhart, Rolly Madrona, John James Lee, Maria Di Noia, Antointette Pace, Marie Varini, Clara Baet, Avelina Jimenez, **We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed:** Francis Samia, Concordia Daco, members of the Martinez Salazar families, Flovina Malubag, Rose Giampietro, Leodegario Enting Chan, Francesco Viterale, Maria & Jose Da Silva, Aaron Vidal, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, Shirley Gorie, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Celine Haykal, Sam & Hesna Moses, Reda & Chafic Khoury-Boulos, Lewis Francois Bhuruth, Elie Adoni, George & Marian Ibrahim, Jose Antonio Guerrero, George Melhem Azzi & family, Michael & Souad Chidiac & family, George Farid Azzi & family **Lord Hear Us.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Who you ate with in Jesus' time was very important – it reflected your own status. To share table with people who were regarded as 'lesser' by nature of their lifestyle or illness was seen to lessen the status of other participants. Sharing table was as much a political action as it was a social one. This week's gospel is an important one for understanding Jesus' message of an inclusive kingdom. The king invites all the 'right' people to attend his son's wedding banquet but they shame him by refusing his invitation and murdering his messengers. This would have been an extraordinary action in Jesus' time. An invitation to the table of your social superior would not be rejected lightly. To try to save face and regain some honour, the king sends his servants to bring in people off the street – the poorest and least socially acceptable people. The invitation to the people off the street, 'bad and good alike', is a reflection of Jesus' own attitude to sharing table. Jesus ate with those who were regarded as unworthy: tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners. It was one of the harshest criticisms of Jesus made by the Pharisees and Scribes: 'He eats with tax collectors and sinners!' One of Jesus' strongest messages was about the inclusive nature of the kingdom and he lived it day to day. His inclusive table fellowship was a powerful statement about the fact that the kingdom is an invitation to all – rich and poor alike, regardless of status in this world. This parable highlights the invitation to join in the kingdom of God that has been rejected by the Jewish leaders but taken up by the 'lesser' people of society. The wedding banquet is a metaphor for the kingdom of God.

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

This gospel parable is a reflection of the way in which the message of God has been extended to people through time. The first invitation was extended to the Israelites who initially accepted the message of God but in time lost the focus. Jesus further extended the invitation to the Gentiles, viewed by the Jews as unworthy of such a relationship with God. Finally, within the early Christian communities there were some who, despite belonging to the community, failed to live appropriately and demonstrate their acceptance of the message of God.

Have you thought? Inclusivity

This gospel parable reflects the inclusive way in which Jesus lived his life. In many ways, Jesus was a scandal in his society because he didn't obey the social boundaries. He was very clear in being inclusive and attentive to those who were normally shunned. Today, those boundaries are just as clear and easily identified but the methods of excluding people have perhaps become a bit more subtle. Who are the 'shunned' and 'left out' in our society today? Where do the boundaries lie? Who would Jesus be reaching out to and seeking to include in today's society?

Gospel Focus – 'How did you get in here?'

In light of the inclusive kingdom metaphor in this passage, the final portion of the gospel may be a bit troubling to readers. When a guest is not wearing a wedding garment he is cast out of the banquet. We might say that being invited at the last minute the guest was unable to find suitable clothing. It is a sign that although he has been an unlikely inclusion in the banquet, he has not made any effort to respond to the generosity of the king and take up one of the cloaks that would have been provided and thus give due honour to his host. This is symbolic of those who refuse to change their ways and do not live as followers of Jesus even when they have been included in the kingdom.