

**ST MEL'S PARISH CHRISTMAS  
MASS and CONFESSION TIMES 2020**

**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

6.30pm Confession  
7pm Mass followed by Adoration

**THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

9am Mass  
9.30am Rosary  
10am Confession

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

9am Mass  
9.30am Rosary  
10am Confession

**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

4pm Confession  
5pm Mass

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

8.30am Mass  
10am Mass

**TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER:**

9am Mass  
9.30am Rosary  
10am Confession

**WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER:**

6.30pm Confession  
7pm Mass followed by Adoration

**THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

5pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass  
8pm Christmas Eve Mass  
12am Midnight Mss

**FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

8.30am Mass  
10am Mass

**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

4pm Confession  
5pm Mass

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

8.30am Mass  
10am Mass

**TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

No mass

**ST MEL'S PARISH CHRISTMAS  
MASS and CONFESSION TIMES 2020**

**WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:**

7pm Mass followed by Adoration

**THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER:**

9am Mass  
9.30am Rosary

**FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2021:**

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**

10am Mass  
7pm Mass

**Charitable Works Appeal**

Thank you to all who donated to the final CWF Appeal for this year. Your donations help fund 6 agencies, (CatholicCare, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Ephpheta Centre, Seminaries and Chaplaincies). These agencies represent the breadth of the charitable and pastoral missions of the Sydney Archdiocese and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the St Vincent de Paul Society has had to implement a slightly different procedure for assisting families in our community over Christmas. **Unfortunately no food hampers will be distributed and we ask that NO FOOD be left under the Christmas tree.** However, the St Vincent de Paul Society would like to request that you donate a voucher of any value for stores such as Woolworths, Coles, K-Mart, Big W, Target or Westfield's. These vouchers will be distributed to families in need and they will be able to purchase food and gifts for Christmas. You will be able to drop off the vouchers at the front of the Church in the St Vincent de Paul green box from the next weekend until the 19th December. Thank you.

**Catholic Weekly**

The Catholic Weekly has published an editorial on our Padre Pio sculpture "I Absolve You". We have ordered some additional copies and they will be available at the front door of the Church for only \$2.

**Daily Mass Book and God's Word 2021.**

If you would like to purchase any of these publications for 2021 please advise Tony Karam or call the Parish Office. Each book is \$25.



**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:** 9am Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,  
**Wednesday:** 7pm followed by adoration.

**SACRAMENTS:**

**Reconciliation:** 4pm to 4.30pm.  
**Baptisms:** By arrangement, please call Parish Office  
**Weddings:** By arrangement with six months notice  
**Care for the Sick:** Please call the presbytery.

**DEVOTIONS:**

**Rosary:** After weekday masses  
**Adoration:** After Wednesday 7pm Mass.  
**Italian Prayer Group:** Tuesday. 10am - Lower Parish Hall. *(currently cancelled until further restrictions ease)*

**BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements within the Church we ask you to please be mindful that on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day many more people will attend mass. Therefore, we ask you to be considerate when registering for mass and only book **ONE MASS**. This way we give the opportunity for others to attend mass. Thanks you for your co operation.

**Launch of 2020 Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral**

St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas with the event officially being launched on 10 December with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm. The lights will be displayed each night until 11pm, concluding on Christmas Day.

**Lourdes Day Mass for the Sick at St Mary's Cathedral**

**Date:** Saturday 5th December, **Time:** 10am **Celebrant:** Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP  
Those attending this Mass, hosted by the Order of Malta, will be blessed with Holy Water from the Grotto of Lourdes in France. Attendance at the Mass is **limited to 300 people**. It will also be livestreamed via the St Mary's Cathedral You Tube channel at this address: <https://bit.ly/3fxlbGf>

**FIRST READING** Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8***A reading from the prophet Isaiah***

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down  
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

***WORD OF THE LORD.*****RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

**(R.)** *Lord, make us turn to you,  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 1:3-9***A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians***

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you  
have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him  
that you have been enriched in so many ways,  
especially in your teachers and preachers; the  
witness to Christ has indeed been strong among  
you so that you will not be without any of the  
gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our  
Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will  
keep you steady and without blame until the last  
day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because  
God by calling you has joined you to his Son,  
Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

***WORD OF THE LORD.*****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Ps 84:8***Alleluia, alleluia!***

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

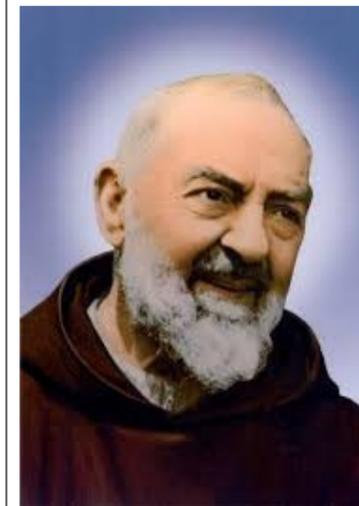
***Alleluia!*****GOSPEL** Mk 13:33-37***A reading from the Holy Gospel according Matthew***

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard,  
stay awake, because you never know when the  
time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad:  
he has gone from home, and left his servants in  
charge, each with his own task; and he has told  
the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake,  
because you do not know when the master of the  
house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow,  
dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not  
find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to  
all: Stay awake!’

***GOSPEL OF THE LORD******We remember in our Masses***

**Lord, we commend to your loving care all the sick of our parish:** Y.P Ching, Therese Shmely, Iris Eagleson, Dyan Rivai, Jerome Evan Carrillo, Joan Karam, Violet El-Kazzi, Elena Lorenzo, George Mattar, Nicholas Galvez Sr, Michelle & Toufic El-Dib, Leila Machaalany, John Duigan, Helena Knox, Cong Hen Khong, Peter Xu, Flor-deliza 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:** William Armando Carcia Carcamo, Alejandro Henriquez, Elizabeth Khoury, Celine Haykal, Mervyn Baldwin, Joyce Yip, Antonios Khoury Boulos Constantine, Eileen MaCarthy, Clara Baet, Wiyano Hindarto, Habib Safi, Youmana Farhart, Rolly Madrona, John James Lee, Maria Di Noia, Antoinette Pace, Marie Varini, Clara Baet, Avelina Jimenez, **We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed:** Jeanette Lahood, Iluminada Baqui, Francesco Viterale, Tony Abouzeid, Joubran Joubran, Joe Joubran, Martinez Salazar families, Safi, Sabbagh, George, Allison, Coorey & McKenzie families, Sr. Fertuna Meskel, Letai & Johannes, Concordia Daco, members of the Martinez Salazar families, Flovina Malubag, Maria & Jose Da Silva, Aaron Vidal, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, Shirley Gorrie, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Akel Youssef, Marcelo Estanislao, Joseph George, Peter Samuel, Elizabetta Palazotto, Therese Nader, Seth Arulappen, Aline Marie-Jeanne **Lord Hear Us.**

**A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF PADRE PIO**

Padre Pio was born on May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, southern Italy. He was tutored privately until his entry to the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars at the age of 15. Of feeble health but strong will, with the help of grace, he completed the required studies and was ordained a priest in 1910.

On September 20, 1918 the five wounds of our Lord’s passion appeared on his body, making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of the Catholic Church. Countless persons were attracted to his confessional and many more received his saintly counsel and spiritual guidance through correspondence.

His whole life was marked by long hours of prayer and continual austerity. His letters to his spiritual directors reveal the ineffable suffering, physical and spiritual, which accompanied him all through his life. They also reveal his deep union with God, his burning love for the Blessed Eucharist and Our Blessed Lady.

On January 9, 1940, Padre Pio announced his grandiose plans to develop a Home for the Relief of Suffering (the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza). The Casa opened its doors on May 5, 1956 as a 300 bed facility, built on the small, sincere and spontaneous donations and prayers of his followers. He also developed an international network of prayer groups for the support of the Casa and its ministry that continues to live on and grow today.

Padre Pio considered the Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza (Casa) his “Work”, inspired and blessed by God, to be a haven of relief from suffering for all of God’s children in pain in body or soul. It is a model community of Catholic Christian health delivery, and has grown into a regional referral center of international renown. Today, with over 1,000 beds and services comparable to most academic research centers of excellence, the Casa is thriving by God’s graces in one of the most remote, desolate and poorest areas of Italy...atop Mount Gargano, four hours from Rome.

Worn out by over half a century of intense suffering and constant apostolic activity in San Giovanni Rotondo, Padre Pio was called to his heavenly reward on September 23, 1968. After a public funeral, which attracted over 100,000 mourners, his body was entombed in the crypt of Our Lady of Grace Church. Increasing numbers flock to his tomb from all parts of the world and many testify to spiritual and temporal graces received.

On the 16th of February 1973, the Archbishop of Manfredonia, Msgr. Valentino Vailati, consigned the documentation to the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints so as to obtain the “nihil obstat” for the beginning of the process of his Beatification.

On December 18, 1997, by the reading of the decree on the herocity of virtues, the Holy Father John Paul II declared Padre Pio “Venerable.”, and on June 16, 2002, over 500,000 Padre Pio devotees gathered in Rome to witness Pope John Paul II proclaim Padre Pio, “Saint Pio of Pietrelcina”.