

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

WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER:

6.30pm Confession

7pm Mass followed by Adoration

THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER:

9am Mass

9.30am Rosary

10am Confession

FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER:

9am Mass

9.30am Rosary

10am Confession

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER:

4pm Confession

5pm Mass

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER:

8.30am Mass

10am Mass

TUESDAY 22nd DECEMBER:

9am Mass

9.30am Rosary

10am Confession

WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER:

6.30pm Confession

7pm Mass followed by Adoration

THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER:

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

8pm Christmas Eve Mass

12am Midnight Mass

FRIDAY 25th DECEMBER:

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Mass

10am Mass

SATURDAY 26th DECEMBER:

4pm Confession

5pm Mass

SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER:

8.30am Mass

10am Mass

TUESDAY 29th DECEMBER:

No mass

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

WEDNESDAY 30th DECEMBER:

7pm Mass followed by Adoration

THURSDAY 31st DECEMBER:

9am Mass

9.30am Rosary

FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 2021:

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

10am Mass

7pm Mass

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held next weekend. After each mass today the St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute envelopes that we ask you to kindly return next week with your donations. This appeal will help many families in need in our community and we thank you for your donation.

Also 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.

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.



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.

SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

Monday 7th December: **St Ambrose (bishop, doctor)**

Tuesday 8th December: **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Friday 11th December: **St Damasus I (pope)**

Saturday 12th December: **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Monday 14th December: **St John of The Cross (priest, doctor)**

13th December, 2020

FIRST READING Is 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.'

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

WORD OF THE LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R.)**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

SECOND READING 1 Thes 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

WORD OF THE LORD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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: Hened Toufic Bou Daher, Nonie Lynch, Elisabeth Huttama, William Armando Garcia Carcamo, Alejandro Henriquez, Elizabeth Khoury, Celine Haykal, Mervyn Baldwin, Joyce Yip, Antonios Khoury Boulos Constantine, Eileen McCarthy, 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, Sr. Fertuna Meskel, Letai & Johannes, Concordia Daco, members of the Martinez Salazar families, Flovina Malubag, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, Shirley Gorrie, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Alejandro Henriquez, Tony Laban, Kay Budway Murphy, Joe Malkoun, Raymond Caramsing, Colleen and Vincent George, Madeline Haddad, Agnes Mifsud, Suzanne Daher, Akel Youssef, Marcelo Estanislao, Joseph George, Elizabeth Palazotto, **Lord Hear Us.**

Update on COVID-19 restrictions

As you will have seen from the media reports earlier this week, the NSW Government has announced a significant easing of restrictions on Places of Worship which will come into effect on **Monday 7 December**. The Archbishop is still waiting on the new Public Health Order to be issued, hopefully sometime over the weekend, but we know that churches will now be subject to the **1 person per 2sqm rule** in line with other venues.

Please be aware that **the Archbishop will be lifting the dispensation to attend Sunday Mass once the 2sqm rule comes into effect**. This means you will no longer be dispensed from not attending mass. **Therefore, we strongly encourage you to register for ALL WEEKEND MASSES.** Further communications will be made available next week in line with these changes.

You can see the Premier's media release here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/major-rolling-back-of-covid-19-restrictions-nsw>

New website and social platforms to promote the cause for sainthood of Eileen O'Connor

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has launched a new website, Facebook and Instagram pages today, aimed at promoting the pathway to sainthood for the Co-Founder of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor, Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor. Eileen's great courage in serving the sick poor, despite enduring great personal illness herself is a truly remarkable example to us all. Visit the new website at this address: www.eileenoconnor.com.au and follow the new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> and Instagram page at this address: www.instagram.com/theeileenoconnor/

The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O'Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries. As we approach the centenary of Eileen's death in January, let us unite in a prayer that the Little Mother, as she was affectionately known, may soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

**Immaculata Mission School 2021:
Made for Heaven!**

Start the New Year by going deeper in faith through awesome talks, friendship & fellowship, daily Mass & prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship & lots more!

When: 1-5 January, 2021 **Where:** St James Catholic College, Cygnet Tasmania

Cost per person: \$220 (with basic shared accommodation), \$170 (with no accommodation) - includes food, speakers, activities and youth and children's ministry - all ages, families welcome

Speakers: Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fr Rob Galea, James Parker, Paul Elarde, Sisters of the Immaculata & lay community. **For more information or to register please call :0406 372 608 or visit:** www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims or call