

**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 Mss

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

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.

**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 visit: www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims or call :0406 372 608



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)

FIRST READING Is 40:1-5. 9-11**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the
hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the
Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be
laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his
breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your
salvation**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(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 faith-
ful.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all
people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 1:1-8**A reading from the Holy Gospel**

according Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the
Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet
Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wil-
derness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Je-
rusalem made their way to him, and as they were bap-
tised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their
sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived
on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preach-
ing he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down
and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you
with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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: Elisabeth Hutama, 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:** Agnus Mifsud, Suzanne Daher, Akel Youssef, Marcelo Estanislao, Joseph George, Peter Samuel, Elizabetta Palazotto, Therese Nader, Seth Arulappen, Aline Marie-Jeanne **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>

FAMILY EDUCATOR NEEDED AT ST MEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

After 5 years of dedicated service to our Parish and School as our Family Educator Mary Hill has decided that it's now time to take her teaching hat off put on comfortable shoes, travel and stop and smell the roses around Australia for a well deserved break. We are extremely appreciative of Mary's commitment to our School and Parish and I am quite sure that through her unselfish endeavours Mary has helped many parents and children to personally experience the presence of Jesus in their lives. We wish Mary all the very best in the future. Now due to Mary's departure in 2021 our school is looking for a Family Educator.

Are you an energetic, positive person with a strong commitment to your faith and a desire to connect families, school and parish? Our school is after a Family Educator. The role is school-based, part-time and you do not need a teaching background. For more details please visit: www.sydneycatholicsschools.nsw.edu.au/careers.

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.eileenconnor.com.au and follow the new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> and Instagram page at this address: www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/

The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O'Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries. 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.