

Easter Mass Times 2021

Ash Wednesday: 17th February, 2021

Masses at: **9am, 5pm and 7pm**

Stations of The Cross

Every Friday during Lent, beginning the **19th February** until the **26th March**.

Rosary at **6.30pm**

Mass will be celebrated at **7pm** followed by Stations of the Cross.

Reconciliation (1st Rite)

19th February –26th March, 2021

Every Friday during Lent from **10.00am –10.30am**.

Saturday evenings from **4pm - 4.30pm**

2nd April- Good Friday Following the Stations of the Cross. *(see below)*

Palm Sunday: 27th / 28th March, 2021

Blessings of palms at all masses.

5pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 27th March

8.30am and 10am Mass Sunday 28th March,

Holy Thursday: 1st April, 2021

(No 9am Mass)

7pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper

8pm – 10pm: Quiet prayer & adoration

Concluding with night prayer.

The Church will remain open until 10.30pm

Good Friday: 2nd April, 2021

10.00am: Stations of the Cross

1st Rite of Reconciliation: after Stations of the Cross

3pm: The Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday: 3rd April, 2021

No 9am Mass

6.00pm: Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: 4th April, 2021

Mass at **8.30am and 10am**.

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th April, 2021

No Mass

Seminarian's Corner *By Adrian.*

Hi everyone, my name is Adrian, a seminarian that will be helping out at St Mel's for the next six months. While I'm here, I'm thinking of sharing a weekly reflection in the bulletin so please watch this space for the next few weeks.

Wishing you all a blessed week ahead!

God bless, Adrian

Weekday Rosary

On Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays the Rosary is being recited before Mass at 8.30am.

All are welcome to join. Thank you.

Project Compassion Boxes

As we come into the season of Lent, we kindly ask you to remember those who are less fortunate than we are. One way in which you can help is to donate to the works of Caritas Australia and collect a Project Compassion Box from Tony as you leave Church today. These donations assist Caritas Australia in their funding for emergency food, shelter, counseling and much more to those in need around the world. Thank you.

St Mel's Catholic Primary School Playgroup

Pre school children are invited to come along with their parents, carers or grandparents to playgroup at **St Mel's Parish Hall every Wednesday morning from 8.45am – 10.30am**. Come and join our Family Educator Mrs Pamela Lahood for prayer, stories, play, songs, crafts and much more. All welcome.

COVID-19 update

The NSW Government has announced a further easing of COVID-19 restrictions on churches, which are in place this weekend.

Places of worship will be allowed to have **one person per two-square-metres with no maximum cap**.

Please note that due to the size of our Church we are still only permitted to have a maximum capacity of 120 people per mass.

All Churches are still required to keep attendance records of all masses. On arrival please see our COVID marshal and also use the QR code provided at the main entrance of our Church.



St Mel's Parish

Est 1915

Feast Day: 6th February

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, (8.30am Rosary)
Wednesday: 7pm followed by adoration.

SACRAMENTS:

Reconciliation: 4pm to 4.30pm.
Baptisms: By arrangement, please call Parish Office or download an application from the Parish website at :www.stmelscampsie.org.au
Weddings: By arrangement with six months notice
Care for the Sick: Please call the presbytery.

DEVOTIONS:

Rosary: 8.30am every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Rosary: 6.30pm every Friday during Lent
Mass and Stations of The Cross: 7pm every Friday during Lent
Adoration: After Wednesday 7pm Mass.
Italian Prayer Group: Tuesday. 10am - Lower Parish Hall. *(currently cancelled until further notice)*

SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

Tuesday 2nd February: The Presentation of The Lord (Feast)
Friday 5th February: St Agatha (virgin, martyr)
Saturday 6th February: St Mel's (Feast)
St Paul Miki and Companions (martyrs)
Wednesday 10th February: St Scholastica (virgin)
Wednesday 17th February: Ash Wednesday (fast and abstinence)
Monday 22nd February: The Chair of St Peter (apostle-Feast)

FIRST READING Lv 13:1-2, 44-46**A reading from the book of Leviticus**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11. R. v.7

(R.) *I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 1:40-45**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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

Lord, we commend to your loving care all the sick of our parish: John Ignatius Hendricks, 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, 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, Madeleine Abouzeid, **Lord, we pray for our recently deceased especially:** Francis E. Texeira, Lucia Palazzotto, Brigida Loshiavo, Enrique Valencia, Mary Marie Soufi, **We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed:** Joo Sung Joachim Jung, George Skinner, Jose Santos Ramos, Latifi Fakhouri, Cecil Lahood, Yvonne Lahood and Family, Joubran Joubran, Joe Joubran, Tony Abouzeid, Jose Da Silva, Francesco Viterale, Souad & Michael Chidiac and deceased family, George Azzi and deceased family, Farid Yousef Azzi and deceased family, Georges Melhem Azzi and deceased family, Alejandro Henriquez, Elizabeth Khoury, Celine Haykal, Mervyn Baldwin, Joyce Yip, Eileen MaCarthy, Clara Baet, Habib Safi, Youmana Farhart, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Leslie Farhart, Farida and Hanni Mrad, Zenaida Tuico, Emanuel SPiteri, Antoine & Najem, Jose Da Silva, Eduardo Carreon, Lord Hear Us.**

Gospel Reflection

by Greg Sunter

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

Historical Context – Leprosy

To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society.

Gospel Focus – What's in a word?

Verse 41 of this week's reading begins, 'Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand.' This translation is from the Jerusalem Bible but if we were to consider other translations of the Bible we would find other phrases used such as: moved with pity; filled with pity; moved with compassion; filled with compassion; or even, filled with anger. By comparison, 'Feeling sorry for him' seems a weak translation. Jesus' reaction is a fully human one of indignation at what this man is forced to endure. It is a gut-wrenching response from the very core of Jesus' humanity.

Living the Gospel – Who is your leper?

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!