

Easter Mass Times 2021

Stations of The Cross

Every Friday during Lent until the **26th March**.

Rosary at **6.30pm**

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

Reconciliation (1st Rite)

Every Friday during Lent from **9.30am – 10.00am**.

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

During Holy Week: **every Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am - 10am**

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.* **From 'me' to 'You'**

Two times at last week's Mass we heard of God grieving because of mankind's actions. On Monday, we heard that Jesus 'sighed' with a 'sigh that came straight from the heart' as He spoke with the Pharisees (**Mk 8:12**).

On Tuesday, we heard that God's heart was 'grieved' because of humanity's evil (**Gen 8:6**). This Lenten season maybe a good opportunity to get in the habit of consoling the heart of Jesus. One way that we can do this is to shift our focus in prayer: a shift from 'me' to 'You'. By this, I mean to focus our prayer more for the sake of Jesus rather than on ourselves. We can ask ourselves: when was the last time we spend our prayers simply for the sake of Jesus? When was the last time we said, "Jesus, I am here for You. I will spend these next minutes solely to console You." I hope that this Lent can be a beginning to a new Loving relationship with Jesus.

Weekday Rosary

On Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays the Rosary is being recited before Mass at 8.30am. All are welcome to join. Thank you.

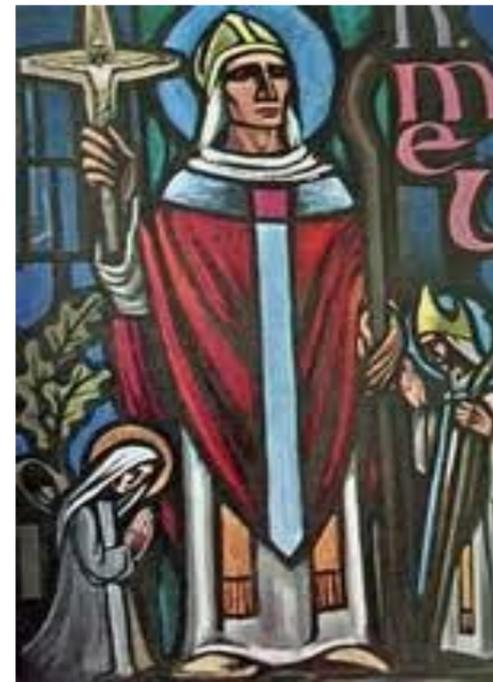
St Mel's Catholic Primary School Playgroup
Pre school children are invited to come along with their parents, carers or grandparents to playgroup at **St Mel's Parish Hall every Wednesday morning from 8.45am – 10.30am**. Come and join our Family Educator Mrs. Pamela Lahood for prayer, stories, play, songs, 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 Gen 9:8-15**A reading from the book of Genesis**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’

God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) *Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.*

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Pt 3:18-22**A reading from the first letter of St Paul**

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people ‘by water’, and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God’s right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Mk 1:12-15**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

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, Made-line 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:** Jose Santos Ramos, Moussa & Sussan Yousef, 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 Sillva, 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, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Denise Caramsing, Federica Alapide, Walter Stamatelaky, Leslie Farhart, Farida and Hanni Mrad, Zenaida Tuico, Emanuel Spiteri, **Lord Hear Us.**

Gospel Reflection*by Greg Sunter*

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God’s commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God’s constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it’s time to repent and believe. It’s a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

Have you thought? Temptation?

When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph’s carpentry business and not respond to God’s call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

Living the Gospel – Change of heart

Jesus’ proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God’s transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go ‘against the flow’ of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an ‘easy option’ that we are called to live. Jesus’ call to ‘repent and believe’ is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

Historical Context – The Wilderness

The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the TransJordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.