

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, 10am and 5pm Mass on 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 morning 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.* Alone With Jesus

In this Sunday's Gospel, we heard of many spectacular events: the transfiguration of Jesus, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, and the descent of the cloud over the disciples. One particular detail, however, caught my attention: prior to all these events, Jesus first took his disciples so that they can be 'alone by themselves' (Mk 9:2). Then, it strikes me: all these spectacular events happened because the disciples were first alone with Jesus.

Many times we ask for spectacular things to happen in our lives, but, are we willing to first be alone with Jesus? How many times are we tempted to say, "Jesus, first grant my prayer, then I will be-friend You." This Sunday's Gospel invites us **first** to be alone with Jesus, to talk to Him and to console His Heart. It is from this Loving relationship with Jesus that all our needs will then be satisfied.

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Mt 6:33)

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to assist in cleaning the Church. If you could offer some of your spare time once a month to assist in keeping our Church clean please contact the parish office to be placed on a roster. 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.

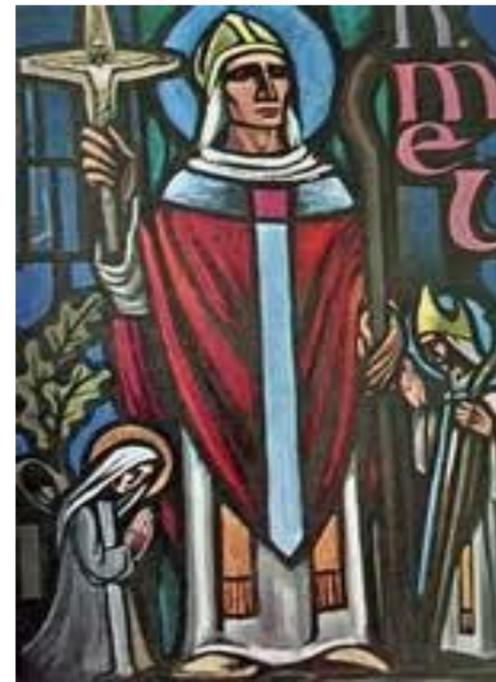
COVID-19 update

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 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**A reading from the book of Genesis**

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham,’ he called.’ Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living*

I trusted, even when I said:
‘I am sorely afflicted.’

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord’s name. **(R.)**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Rom 8:31-34**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to****The Romans**

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** See Mt 17:5**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

From the shining cloud, the Father’s voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear Him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**GOSPEL** Mk 9:2-10**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean

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:** Erwin Alapide, Francis E. Texeira, Lucia Palazzotto, Brigida Loshiavo, Enrique Valencia, Mary Marie Soufi, **We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed:** Antonio de Barros, Therese Tabbiche, Fadia & George Ziade, Jose Santos Ramos, Moussa & Susan Yousef, Joo Sung Joachim Jung, George Skinner, Jose Santos Ramos, Latifi Fakhouri, Cecil Lahood, Yvonne Lahood and Family, Joubbran Joubbran, Joe Joubbran, Tony Abouzeid, Jose Da Silva, Francesco Viterale, George Azzi and deceased family, Alejandro Henriquez, Elizabeth Houry, Celine Haykal, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Angela Marabe Infante, Ho Joon Cho, Matilde Rodrigues, Elias Adoni, Denise Caramsing, Federica Alapide, Walter Stamatelaky, Leslie Farhart, Farida and Hanni Mrad, Zenaida Tuico, Emanuel Spiteri, **Lord Hear Us.**

Gospel Reflection*by Greg Sunter*

Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week’s gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples’ experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus’ power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus’ identity to the disciples, but still they don’t really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop.

Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the ‘high’ of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God’s love and mercy.

Scriptural context – Not quite

Throughout the gospel of Mark, it is important to look at the stories that lie either side of important events to pick up the subtlety of the gospel writer’s message. In this instance, the passage that immediately follows the Transfiguration is a story of the disciples trying unsuccessfully to heal a boy and Jesus having to intervene. It reinforces the message of the mountaintop in which the disciples still only partially understand Jesus’ purpose and presence. They still haven’t fully mastered who Jesus is and so they have not fully mastered the ability to heal.

Have you thought? Mountaintop Moments

Throughout the Bible there are instances of important encounters with God on mountaintops. Even this week’s first reading, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, occurs on a mountaintop. It is not the potential sacrifice, but the new relationship between God and Abraham that is a mountaintop moment. In modern language, we often speak about ‘peak experiences’ – moments of exceptional clarity, intense emotion or extraordinary accomplishment. Sometimes, like Peter, we are tempted to try to remain ‘in the moment’ rather than using the peak experience as a motivator for when we go back down the mountain to our normal (if perhaps changed) existence.

Gospel Focus – A new vision

Part of Peter’s mistake is to see the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus’ ministry is taking. Jesus’ new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us.