

## Parish Sacramental Programme for 2021

Dear parents and carers please put the following dates in your diaries for upcoming Sacraments at our Parish for 2021.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

*Children from Year 3 and above who have made their First Reconciliation.*

**Enrolment Night:** Thursday 3rd June, 2021 at 6.30pm in St Mel's School Hall.

**Wednesday Evening Lessons:** 6-7pm followed by Mass at 7pm.

9th June, 16th June, 23rd June, 14th July

**Family Workshop:** 21st July, 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm

**Rehearsal :** 28th July, at 6pm in the Church followed by Mass at 7pm.

**Reconciliation:** 31st July at 10am in the Church.

**First Holy Communion:** Sunday 1st August 2021 *(for students in Public Schools only)*

### CONFIRMATION

*Children from Year 6 and above who have been Baptised in the Roman Catholic Rite and have received their First Holy Communion.*

**Wednesday Evening Lessons:** 6-7pm followed by Mass at 7pm.

28th July, 4th August, 11th August, 18th August

**Family Workshop:** 25th August, 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm

**Reconciliation:** 28th August at 10am in the Church.

**Confirmation:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 at 3.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

*Children in Year 3 and above who are Baptised Catholic.*

**Enrolment Night:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at 6.30pm in St Mel's School Hall

**Sunday Lessons:** 10<sup>th</sup> October, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

**First Reconciliation:** Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at 7pm at St Mel's Church.

*For further information please contact Diane Daher at the Parish Office on 9787 1582*

## Sydney City Procession for the Feast of Mary Help of Christians Patroness of Australia 3.00pm Sunday 23 May 2021

Commences 3.00pm from St Peter's Surry Hills with a pilgrim blessing and then on to St Mary's Cathedral for the 5.00pm Solemn Choral First Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please contact the Servants of Mary Help of Christians or Steven Buhagiar from the Archdiocesan Life Marriage and Family team if you require more information.

### Monday 31st May, 2021

#### Mass at 9am

Monday the 31st May, 2021 is a special day for Fr Anthony as it is his anniversary of his priestly ordination. Fr Anthony will celebrate this special day with a thanksgiving Mass at 9am.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate this milestone occasion with Fr. Anthony.

### St Joseph Retreat Series for Men:

#### 29 May; 14 Aug; 20- 21 Nov

All men are invited to take part in one, two or all three events facilitated by Fr Pawel Barszczewski OP at the Schoenstatt Marian Shrine in Mulgoa. The first event runs from 9 am – 3 pm on Saturday the 29th of May. Registration is \$35 Register: [www.trybooking.com/752441](http://www.trybooking.com/752441) Inquiries: email Jim at [mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au)

### Beloved 2021 Women's Retreat 12 June 2021 8:30 am – 8:30 pm St Finbar's Catholic Church, Glenbrook

A wonderful opportunity for women to participate in a retreat day in a Catholic setting. If you have had the desire to attend a retreat on your heart, then this is one you might seriously consider. To register, please refer to the details on the attached poster. Enquiries: [chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org)

### First Friday Of The Month Adoration

First Friday of The month Adoration will commence on Friday the 4th June, 2021. Mass will be at 9am followed by Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and quiet time, Rosary and Benediction.

### St Michael's Belfield "Knights of Christ"

St Michaels' Belfield is hosting an 8 week Catholic Apologetical Bible Study of the Gospel of St Mark, at 7.15pm every Wednesday evening starting on the 21st April, 2021 at Belfield School Hall (just behind the Church)  
The presenter is Dr Robert Haddad. Please bring your own Bible, notepad and pen.



## St Mel's Parish

Est 1915

Feast Day: 6th February

7 Evaline Street Campsie NSW 2194

Ph. 9787 1582

Email: [stmelscampsie@bigpond.com](mailto:stmelscampsie@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.stmelscampsie.org.au](http://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  
Weekdays: 9am Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, (8.30am Rosary)  
Wednesday: 7pm followed by adoration.

### SACRAMENTS:

Reconciliation: 4pm to 4.30pm Saturday.  
Baptisms: By arrangement, please call Parish Office or download an application from the Parish website at [www.stmelscampsie.org.au](http://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  
Adoration: After Wednesday 7pm Mass.  
First Friday Adoration: Mass at 9am, followed by Adoration and the Rosary.  
Italian Prayer Group: Tuesday. 10am - Lower Parish Hall. *(currently cancelled until further notice)*

### SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

Monday 3rd May: St Philip and St James (apostles)  
Friday 14th May: St Matthias (apostle)  
Sunday 16th May: The Ascension of The Lord (Solemnity)  
Sunday 23rd May: Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)  
Monday 24th May: Our Lady Help Of Christians  
Wednesday 26th May: St Philip Neri (priest)

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:1-11**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**WORD OF THE LORD.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord**

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Eph 4:1-13**A reading from the letter of St Paul to The Ephesians**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would:

When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

**WORD OF THE LORD.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 28:19. 20

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world  
*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Mk 16:15-20**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it. **GOSPEL OF THE LORD**

**Seminarians Corner****Tears and Sweat in Heaven?**

by Adrian

Sometimes I wonder to myself, "what is life like in heaven?" One common answer is to see heaven as a place of eternal rest: a place where we will no longer have to work and all our desires will be fulfilled. However, as I ponder deeper, something does not sit right with me. This notion of heaven seems a bit selfish to me. It is all about MY comfort, MY rest and ME being rewarded by God.

Today's reading gives us some insights into our true life in heaven. St Mark wrote, "the Lord Jesus... was taken up to heaven... While [the disciples] preached everywhere, the Lord [was] *working* with them." From this passage, we see that Jesus continues to work even after He ascended into heaven. Our life in heaven, therefore, is not one of inactivity and selfish pleasure: it is a life of perpetual service to God.

We might wonder, how is this life of service a happy life? As I wrote last week, this life of service is not actually burdensome if we abide in Christ's Love. Our service to God is not something that we initiate on our own: it is always a natural –or should I say, supernatural– response to Christ that Loves us first. As long as we abide in Jesus, our good work will actually give us rest, as Jesus himself said, "Take my yoke upon you... and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt 28:29)

My dear friends, today's reflection challenges us to ponder: what truly gives me life and happiness? Is it a life centred on ME, or is it an eternal life centred on God?

**We remember in our Masses**

**Lord, we commend to your loving care all the sick of our parish:** Frederick Schinkel, Elizabeth & Les Rapmund, John Ignatius Hendricks, Y.P Ching, Therese Shmely, Iris Eagleson, Dyan Rivai, Jerome Evan Carrillo, Joan Karam, Elena Lorenzo, George Mattar, Nicholas Galvez Sr, Michelle & Toufic El-Dib, John Duigan, Helena Knox, Cong Hen Khong, Peter Xu, Flordeliza Gonzales, Joshua & Francesco Frascella, Lisa Santo, John Heirlehy, Mary Maney, Chahid Hanna, Betty Williams, Mark & Merle Batterson, Ramon Alonzo, Rosalie Ferraren, David Sheumack, Claude & Jeanette Chidiac, Madeline Abouzeid, **Lord, we pray for our recently deceased especially:** Benedict Nguy, Angelica Torri, Margo Tannous, Claire Algie, Hanna Nakhle Gebrael, Kwik Bun Wie, **We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed:** Jessinia A.Infante, Vitorina Jesus Santos, Luciana Acosta, Peter & Saidie Barkett, Romeo Magnom Felicidad Soliveres, Berhane Ogbazghi, Victor Schinkel, Saidi Sisi, Quintino Ferreira, Michael, Mary, Mary Sanki, Mariano Gunzon, Geoge Azzi, George Melhem, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Maria Di Coio, Luisa Di Leo, Berhane Ognazghi, Leslie Rozario, Sarkis Chaker Karam, Maroun & Mazelle Coorey, Louisie Rosberg, Boulos Farah, Merchaard, Anne & Gloria George, Julia Coorey, Nora Moses, Marie Moess, Antoin Bakhos Sakr, Rolando Madrona, Judy Stanton, Benjamin Baqui Sr., Seiuli Lino, John Luu, Francesco Viterale, Jose & Maria Odete Da Silva, Maria Carmo Alexandre Silva, **Lord Hear Us.**

**Year of St Joseph**

2020-2021

To perpetuate the entrustment of the Church to St. Joseph, Pope Francis has established a Year of St. Joseph from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions - sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions - who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph by way of the following:

- Recite a legitimate prayer or act of piety in honour of St. Joseph especially on 19 March, 1 May, on the 19th of every month, and on every Wednesday, the day dedicated to the Saint.
- Pray the Holy Rosary in the home, or as an engaged couple, so that the atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family, will reside in Christian families also.
- Contemplate the Lord's Prayer for at least 30 minutes, or participate in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.
- Entrust their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and invoke the intercession of the Worker of Nazareth so that those seeking work can find employment befitting human dignity

**Prayer to St Joseph**

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil.**

**Amen.**