

Easing of Restrictions and Masses

With the easing of restrictions our parish will resume masses from **Tuesday 26th October, 2021**.

Please be aware at this stage the following NSW Health regulations will apply:

- **the 4 sqm rule will apply. (only 100 people)**
- **social distancing**
- **hand sanitising on entry**
- **masks must be worn indoors.**
- **no congregational singing,**

People who are especially vulnerable, or anxious at this stage are free to remain at home and participate in the live-streaming of Masses either from the cathedral and other parishes.

From **Wednesday 1st December, 2021** there will be no difference between the Covid safety requirements for all NSW citizens.

Please be aware at this stage the following NSW Health regulations will apply:

- **2sqm rule will apply. (only 200 people)**
- **This rule applies to weddings and funerals.**
- **Masks will not be required** inside a church (though some people may wish to wear a mask for added protection).
- **hand sanitising on entry**

Due to these restrictions limiting mass attendance we will reintroduce the 5pm Mass on Sundays until further notice.

This will start on Sunday 31st October, 2021.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all back to our Church, however, we need to comply with all the NSW Health regulations in order for us to keep each other safe and healthy.

We also need to be mindful that many of us are still anxious and concerned. Therefore, we need to work together as a Parish community and try to live the Gospel values when we are present here at St Mel's.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal: 26 September

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is inviting Catholics across Sydney to donate what you can to support the Charitable Works Fund appeal. The appeal helps support important works for the needy including Catholic Care, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and hospital and prison chaplaincies. **Donations can be made online here:**

<https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf/>

The Archbishops video message is also available on social media : https://www.dropbox.com/s/re3r0vg8f3tqpn8/20210902_cwf_appeal_v.04.mp4?dl=0

Support Your Parish Online

May I take this opportunity to thank those who have been supporting our Parish during the extensive lockdown. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

- You can choose to make a donation online at our parish website at: www.stmelscampsie.org.au and click on the **Support Us** icon and follow the prompts.

OR

- You may already be a current envelope giver. We ask that when we are able to re-open you return your weekly contributions.
- You may choose to become a credit card giver. Credit card donations are still processed monthly during this time. If you are an envelope giver and would like to change to credit card, please contact the parish office and leave a message and we will get back to you.

One again, thank you for your ongoing support of our Parish.

God Bless, Fr. Anthony

Stop Proposed Euthanasia Laws in our State

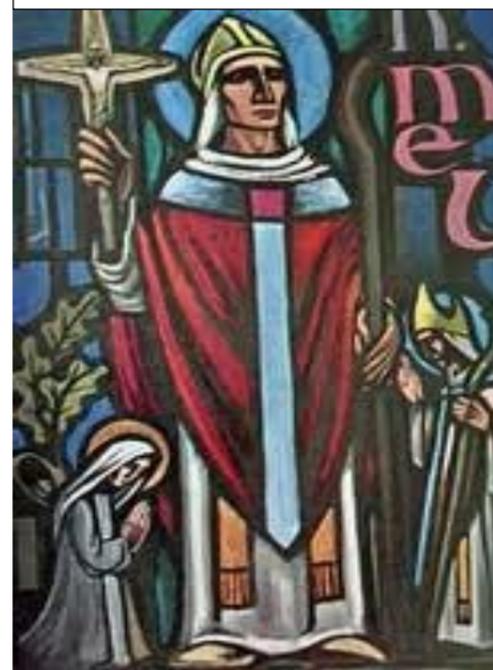
Parishioners are encouraged to please contact our local NSW MP, expressing your opposition to the voluntary assisted dying bill, proposed by the Independent MP Alex Greenwich.

The anti-euthanasia coalition, HOPE has developed an online tool that will allow you to send an email directly to your state MP and to all members of the NSW Upper House. The tool is available here: https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw

RECONCILIATION DURING LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

Any parishioner who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during COVID-19 restrictions can call the Parish Office to set up a appointment with Fr Anthony. If the office is unattended please leave a message your name and phone number and Fr Anthony will get back to you.

3rd October, 2021 Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



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
Sunday: **5pm** (starting 31st October until further notice)
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
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 via Zoom: 10am every Monday/ Wednesday /Thursday and Friday
7pm Tuesday Rosary via zoom. (link avail on our website)
Adoration: After Wednesday 7pm Mass.
First Friday Adoration: Mass at 9am, followed by Adoration and Rosary. (restarts 5th NOV)

SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

Friday 1st October: St Therese of the Child Jesus (Virgin, doctor)
Saturday 2nd October: The Holy Guardian Angels
Monday 4th October St Francis of Assisi
Tuesday 5th October: St Faustina Kowalska (virgin)
Wednesday 6th October: St Bruno (priest)
Thursday 7th October: Our Lady of The Rosary
Friday 15th October: St Teresa of Jesus (virgin, doctor)
Monday 18th October: St Luke (evangelist) Feast
Thursday 28th October: Sts Simon and Jude (apostles) Feast

FIRST READING Gen 2:18-24**A reading from the book of Genesis**

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 127. R. v.5

(R.) *May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives*

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! **(R.)**

SECOND READING Heb 2:9-11**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. 1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 10:2-16**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

GOSPEL OF THE LORD**A Spiritual Reflection**

by Greg Sunter.

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends.

When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy – how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

We remember in our Masses

Lord, we commend to your loving care all the sick of our parish. We also pray for all the Souls of the faithful departed: Francesco Viterale, Georges Azzi, Tony Laban, Yvonne Hallo, Semaan Gorges, Francesco Viterale, Jamil Moussa, Peter & Remy Karam, Michael & Zakia Karam, Herbie Lahood, Barry Stanton, Michael Risk, Tony & Victor Karam, Joseph & Halema Moussa, Jhottos & Rosemont Moses, Budwaiy Hanna Karam, Kelita Karam, John Youseff Nehmeh, Najib & Charife Nehmeh, Asorl Abood, Sheik, Estephan & Antoine, Zaki Abood, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Maria Odete Da Silva, Hend El-Daher, Ramez & Rada Constantine, Frank Stanton, Nadia Green, Annie Samuel, Frank Samuel, Vince Samuel, Ron Coorey, Merchard George, **Lord Hear Us.**

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the Liturgical Feast of Our Lady of The Rosary is celebrated annually on the 7th October. During the month of October in our Parish of St Mel's we will be reciting the Holy Rosary Monday to Friday at 10am and Tuesday evenings at 7pm. We invite you to participate in the Rosary via a zoom Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: (meeting ID: 649 8144 9272)

Password: Rosary

<https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/64981449272?pwd=WkdQaGpIWnVYWnROV25wVUEzbnk95QT09>

**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.