

Charitable Works Fund Appeal

Thank you to all who donated to the Charitable Works Fund Appeal last weekend. If you have returned your envelope this weekend please place it in any of the collections offered at mass.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

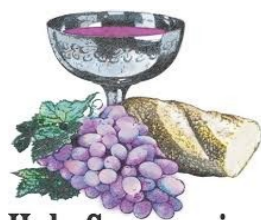
The annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held next weekend. After each mass today the St Vincent de Paul Society will distribute envelopes that we ask you to kindly return next week with your donations. This appeal will help many families in need in our community and we thank you for your donation. Also due to COVID-19 restrictions the St Vincent de Paul Society has had to implement a slightly different procedure for assisting families in our community over Christmas. **Unfortunately no food hampers will be distributed and we ask that NO FOOD be left under the Christmas tree.** However, the St Vincent de Paul Society would like to request that you donate a voucher of any value for stores such as Woolworths, Coles, K-Mart, Big W, Target or Westfield's. These vouchers will be distributed to families in need and they will be able to purchase food and gifts for Christmas. You will be able to drop off the vouchers at the front of the Church in the St Vincent de Paul green box from this weekend until the **19th December**. Thank you.

Become a Catechist or Helper in 2022

Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2022. Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools. Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level:

<https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

If you are interested in becoming a Catechist please see Fr Anthony or contact the Parish Office.



Holy Communion

This weekend we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion for our St Mel's School children. Please pray for these children and their families that they continue to grow in faith.

Thank you to the teachers at St Mel's School, the Catechists and the Sacramental team who helped prepare the children for this special day.

CONGRATULATIONS!

ST MEL'S PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS and CONFESSION TIMES 2021

WEDNESDAY 15th DECEMBER:

6.30pm Confession
7pm Mass followed by Adoration

FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER:

9am Mass
9.30am Rosary
10am Confession

SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER:

4pm Confession
5pm Mass

WEDNESDAY 22nd DECEMBER:

6.30pm Confession
7pm Mass followed by Adoration

FRIDAY 24th DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
12am Midnight Mss

SATURDAY 25th DECEMBER:

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Mass
10am Mass

SUNDAY 26th DECEMBER:

8.30am Mass
10am Mass
5pm Mass

27th and 28th DECEMBER

No Masses

SATURDAY 1st JANUARY, 2022

10am New Years Day Mass
5pm Vigil Mass

A message from the Archdiocese

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at: (02) 9390 5810 or email: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

28th November, 2021 First Sunday of Advent (Year C)



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 (until Sunday 12th December)**
Weekdays: 9am Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
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: Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after the 9am Mass.
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

Monday 1st November: All Saints (Solemnity)
Tuesday 2nd November: All Souls' Day
Wednesday 3rd November: St Martin de Porres (religious)
Thursday 4th November: St Charles Borromeo (Bishop)
Wednesday 10th November: St Leo the Great (Pope, doctor)
Thursday 11th November: St Martin of Tours (bishop)
Friday 12th November: St Josaphat (bishop, martyr)
Wednesday 17th November: St Elizabeth of Hungary (religious)
Sunday 21st November: Our Lord Jesus Christ King of The Universe
Wednesday 24th November: Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and companions
Tuesday 30th November: St Andrew (apostle)

FIRST READING Jer 33:14-16***A reading from the prophet Jeremiah***

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the
land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

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.)**

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.)**

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere
him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2***A reading from the book of St Paul to the Thessalonians***

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Ps 84:8***Alleluia, alleluia!***

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!**GOSPEL** Lk 21:25-28. 34-36***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke***

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

GOSPEL OF THE LORD**REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week’s readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an ‘in-between time’. From this week’s first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus’ return will not occur within the current generation. This realisation had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realised that Jesus’ words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn’t mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven’t really got the house in order.

Scriptural context

This week’s gospel passage comes from a lengthy passage in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus speaks extensively about the future. It is a very different style of writing from the usual narrative, teaching and parable forms that make up most of the gospel. The style is an echo of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Compare this passage with this week’s first reading of other passages from the writings of the prophets. The style is always rich in metaphor and symbol. There is a grandness about the style. We know, just from the use of language, that great things are afoot!

Have you thought? – Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

I’m not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I’m just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we’ve somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it’s not just about anticipating Christmas. That’s part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.

Different View – We’re doomed!

Fundamentalists love readings like this week’s apocalyptic gospel passage. Full of portent and urgency, it inspires the sort of thinking that says, ‘Repent now, because you could be dead tomorrow!’ It is easy to look at a passage like this and apply it to the conditions of the world today: everything’s going to rack and ruin; it’s just as the Bible foretold; the end of the world is just around the corner. But we have to remember that this was written nearly 2,000 years ago! Yes, there is still urgency! Yes, there is still need for change! But we still have time to get it right.

Year of St Joseph

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.