

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your support for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal last weekend. This appeal will help many families in need in our community for the next 6 months. If you have returned your envelope this weekend please place it in any of the collections. Thank you.

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.

St Mary's Cathedral Christmas Celebration 17 December 2021 11am and 7pm

The St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Sydney Youth Orchestra perform some of the most loved Christmas music at two concerts that have become an annual tradition. Tickets available online:
www.cathedralchoir.sydney/concerts

Lights of Christmas 2021,
St Mary's Cathedral forecourt, 9-25 December
Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral.
Find out more: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

Every First Friday of the month following the 9am Mass we have Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament and Adoration.

Support Your Parish Online

May I take this opportunity to thank those who have been supporting our Parish during the past extensive lockdowns. 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.

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

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.

12th December, 2021 Third 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
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.

SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

Friday 3rd December: St Francis Xavier (priest)
Saturday 4th December: St John Damascene (priest, doctor)
Monday 6th December: St Nicholas (bishop)
Tuesday 7th December: St Ambrose (bishop, doctor)
Wednesday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (solemnity)
Thursday 9th December: St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (hermit)
Friday 10th December: Our Lady of Loreto
Saturday 11th December: St Damascus I (pope)
Monday 13th December: St Lucy (virgin, martyr)
Tuesday 14th December: St John of The Cross (priest, doctor)
Saturday 25th December: The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)
Sunday 26th December: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Feast)
Monday 27th December: St John (apostle, Martyr)
Tuesday 28th December: The Holy Innocents (martyrs)

FIRST READING Zep 3:14-18***A reading from the prophet Zephaniah***

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
 Israel, shout aloud!
 Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
 daughter of Jerusalem!
 The Lord has repealed your sentence;
 he has driven your enemies away.
 The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
 you have no more evil to fear.
 When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
 Zion, have no fear,
 do not let your hands fall limp.
 The Lord your God is in your midst,
 a victorious warrior.
 He will exult with joy over you,
 he will renew you by his love;
 he will dance with shouts of joy for you
 as on a day of festival.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) *Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Truly, God is my salvation,
 I trust, I shall not fear.
 For the Lord is my strength, my song,
 he became my saviour.
 With joy you will draw water
 from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
 Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
 Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**

Sing a psalm to the Lord
 for he has done glorious deeds,
 make them known to all the earth!
 People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
(R.)

SECOND READING Phil 4:4-7***A reading from the book of St Paul to the Philippians***

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)***Alleluia, alleluia!***

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
 He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 3:10-18***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke***

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

GOSPEL OF THE LORD***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: Louis Claude Chasle, Angelo Favotto, Paul Favotto, Emanuel & Carmen Spiteri, Lennox Lolesio, Leodegario Enting Chan, Francesco Viterale, Georges Azzi, Tony Laban, Yvonne Hallo, Semaan Gorges, Tony & Victor Karam, Joseph & Halema Moussa, Jhottos & Rosemont Moses, Therese Badaoui, James Lahood, Sayed Saad, **We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Jose Miguel de Andrade, Antonio Barros, Colleen George, Madeline Haddad, Raymond Caramsing, Elisabeth Hutama, Teofisto and Maura Mandanas, Victor Samuel, Francis Samia, Antonio Ramos, Vitorina Santos, Alex Henriquez, Maria Odete Da Silva, Maria Morais, Matild Rodrigues, Carmelita de Andrade **Lord Hear Us.**

The Catholic Weekly

Want to know what is happening in the Catholic Church here in Sydney, around the country and abroad? Then visit: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au>

The website has daily updates of breaking news, features, commentary and video from Australia and the world. The Catholic Weekly online has built a proud reputation as a news-breaking brand that sets the agenda on Catholic discussion. It is also mobile compliant and can be read anywhere, anytime at your convenience.

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.

Recycling Bottles

May I encourage you to continue collecting your recyclable 10c bottles and bring them to the parish. The money raised from the collections of these bottles will hopefully fund other initiatives in the future for the benefit of our parish. Thank you for your support of our Parish.

Columban Calendars 2022

These calendars are now available for \$9.
They make a very nice Christmas gift. Calendars will be available after Masses.

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.