

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

This weekend our Parish will support the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. This appeal will help many families in need in our community for the next 6 months. Kindly place your donation in the envelopes provided and hand them to the St Vincent de Paul member as you leave the Church today.

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.

5th December, 2021 Second 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.

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 Bar 5:1-9***A reading from the prophet Baruch***

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

WORD OF THE LORD.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. ***(R.)***

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. ***(R.)***

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. ***(R.)***

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. ***(R.)***

SECOND READING Phil 1:3-6. 8-11***A reading from the book of St Paul to the******Philippians***

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

WORD OF THE LORD.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 3:1-6***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke***

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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, Emanuel & Carmen Spiteri, Lennox Lolesio, Leodegario Enting Chan, Francesco Viterale, Georges Azzi, Tony Laban, Yvonne Hallo, Semaan Gorges, Francesco Viterale, 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:** Elisabeth Hutama, Teofisto and Maura Mandanas, Victor Samuel, Francis Samia, Antonio Ramos, Vitorina Santos, Alex Henriquez, Maria Odete Da Silva, Ramez & Rada Constantine, Frank Stanton, **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.