



St Mel's Parish

Est. 1915

7 Evaline Street, Campsie, NSW 2194

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Parish Priest: Fr. Peter JOSEPH

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Parish Secretary: Diane Daher

Parish Office hours: 9:30am-3:00pm on Tuesday and Friday

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 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament till 8pm.

SACRAMENTS

Confession: 4pm to 4:50pm Saturday, and before the two Sunday Masses.
Baptisms: By arrangement. Please download an application form from the parish website or call the Parish Office.
Weddings: By arrangement with at least three months' notice.
Care for the sick: Please call presbytery or contact Fr Peter Joseph.

DEVOTIONS

Rosary: Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after the 9am Mass.
Adoration: After Wednesday 7pm Mass (7:30-8:00pm)
First Friday Adoration: Mass at 9am, followed by Adoration and Rosary; ends at 10am.

SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

Saturday 3 rd September	St Gregory the Great (Pope, Doctor)
Thursday 8 th September	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 9 th September	St Peter Claver (Jesuit priest)
Tuesday 13 th September	St John Chrysostom (Bishop, Doctor)
Wednesday 14 th September	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Thursday 15 th September	Our Lady of Sorrows
Friday 16 th September	St Cornelius (Pope, martyr) & St Cyprian (Bishop, martyr)
Saturday 17 th September	St Robert Bellarmine (Bishop, Cardinal, Doctor)
Monday 19 th September	St Januarius (Bishop, martyr)
Tuesday 20 th September	St Andrew Kim Tae-gon (priest, martyr), St Chong Ha-sang & companions
Wednesday 21 st September	St Matthew (Apostle, evangelist)
Friday 23 rd September	St Pio of Pietrelcina (Franciscan Capuchin priest, 1887-1968)
Monday 26 th September	St Cosmas and St Damian (martyrs)
Wednesday 28 th September	St Wenceslaus (martyr), St Lawrence Ruiz & companions (martyrs)
Thursday 29 th September	St Michael, St Gabriel, St Raphael (Archangels)
Friday 30 th September	St Jerome (priest, Doctor)

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
25th September, A.D. 2022 (Year C)

Entrance Antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading *Amos 6:1,4-7*

The almighty Lord says this: Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.
The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 145*

R. Praise the Lord, my soul !

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R)
3. He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R)

Second Reading *1 Timothy 6:11-16*

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen. *The word of the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 16:19-31*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man, "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

We remember in our Masses

Lord, we commend to your loving care all the sick of our parish: Mary Phan Thi Phuong, Nikky Kochan, Kalim Morad, Anthony Raymond.

Recently deceased: Farid Shidiak, Samira Iskander, Sr Marie Craddock, Gladstone Jebanasam, Joe Habib, Fr Ben Bezzina, Joe Salameh, Neville Correy, Pierre Collet, Amparo Ballman, Maura Turija, Dr. Tuyet Dang, Richard Harvey, Maya Sahabu, Bolos Hadid, Leila Abboud, Joan Grech, Julia Coorey, Ron Coorey, Michael Moses.

We also pray for all the souls of the faithful departed:

Sr Eucharia Jackson, Sr Catherine Gleeson, Miguel Andrade, Antonio Barros, Maria Odete & Jose Da Silva, Dorothy Constantine, Eugenia & Jose Alves and deceased family, Rosa & Antonio Vieira and deceased family, Busbos, Richard & Zemelya Khoury Boulos, Chafic & Reda Khoury-Boulos, Salim & Zacharia Sumanto, Elizabeth Thi Sumini, Jamil Moussa, Tunis & Salima Abraham, Yousif Abraham, Brian Abraham.

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

William Ao Garcia Carcamo, Patrick Carosy, Lewis Bhuruth, Nicky Dosen, Grace Dessa, Sayed Saad, Edilberto Cellona, Antonio Ramos, Vitorina Santos, Manuel Outeirinho, Maria Carmo Alexandre, Fortunato Mordica, Isidro Goncalves, Quitino Ferreira, Alberto Serra, Joyce Yip, George Azzi, Francesco Vieira, Francesco Viterale, Yvonne, Herve & Aline Marie Jeanne, John Fitzpatrick, Salim & Hesnay Moses, Joseph & Yasmin Saba, Leo Gio, Paul Camilleri.

May they rest in peace.

Support your Archdiocese of Sydney newspaper *The Catholic Weekly*

In this week's edition:

- DAI LE: Western Sydney talks back
- Champion Ball: A Knight to Remember
- Building up the feminine genius
- Reaching out to Africa
- Movie review: *Padre Pio* – an obscene mockery – to be avoided.

Pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place

All are welcome to join with our parents and friends of our school community on a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on Friday 14th October. Departure from St Mel's is at 8.20am to travel by train to North Sydney. There is a fee of \$8 payable on the day to cover the cost of the train and entry to Mary MacKillop Place. Full details are on the notice boards. Please email our Family Educator to register: family.lichaa@syd.catholic.edu.au

The Bishop's Blend: A Breakfast for Young Professionals

Guest speaker: General Manager of PAYCE, Dominic Sullivan. Monday 10 October at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Sydney 7-8:30am. Register: <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/the-bishops-blend/tbb/Site/Register>

2022 Annual Marriage Mass

Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2022? Renew your vows to each other at Annual Marriage Mass celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Anthony Fisher at 10:30am on **Sunday 16th October** at St Mary's Cathedral. All families welcome! Please RSVP by 12th September at: <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/marriage-mass/marriagemass22>. For any queries please email lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org or phone 93078480

Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Please join the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in a fundraising dinner on the 5th November at the Blacktown Croatian hall, 70 Douglas Rd Blacktown, from 6:30pm. The dinner will help to raise funds to build a new church in Western Sydney. Tickets are \$60 each, including a three-course meal. Discount of \$100 applies for a table of ten. To register, please visit: fssp-parra.org/building-project/

The Sign of Peace

At Mass, the Sign of Peace (“Let us offer each other a sign of peace”) is optional, not obligatory. I choose not to have it, because I think it is a distraction so soon before Holy Communion. Pope Benedict XVI said in an encyclical that he considered moving it to an earlier point in the liturgy of Mass. (In the end, he never made a decision about it, but it remains optional).

Funerals at St Mel's

Eulogies, and telling of stories & memories, and showing photos or powerpoint presentations on a person's life do *not* belong to the Church's liturgy (her official prayer & rituals). The place for those things is at a vigil or wake *before* a funeral, or at a gathering or mercy meal *after* a funeral. They do not belong to the funeral prayers and rites. When I do funerals at St Mel's, or elsewhere as requested, I do not allow eulogies or speeches by anyone, nor secular songs or powerpoints in church on the life of the deceased. They are out of place in a church. Please do not trouble yourself to ask for any such thing at a funeral I am conducting - because the answer will be no. If there are significant things to mention of a person's Catholic life or character or faith, you can give them to the priest to incorporate into his homily.

Many Catholics are confused or ignorant on the point of having a funeral. Many seem to think it is an occasion to glorify or ‘canonise’ someone, or to thank God for their life, or to tell stories and memories of the deceased. Atheists sometimes find consolation, when someone has died, in thinking what a good person he or she was - because they have no belief in the immortality of the soul or a future life. But we who are believers in Christ our Saviour must see things differently, and behave accordingly. The Canon Law of the Church (canon 1176) expresses the 3 purposes of a funeral: (1) to pray for the soul of the deceased; (2) to bring God’s consolation to those who mourn; and (3) to dispose of the body ritually and reverently in expectation of its resurrection on the Last Day.

Eulogies and attempted ‘canonisations’ at funerals distract people completely from *praying for the soul of the deceased* - which is the chief purpose of a funeral ceremony.

Clapping in church

Please do not clap at the end of Mass. Singing at Mass is not a *performance* to be applauded by an audience. It is an act of *divine worship* – which means worship directed *to God*. By clapping at the end of a hymn, you are turning a prayer to God into a performance aimed at an audience.

Gospel Reflection

Seeing Beyond Your Suffering

“There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.” Luke 16:19-21

From one perspective, Lazarus was existing in a very undesirable state. He was poor, starving, and miserable. He was covered with sores that dogs would lick. This is very descriptive language used by Jesus and it’s helpful to do your best to imagine this miserable physical state that Lazarus was in.

The key to this story is that even though Lazarus was in a miserable physical condition, his soul was in the hands of God. We know that to be true, because we are told that when he died, he was “carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham” (Luke 16:22).

This story provides us all with an opportunity to look at what is most important in life. The rich man had all he wanted in this life but clearly lacked charity on account of the fact that he ignored the physical needs of Lazarus. For that reason, the rich man was spiritually impoverished, whereas Lazarus was spiritually prosperous.

When you can keep your eyes on what is most important in life, spiritual wealth, it will make the many other hardships you endure less burdensome. Perhaps you will never be in the same physical condition as Lazarus, but you may encounter other great pains and hardships in life. When this happens, the tendency may be to become fixated upon those sufferings and to take your eyes off your interior union with God.

Reflect, today, upon how you would deal with living like Lazarus. Reflect upon what your own “sores” are in life. They may be varied in type, degree and number from those of other people’s sufferings, but they will be encountered in your life. As you identify your suffering, turn your eyes from it to the presence of God in your soul, and allow His presence to fill you with the riches of His grace.

Lord, I offer to You my suffering and pain, my misery and hurt.

Help me to always keep my eyes on You and to seek satisfaction only in the riches of Heaven.

Fill my heart, especially, with love of You and charity for others so that I will be truly rich in what matters most.

Jesus, I trust in You.