

ST PAUL'S

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*Bulletin Highlights*

*The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - Year C*

*23rd June 2019*

### *Confirmation Programme*

Rehearsals this week will take place as soon as Masses come to conclusion. Presumably all the parents are aware of details. Any questions can be directed to Father Michael. Confirmation medals will be blessed and distributed this weekend. Bookmarks are also available. Gratitude is extended to all those parents who have been so responsive to the various requirements. As ever, the organising and administering of the programme has been of the highest quality. Much appreciated.

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*Masses on the weekend of 29/30 June*

Saturday morning Mass and Confessions as usual. Vigil at 5:00 PM on Saturday includes Confirmations. Sunday 10:00 AM includes Confirmations. Sunday morning at 8:00 AM and Sunday evening at 5:00 PM as usual.



### *Letter from Bishop Brian*

#### **Ad Limina Visit to Rome**

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ

This year will mark the first time that I have experienced an Ad Limina visit to Rome with my fellow Australian bishops. The last Ad Limina took place in 2011 and usually happens every five years. So, this visit is very overdue.



In the lead-up to each Ad Limina, every bishop must prepare and submit an extensive report for the Congregation of Bishops. Over the years, I have participated in the preparation of this report when I was vicar general of my previous diocese, but this will be the first time I have had to give an account of what is happening in the Diocese of Wollongong. This has its own complications as I am still “very green” in the diocese and so much of what has to be reported took place prior to my arrival here.

Most of the active bishops of Australia will be participating in the visit which takes place from 17–29 June 2019. We will begin with a five-day retreat outside of Rome. On 24 June, the Ad Limina will formally commence with an audience with Pope Francis (I have met the Holy Father once before when I attended the course for new bishops last year.)

We will then visit the pontifical commissions, congregations and dicasteries that oversee the life of the Church. At the end of the week (on the feast of Sts Peter and Paul, 29 June) Archbishop Peter A Comensoli (a former priest of the Diocese of Wollongong) will receive, from the Holy Father, the Pallium (a woollen stole given to new metropolitan archbishops as a sign of communion with the Pope) recognising him as the Archbishop of Melbourne and Metropolitan of Victoria. Pleased be assured of my prayers for the diocese as I travel around the different churches in Rome, and I ask that you also pray for all the Australian bishops as we embark on this important journey. Yours in Christ, Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD.



### *Midweek Masses in July and August*

Over the course of a full church year, there is a kind of seasonality in our own parish where some months are noticeably busier than others especially leading into Holy Week and Christmas. At the other end of the scale, the month of January is a comparatively quiet time when many parishioners are on holidays. And in the absence of large sacramental programmes, the colder months of July and August are also times of less intensity although there can be more funerals than usual.



Because **July** and **August** tend to be less demanding upon the priests, this is an ideal time for Father Joe to take annual leave in July and Father Michael in August. For the past 16 years their absence had been barely noticed because the Pastor Emeritus, Father Whitty, had been most supportive in assisting with Masses. Unfortunately, because of failing eyesight, Father Whitty is in full-time care and unable to assist any longer.

So during these two months, Father Stork will be assisting in Camden and The Oaks for the Vigils and Sunday Masses. But there is a need to temporarily revise the midweek Mass schedule. Accordingly, there will be **communion services at Camden on Tuesdays and Wednesday, and then with Masses on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. And there will be a weekly Mass at Narellan Vale Presbytery each Wednesday.** These arrangements will begin from Tuesday 2 July. The midweek Mass schedule will return to normal on Tuesday 3 September. The only tricky week is the cross-over between Father Joe returning and Father Michael departing – the end of July to the beginning of August. No idea what will be happening in that particular week.

