

Covid-19 Update ~ Masses, Baptisms, Confirmation and FHC

20 August 2020

The directives applying to religious ceremonies are changing regularly.

From 20 August 2020 at Camden, The Oaks and Oakdale, the following will apply:

All Masses are quiet Masses, which is to say there will be no sacred music. The reason is because the act of singing – similar to sneezing and coughing – can potentially impart droplets and infected aerosols. Not good!

Saturday Evenings

Masses at **Oakdale** (5:00 PM) and **Camden** (4:30 PM and 6:00 PM)

Sundays

Masses at **The Oaks** (9:00 AM by prior arrangement) and

Masses at **Camden** (7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 noon and 5:00 PM)

Parishioners are encouraged to go to the homepage of St Paul's Camden parish website and register on-line. If unable to register on-line, please phone the parish office in business hours.

Parish office phone number 4655 8797

Business Hours Tuesday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Fridays 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The need to observe government regulations is essential. Large fines apply for violations.

People can still attend Mass without registering beforehand. It remains necessary, however, to write name and contact details before entering for tracing and tracking in the event of an outbreak.

It's also necessary to be aware that if attending without registering, there might be disappointment if the maximum number of people permitted in the church has already been reached. Under these circumstances, entry is not permitted.

According to the directives, people with any kinds of sickness are not permitted to attend and, if attending, will be asked to leave if noticeably unwell and exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Entry to the church continues to be via the corner door nearest the presbytery.

Midweek Masses

St Clare's Narellan Vale: Bookings not necessary but your name and phone number will be required. Maximum of 11 people plus the priest.

St Paul's Camden: Bookings not necessary but your name and phone number will be required.

Baptisms

Until the end of October, baptisms will continue to be celebrated in the Church for two babies each evening one at 6:00 PM and one at 7.00 PM from Wednesday to Friday.

Tentative reservations can be made by ringing the parish office during business hours but will only be held for 48 hours. The reservation will be confirmed when the Parish's official Baptism Form has been returned to the office with a non-refundable offering in a sealed envelope containing the baby's name on the outside. Dispensations always available in cases of genuine hardship.

Baptism packs are available from the parish website.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Confirmation programme will begin on the weekend 22/23 August 2020, with information on our sacraments page.

The celebration of First Holy Communion is still planned for this year. However, the number of people permitted in the Church is 100. If this restriction remains or, indeed, any restriction continue to apply, then the celebrations will need to be modified in terms of the number of family members who are able to attend. Information is expected to be distributed on Thursday 27 August.