

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

30 October 2020

The directives applying to religious ceremonies are changing regularly.

From 23 October 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!

However initiatives will soon be taken to introduce music at some Masses with one specialist vocalist.

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.

www.stpaulscamden.org.au

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.

If the Mass is not full, 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. Please be mindful that almost all Masses are booked out in advance.

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 December, baptisms will continue to be celebrated in the Church for four families each evening two at 6:00 PM and two 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.

First Holy Communion & Penance

First Holy Communion programme has progressed quite well and the overwhelming majority of candidates are well-prepared for the ceremonies.

The programme for the Sacrament of Penance is planned to proceed from the first weekend of Advent 28/29 November 2020. More details will be available soon on our parish website under the 'Sacraments' tab.