



ST. PAUL'S  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
CAMDEN

ST. ALOYSIUS  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
THE OAKS

ST CLARE'S  
CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY  
NARELLAN

ST JOSEPH  
THE WORKER  
CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY  
OAKDALE

## Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

### RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

#### Pastoral Insight

A Jesuit priest, Father A. E. Orobator SJ, from Madagascar, has written a book entitled: 'The Pope and the Pandemic, ~ Lessons in leadership in a Time of Crisis'.

The author notes how in 2020 a crisis of unprecedented proportion erupted and changed the world abruptly, unexpectedly, and irreversibly. The crisis evolved into an enormous challenge, generating a complex set of problems and exacerbated existing and precarious societal conditions. The coronavirus disease of 2019 rattled the entire global population and inflicted incalculable damage on lives and livelihoods (p. xiii–xiv).

The author cites one of many responses from Pope Francis:

'In a gesture reminiscent of the practice of some political leaders, Francis made a surprise call-in to a live Italian TV show on Good Friday, 2020.

The host, Lorena Bianchetti, was visibly startled by the unexpected papal call. The Pope did not call to dispute an ideological point or pitch a political agenda. In a soothing and calming voice, Pope Francis shared his thought and preoccupation during the coronavirus pandemic with the program's audience.

In the context of a liturgical season commemorating the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth, Francis revealed that foremost in this thought were the many crucified people in history and those of today.

They included, said the Pope, the front-line health care workers in this pandemic, people 'who die for love' and for the victims of Covid-19.

Pope Francis professed his closeness to all those offering their lives to help others. 'I am close to the people of God.....close to the pain of the world. I am close, I am close to you all'.

The call lasted a few brief minutes, but it moved the show's host to tears.' (p. xxiv).



#### Patronal Feasts this Week

**1 January: Mary, the Holy Mother of God Solemnity**

From all eternity God thought of the Virgin of Nazareth as the future Mother of His Son. At the Annunciation, Mary became the Mother of God. This is her most exalted title, the source of all her other privileges. On calvary, the dying Jesus gave his Mother to all people to be their spiritual Mother, so that through her they might come to God as through her He came to them.

**Prayer:** God, through the fruitful virginity of Mary, You bestowed the blessings of eternal salvation upon humankind. Grant that we may enjoy her intercession, for through her we received Your Son, The Author of Life. Amen

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## Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January ~ Solemnity, Mary Mother of God

Saturday	Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
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Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
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Please note that the evening Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> January is the Vigil for the Sunday of the Epiphany.

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January ~ The Epiphany

### Vigil ~ Saturday Evening

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

### Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Steve and Damian
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jenny and Tasha

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January ~ Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
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Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria and Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo

### Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Michael	Eva and Darko
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tony



## Bookings for Mass

For the next three weeks, there is no need to book at any of our three churches. January is a comparatively quiet month and, even with social distancing requirements of 1 person / 2 square metres, the number of people permitted in the churches is highly unlikely to be exceeded.

However, the Penance Programme resumes on the final weekend of the month. If the prevailing social distancing requirement continues up until, and beyond this time, then it will again be necessary to register in advance.

The prospect of changes at short notice in 2020 was the very reason why the emailed Weekly Message was first introduced. And it's still required.

To comply with Directives from NSW Health and for the convenience of all our parishioners, updates will continue on a weekly basis. Thanks



## With Gratitude

Both Father Victor and I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for the kind words and beautiful Christmas cards that were received over the Christmas period. And so many gifts were also offered. For clergy, the parishioners are like our extended family. Being a priest can sometimes be a tough job. But it's at times like Christmas when our parishioners are so thoughtful and caring that being a priest is felt as a truly beautiful vocation. Heartfelt thanks to all.



## *From The Diocese ~ Get Connected*

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith.

A simple way to stay informed and connected is to invite the faithful to subscribe at <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> to receive regular stay connected updates or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to parishes weekly.



**Kind Regards**

**Father Michael**