



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8TH/9TH JANUARY 2022

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 following reflection is taken from the book.

Covid-19 has caused and intensified the suffering of people across the world, leaving in its wake, an incalculable toll of illness and death. The people not directly affected also experience suffering related to the virus, including mental health issues, like stress, anxiety, and depression; crisis-induced financial losses and calamitous socioeconomic consequences (page 3).

The author explains, therefore, that it is not only the virus that spreads, but also fear, anxiety and despair.

In response, Pope Francis articulates an idea of hope. Embracing hope is not meant to be some magical formula that makes problems vanish, rather it is grounded in the victory of love over evil. This is a victory that does not bypass suffering and death but passes through them. This is the hallmark of the power of God (page 16). And so, Pope Francis declared:

I have hope in humanity, in men and women, and I have hope in the people. I have a lot of hope in the people who will take lessons from this crisis to rethink their lives. We are going to come out better, although there will be fewer of us, of course. Many will remain on the path and it is hard. But I have faith that we will come out of this better (page 17).

In Francis' theological imagination, in a time of crisis human beings are pilgrims in search of hope. Hope is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement. It is a gift from heaven that we could not have earned on our own (page 17).



Bookings for Mass

Under the current Directives from the NSW Department of Health which has set social distancing at 1 person / 2 square metres – and because January is a quiet month around our parishes – there is no need to book at our three churches for the weekends of 8/9, 15/16 and 22/23 January. Entry still requires QR. Still not sure about the 29/30 January and the weekends beyond this time but advice will be provided as soon as possible.

In the meantime, with the number of new daily covid cases skyrocketing, our parishes will be required to implement any new directives from the Premiers Office or the NSW Department of Health. Updates will apply according to need.

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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

Sunday 9th January ~ Baptism of the Lord

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
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



Sunday 16th January ~ 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Rick	Jo

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Maria C
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Craig



Parish Office Hours at Camden

Tuesday 11th to 14th January

If our normal secretarial personnel are unavailable, there will be some improvisation over the coming week with the office open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



Air Conditioning in the Church

The a/c system in the church was below its best last weekend. It was working partially but not fully. Every attempt has been made to rectify the problem which appears to be related to a circuit board. A technician will be visiting the church this Saturday morning at 7:30 AM for remedial work. Hopefully, the problem will then be solved, or by the following weekend at the very latest.



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Kind Regards

Father Michael