

## *Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - 5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

### **Pastoral Insight**

In this age of the coronavirus there is a vulnerable group of people for whom Pope Francis expresses a preference of love. It is also a group of people to which he himself belongs: it is the elderly.

Far from feeling rewarded, people who have reached a great age in life can sometimes feel lonely, abandoned and especially susceptible to the virus. It is not uncommon for people who live in institutions to be largely unvisited and often living in fear.

Francis has advocated for a culture of appreciation, care and compassion for the elderly. He once wrote: “we old people are all a little fragile”. He went on to say:

In a civilisation in which there is no room for the elderly or where they are thrown away because they create problems, this society carries with it the virus of death....We must awaken the collective sense of gratitude, of appreciation, of hospitality which makes the elder feel like a living part of his/her community.....Where there is no honour for the elderly, there is no future for the young.



### **Sacrament of Penance Programme**

Thanks to the large majority of parents and carers who responded to the survey questions last weekend. The most significant finding was that by a margin of 2:1 families would prefer to prepare their children at home. So the programme will be administered according to this preference although both options could be available in future programmes.

This weekend, it's a two-step process (a) collect the attendance slip from near the organ during (or possibly after) Mass and (b) then proceed to the parish meeting room. Exchange the attendance slip for the book and the 'help sheet'.

During the coming week, the first chapter needs to be completed. Parents and carers are asked to read the page especially designated for the adults and then assist the children complete the various activities. Thanks.

### **Funeral this Week in the Parish Church at Camden**

Friday 11 February

Cyril Houseman

10:30 AM

## Parish Masses and Parish Rosters

Over the past two years – and for a variety of different reasons – there’s been a loss of many parishioners from the attendance of Sunday Mass at The Oaks, Oakdale and Camden. The pandemic has been punishing in many ways especially in generating fear.

This has been a common experience both nationally and internationally. Recalibration and scaling back has often become necessary and sometimes absolutely necessary.

And in addition, so many other good and faithful Mass-goers have gone to their eternal reward.

So in response, parishioners from the many suburbs and townships that are within our parishes are asked to consider again the life-giving experience that comes with a long-term commitment to Holy Mass.

During the homily delivered at Mr Kevin Lawler’s Requiem on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, there was one part that talked about Kevin’s relationship to the Camden parish. It read:

Kevin was deeply committed to Mass.

I (Fr Michael) never asked him why. But it did seem apparent that he joined with the congregation every week to stay spiritually alive. He found this a way to be sustained in *faith, discipleship, and community*. A Eucharist offering can be a bit like an *Alcoholics’ Anonymous* meeting. We gather because without this regular ritual-gathering, our faith, discipleship, and community would eventually fall apart.

There’s also a need for people to be a little more involved, either at Mass or mid-week when so many details require attention. Ideally, all our parishioners would commit two hours of their time to the parish each month. That shouldn’t cause too much suffering.

Altar linen needs washing and ironing every week. This job needs to be done meticulously. Surely there’s some mums and grand mums who could assist.

The chapel also needs a quick clean each week. This little job is usually undertaken in pairs. Because the chapel is a busy thoroughfare into the church, it requires regular cleaning especially in wet weather.

The 10 AM Mass requires more readers. Please consider reading at this Mass, or even at other Mass times.

The Oaks and Oakdale also need to revive rosters which – in pre-pandemic years – have been so helpful in the preservation of good order.

Please remember the need for each parishioner to commit two hours a month towards the operation of our parishes. And without wanting to labour the point, it won’t cause any suffering.

## Enrolments in our Catholic Schools

Please be mindful that application for enrolments for kindergarten in 2023 will be available within about a week. Suggest checking school websites for more information or ring during school office hours. Good idea to check the Magdalene website if children in upper primary.

Please be extra mindful that all our Catholic schools in the parish receive more applications than places available. To avoid serious disappointment, it’s most necessary to collect an application form as soon as they become available.

## Sacrament of Baptism

Up until the arrival of the pandemic two years ago, parents wanting to present their babies for baptism would be required to attend the baptism night. This had been the normal procedure for the past 17 years. And it worked quite well.

The pandemic – with the accompanying lockdowns, social distancing and isolation requirements – created all kinds of complications. So a new way of offering preparation has been initiated with the use of booklets.

From now and into the future, these booklets are being offered to families once the proposed date for baptism has been confirmed. The booklets are best collected in advance as they contain guidance and useful information. Good idea to ring the parish office first to ensure a mutually convenient time for collection.

If you've had a baby baptised in the parish since the beginning of 2020, you're also most welcome to come to the parish office to collect one of these lovely booklets. Please ring on 4655 8797 to organise a mutually convenient collection time.

## Parish School of Religion

### For Catholic Children in Government and other Non-Catholic Private Schools

More details will be provided in next week's Weekly Message



## *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.

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Vigil ~ Saturday Evening

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Quiet Mass
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Jen
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Richard	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 13<sup>th</sup> February ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Vigil ~ Saturday Evening

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Stork	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

**Kind Regards**

**Father Michael**