



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

- 26TH/27TH FEBRUARY 2022

Pastoral Insight

Lent begins this coming Wednesday 2nd March. A few years ago, in preparation for the season of Lent, Pope Francis called on Catholics to give up insulting each other during Lent. He urged the faithful to stop being cruel to each other online in response to a world polluted by too much verbal violence.

“Lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel. It is a time to give up useless words, chatter, rumours, gossip, and talk and (instead) speak directly to the Lord”.

Ash Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Day of fasting and abstinence from meat. Over-consumption should be avoided. Gourmet foods not recommended. Restraint from sweets and the ‘greasy easy’ is admirable. Best if food is prepared at home in a modest kind of way and not passed through the window of a car. Pinga meals are ok so long as there’s no meat.

Some of our readers could be thinking: “So what’s a pinga meal?” Well, it’s the little noise that’s made when a packet meal has just finished being heated in the microwave.

Home-prepared pizzas are ok too but need to be vegetarian. Grilled fish fingers also good option. Makes for delicious sandwich on fresh bread. Can add touch of lemon juice and tiny pinch of salt according to taste.

8:00 AM	Mass at St Clare’s School Hall
9:00 AM	Mass at St Paul’s Church
9:30 AM	St Clare’s Primary
10:15 AM	St Paul’s Primary
5:00 PM	Mass at St Joseph the Worker, Oakdale
7:00 PM	Mass at St Paul’s Camden with sacred music.

Season of Lent

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In the sacred liturgy, music is less festive and floral decorations are very simple.

Back in the days of the Prophets and Patriarchs well before Jesus, religious observance of a penitential style would invariably include people who were wearing **sackcloth** which was a rough dark goat’s hair used for sacking. These garments were worn as a sign of repentance.

The ladies of our parish are not likely to find sackcloth items from Prada, Vera Wang or Versace. And the gentleman would surely be out of luck if shopping for sackcloth at Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani, Pierre Cardin or even Yves Saint Laurent.

So best to forget about wearing sackcloth and try to embrace some other form penance. Please be discerning. Take on a challenge. A season of penance offers a wonderful opportunity for an experience of grace. Good to work on building up spiritual muscle

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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

Catholics are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, in Australia and New Zealand between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. This is a period that spans about 90 days.

Lenten Booklets: The Diocese of Wollongong has produced Lenten Booklets which offer daily meditations for the Season of Lent. This year's edition is the best yet. It's actually quite outstanding. The booklet contains contributions from a variety of authors and reproductions of some of the church's most exquisite artwork.

So how much? The booklet retails for about \$10 but is available from the parishes within the diocese for \$5. A box of booklets will be positioned on the pew on the sanctuary with a money box. Great resource for personal use and a wonderful gift idea.

Sacrament of Penance Programme

'Help Sheets' will be distributed after Mass. Children should now be able to recite the Act of Contrition perfectly and without hesitation. Adults should also be able to recite this prayer. The very recitation of the Act of Contrition is an expression of humility and an acknowledgement of our need for the Lord's loving forgiveness.

The reading for the parents and carers should be undertaken dutifully with a view of being better able to assist the children. Parents and carers who are committed to the Penance Programme will have made a valuable contribution to the spiritual formation of their children. This is a very beautiful expression of love.

After Masses, would like the children to again assemble before the sanctuary. Like to check again with the Act of Contrition. And parents/carers are asked to talk to their children about abstinence for lent. Children will be invited to volunteer their form of abstinence.

Masks

The NSW Premier and the NSW Department of Health have advised that masks are no longer necessary in places of worship. However, our parishioners are very welcome to continue wearing them if they feel safer. All who gather at Mass are asked to assess their own needs and to also be mindful of the people in proximity.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

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

The response has been quite minimal so far. Another week will be available to offer families an opportunity to enrol their children. A decision will be reached within the coming week and reported 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 27th February ~ 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening

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	Trent and Damian
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Craig

Sunday 6th March ~ 1st Sunday in Lent

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Jen
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 27th February ~ 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Roster

27-Feb	Priest	Acolyte	Lector	Special Minister	PC
9.00am	VV	John Roberts			
5.00pm	VV				
5.00pm	MW	Pat O'Flynn	Ken Potter	Angelina Vecchio	Eugene Kosiak
8.00am	MW	Mark Coleman	Leone Grey	Lisa McFadzean	Cheryl/Kathryn
9.00am	VV				
10.00am	MW	James McFarlane	Oscar Marimbe	Michael Reardon	Julie Sligar
5.00pm	VV	Andrew Watson	Anthony McElone	Brian Jenkins	Craig