



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 Camden and The Oaks

18TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME ~ 30TH/31ST JULY 2022

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

In a world of prominent geriatric leaders — Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth II, President Joe Biden — the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly offers prominent models of how to grow old.

Pope Francis, 85, established the special day in 2021, to be held on the Sunday closest to July 26, the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and thus grandparents of Jesus.

With Pope Francis now older than St. John Paul II was when he died, and with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 95, a decade older than that, Catholic leaders offer an example that very old age can remain fruitful, either active or in quiet retirement.

The head of the Church of England, Queen Elizabeth II, 96, is another religious leader of advanced age, having marked her Platinum Jubilee this year. Likewise, last year, Benedict celebrated 70 years as a priest.

There are also Catholic models who are not prominent personages. In fact, both the oldest man and the oldest woman in the world are devout Catholics — perhaps suggesting that a faithful and devout life may deliver the biblical blessing of length of days — and then some!

The oldest person in the world is a French nun, Sister Andre. Born Lucile Randon in 1904, she is now 118 years old. Blind and partially deaf, she lives in a nursing home. While news reports of Sister André focused on her delight in chocolate and a daily glass of wine, a Guinness World Records video shows how she continues her life of prayer.

Those who care for her get her up and provide assistance so that she will be dressed in her habit and blue veil. She is the world's oldest nun, having entered religious life in 1944. Her sense of humour intact, she has said that she is open to retirement but that religious life doesn't really allow for that.

Men tend to live shorter lives, so the oldest man in the world is only 113 years old. Juan Vicente Pérez Mora was born in Venezuela in 1909. His faith is at the centre of his life, praying the Rosary twice every day.

Elderly people are often asked the secret to their longevity. His secret is simple: "Work hard, rest on holidays, go to bed early, drink a glass of *aguardiente* (a strong liquor made from sugarcane) every day, love God, and always carry him in your heart."

Catholic Enrichment for Adults ~ Next Meeting 10 August 2022

Interesting topics discussed at the most recent meeting included Pentecost and the Church, as well as Scripture and Tradition. The next meeting is on 10 August and includes more interesting topics about Mary and the saints, as well as the three states of the Church – Earthly Pilgrimage, Purgatory (a process) and the Kingdom of Heaven.

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Catholic Schools ~ Secondary and Primary

Over the past few months, I've had the opportunity of being the principal celebrant for Masses at Magdalene and St Benedict's and a con-celebrant for the Sesqi-Centenary Mass at St Gregs when Bishop Brian was the principal celebrant.

In almost 33 years of priestly ministry, I have never experienced such occasions when the students have been so quiet and so respectful. At each of the sacred ceremonies, there were more than 1,000 students who maintained reverence for the full duration of Mass, and especially during the distribution of Holy Communion when the movement can sometimes be accompanied by amplified conversation.

The sacred music was commendable and, mercifully, the days appear to have long since passed when selections were 'bottom of the barrel' and even secular.

As experienced in recent months, the celebration of Masses under these circumstances is truly a prayerful offering to God, and brings considerable credit to the students, their families and their teachers.

And only a few days ago on Wednesday 27 July, a regional Mass was celebrated in our own church with Bishop Brian as the principal celebrant.

The Mass was attended by Year 6 children from Mater Dei Camden, St Paul's Moss Vale, St Michael's Mittagong, St Thomas Aquinas Bowral, St Anthony's Picton, St Clare's Narellan Vale and St Paul's Camden.

The con-celebrating priests included Father Sean from Bowral/Mittagong, Father Marek from Moss Vale, and me. The Director of Education in the Wollongong Diocese, Mr Peter Hill, was also able to be present and added to the substantial number of principals, RECs and other teachers who contributed so capably to the organisation and importance of this regional Mass.

Once again, the students were noticeably respectful and appeared to be 100% content to be sitting calmly in the presence of children from other Catholic primary schools. Their willingness to participate in the Mass, especially with the responses, was quite apparent.

The highly accomplished music was provided by the Diocese's Youth Evangelisation Team.

Thank You. Fr Michael.

Sacrament of Penance ~ Backup Programme.

In addition to about 150 children during the Season of Lent earlier this year, another 30 children celebrated their first confession a few days ago.

As a broad-based observation, there were encouraging signs that time had been devoted by parents/carers to their children for this sacrament of grace and forgiveness. However, it was also observable that the children could have been even better prepared by the sharing of more time between adults and children.

First Holy Communion Programme

The programme will begin on the 3rd/4th September. It will be administered in much the same way as the past two years when parents and carers needed to work in partnership with clergy and parish office staff to take responsibility for preparing their own children.

There will, however, be a few subtle, albeit significant changes:

1. Instead of 'Enrolment Forms', there will now be 'Application for Enrolment' forms.
2. On Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th September from 6:00 PM in the church, there's expected to be a mixture of clergy and senior school personnel. Every parent and prospective candidate will need to be present and have a five-minute interview.

Before a priest or one of the senior school personnel, each candidate will be required to recite the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Act of Contrition. Each prayer will be marked – a score out of 10 – and only those children who can recite these prayers exceedingly well will be able to move to the next stage of enrolment into the FHC programme. If there are extenuating circumstances related to learning, parents/carers need to advise the parish office in advance.

Accordingly, it is suggested that parents/carers recite these three prayers with their children on a daily basis over the next five weeks, quite possibly in the form of a prayer before the evening meal. It won't cause any suffering.

However, whatever arrangements are formulated within each family, these prayers must be known very well for enrolment into the FHC programme. Too often, because children only have a partial knowledge of these prayers, they resort to whispering. We owe it to our children to ensure a higher quality of preparation.

If families have organised holidays and will be away on any weekends from September until the First Holy Communion weekend of 19th/20th November 2022, please do not enrol this year. But feel very encouraged to enrol at a later time when all the requirement of the programme can be met.

Sunday 31st July ~ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 30th July

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday 31st July

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Cheryl
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tony

31 st July	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Pat O'Flynn					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Ray Cusack	Kerry Todd	Wal Glynn	John Tannous	<i>Volunteer required</i>	Valentina V
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Kathryn Hampton	Cheryl Carroll	Lucy Aquilina	Denise Carney	Cheryl/ Kathryn
Sun 10.00am	James McFarlane	Michael Reardon	Maria Caridi	Kylie Crnek- Georgeson	<i>Volunteer required</i>	Brad M
Sun 5.00pm	John Marchand	Margaret Thornton	Brian Jenkins	Dianne Garland	Brian Jenkins	Lo Cascio family

Sunday 7th August ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 6th August

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

Sunday 7th August

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Rick	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Cheryl
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tony

For our Faithful Departed: Denise Grissell, Colleen Bombaci, Catherine Hudson, Heather Matthews, Heather Crosland, *who died recently.* Patrick (Bill) O'Reilly, Mary Winifred Thurn, Lydia Perinich, Braz Goes, John Lock, Mary Winifred Thurn, Cath Bourke *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time.* Thurn family, Sutton family, Dunn family, Lewis family, Ryan family members, Michelle Rooney, Tom Rooney, Mary, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll. *RIP.*

We Pray for those who are unwell
John and Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Father Michael