



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

EASTER SUNDAY ~ 8TH/9TH APRIL 2023

From Reverend Charles Stanley

Charles Stanley was born in 1932. Now aged 90, he is Pastor Emeritus of the First Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, having served as senior pastor for 49 years. He writes:

“There is only one secure foundation: a genuine, deep relationship with Jesus Christ, which will carry you through any and all turmoil. No matter what storms are raging all around, you'll stand firm if you stand on His love.”

EASTER SUNDAY SOLEMN BLESSING

May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his only his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality.

EASTER COMPANIONSHIP

Invitational Culture – Did you know?

Recent research shows that over four in 10 Australians would come to Church if invited and a further 19% of those surveyed would be open. All age groups were equally likely to say 'yes' to an invitation".

So why not invite another family member or a friend. Having a presence at one of our Easter Masses with one or two people dear to our hearts is a great way to afterwards enjoy a coffee or meal together.

Our churches are places of warmth and acceptance. All welcome.

Good Friday Appeal

Our parishioners are reminded that there's a special collection on Good Friday for the Holy Land. We need to extend our usual generosity to this appeal. Most worthwhile. And if we or our sons and daughters ever have the opportunity of visiting the Holy Land – possibly on a pilgrimage – it will be very apparent how important this appeal is through the universal church.

26 John Street (PO Box 7) Camden NSW 2570 (02) 4655 8797 camden@dow.org.au
59 Holdsworth Drive, Narellan Vale NSW 2567 (ring Camden) camden@dow.org.au
5 /15 Merlin Street (PO Box 169) The Oaks NSW 2570 (ring Camden) theoaks@dow.org.au
Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) theoaks@dow.org.au

Project Compassion Boxes

A basket will be left in front of the altar for the return of Project Compassion boxes and envelopes. Hopefully there'll be a good response. Contributions to this appeal are very much dedicated to the charitable works of the church. Charity is a very strong outward form and holiness. It is perfectly complimented by humility which is a very strong inward form of holiness. The virtue of humility was demonstrated so perfectly with the "Washing of the Feet".

Sacrament of Penance for Parishioners

Because of the very substantial number of people who had received absolution and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance on Wednesday this week, there is now a very real need to reintroduce the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation with visiting clergy leading into Easter and Christmas.

On Wednesday evening, both Father Victor and Father Michael were hearing confessions for almost two hours from 6:00 PM to 7.45 PM. And Father Victor had already dedicated another big chunk of time from 9:30 AM on the same day.

It's quite a healthy reflection upon our parishioners that so many are aware of the benefits in the reception of the Sacrament of Penance – benefits that include from Our Lord healing, mercy and compassion.

This sacrament – like Holy Communion – are very precious divine gifts from God. And if we have a long absence from these sacraments, then it's as if we're saying, "God I don't want your precious gifts; God you can keep your precious gifts to yourself".

The Eucharist sanctifies; Penance purifies.

Sacrament of Penance Back-up Programme 2022/2023

Registration for the back-up programme begins on 22nd/23rd April. Before enrolment into the programme, children need to be able to recite the Our Father and the Hail Mary. These prayers are easy to learn if parents and children pray together for a few moments each day.

Confirmation Programme

Enrolment forms available for collection on 22nd/23rd April. Registration began last weekend.

EASTER CEREMONIES

No better place to celebrate Easter than in our local churches at Oakdale, The Oaks and Camden. And in a few years, we'll be adding Narellan Vale to the list.

Day	Time	Church	Priest	Musicians
Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	The Oaks	MW	Quality pre-recorded music
Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	Camden	VV	Craig, Brian, Colin
Good Friday				
Stations	9:00 AM	Oakdale	MW	
Stations	10:00 AM	Camden	VV	Ilona and Tasha
Passion	3:00 PM	Camden	MW	Choir
Easter Vigil	5:00 PM	Camden	MW	Choir w. Darko chanting Exultet.
Easter Sunday	8:00 AM	Oakdale	VV	Quality pre-recorded music
	9:30 AM	The Oaks	VV	Quality pre-recorded music
	7:30 AM	Camden	MW	Rachal and Cheryl
	9:00 AM	Camden	MW	Craig, Brian, Colin
	10:30 AM	Camden	MW	Eva and Darko
	5:00 PM	Camden	VV	Tony and family

Please note that Eva will be playing a postlude on the organ after the final hymn at the 10:30 AM Mass. Our musicians, vocalists and choristers are another one of our parish treasures. Wonderfully talented and good-natured people!

Diocesan News

Get connected with what is on around the diocese. Conscious that with many messages to choose from to put in your bulletins every week, we are continuing to include a short message near the top of the message suggestions that captures an opportunity for the faithful to stay connected with what is happening around the diocese.

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:

<https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> or

visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to parishes weekly.

Sunday 16th April ~ Second Sunday of Easter

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 15th April

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday 16th April

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

For our Faithful Departed: Malcolm Whelan, Helen Murphy, Joan Ryan, Carmen Spiteri, Barry McMahon, Joan Walsh, *who died recently.* George Paparo, Francesco & Antonina Costa, Janelle Clifton, Matthew Dunn, Elizabeth Thurn, Helen Jamieson, Benito Sabellano, George Cepak, Faye Humphries, Lillian Grech, Dayne Mackie, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time.* Cath Bourke, Barry Myles, Rino & Assunta Zanatta, Pasquale Zanatta, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Mary, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Louis & Victoria Gauci, *RIP.*

We Pray for those who are unwell: Marie Dunn, Darryl Ellis, Glenn Murphy, Olivia Toole, Michael O'Sullivan, Myra Dozzi, Des Grissell, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Norman Richardson, John and Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Father Michael