



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

From St John Chrysostom (Feast day 13 September)

Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry,
a foundation for cheerfulness,
a source of constant happiness,
a protection against sadness.

CATHOLIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Next meeting scheduled for 13 September. Topic is The Eucharist and Praying the Mass.

And for the benefit of our parishioners, there are about 20 people who attend our meetings with a view with being fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

As indicated earlier this year, a new initiative has been taken to include a PAE (Prayer Assessment Evening) in which candidates for the sacraments need to be assessed in their ability to recite the Our Father, Hail Mary and Act of Contrition.

These prayers are among the foundations of Catholic spirituality.

The idea is to assess children – not with the intention of excluding them if the prayers are not known – but to monitor their progress until they're known exceptionally well.

Over the past few evenings almost 200 children attended one of two evenings with parents/carers. And a huge majority of children are now demonstrating a capacity and confidence to recite the prayers.

In the quote of St John Chrysostom at the beginning of this newsletter, it's very apparent why a knowledge of prayer is essential for the spiritual formation of our children.

At Masses this weekend, enrolment forms will be available for collection. The programme got off to a great start last weekend with almost 180 children registering. The programme is full of promise as a time of spiritual enrichment for the families.

Next Wednesday evening at 6.00pm a further PAE is planned for children who have enrolled but have not as yet been assessed. Enrollments can still be accepted for the programme. Additional PAE times will be made available apart from Wednesday 13 September if required.

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

**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**

REFERENDUM ON THE VOICE

When it comes to socio-political issues our parishioners have a broad range of views and feelings. And the insertion of these kinds of issues into parish life would need necessarily to be done with great care, so as to avoid the possibility of fragmentation within our parishes at Camden and The Oaks

The great apostle – St Paul – was as much concerned with division within the newly formed Christian communities, as he was with the consequences of sin.

And so Paul presents a beautiful ecclesiology for the Church which he calls the Body of Christ. Disciples, as members of the newly established Christian communities, can be understood as many parts united as one body.

So for at least the past 20 years, our parish policy with respect to politics has been to remain 100% non-partisan while, at the same time, always being gracious and welcoming to politicians from the mainstream political parties from all levels of government.

At the national level, and in a similar manner of non-partisanship, the ACBC (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference) has written the following:

“We urge all Australians to engage in the debate productively, respecting each other and accepting that people may, in good faith, have differing concerns and perspectives.

For those who are extra interested in this referendum, magazines – produced by the ACBC and entitled “Listen, Learn Love” – will soon be available and placed on the various magazine tables.

MAGDALENE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Our local Catholic college is moving from strength to strength with full capacity virtually assured far into the foreseeable future. At the present time, demand for places for the annual incoming Year 7s is considerably greater than places available.

And there’s more good news still. Following the resignation of the previous principal, Mr Matt McMahon at the end of 2022, Mr David Clorin was appointed as an Acting Principal (AP) for 2023. A few months ago, a process began that invited applicants to apply for the position which would then become permanent from the beginning of 2024.

The advertising created widespread interest and there were many applications from both within and beyond the Wollongong Diocese. Mr Clorin, himself, was among the applicants and granted an interview. By the end of the process and after much discussion, the panellists were unanimous in their recommendation of Mr Clorin to be appointed as the new principal.

By any standard, Mr Clorin has been most impressive during his time at Magdaline this year, and his appointment as the full-time principal assures that the college will be under very accomplished leadership moving into the future. Congratulations David.

ST PAUL’S HERITAGE HALL

We’re still working on it and hopeful there will soon be further developments in coming weeks.

DIOCESAN NEWS

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.

Some special events of interest are:

Australian Catholic Medical Association National Conference 10-12 November 2023

Those who work in health care are invited to attend The First National Catholic Medical Association Conference. Ethical Medicine is at an important crossroad and Catholic practitioners are confronted everyday with an increasingly secular workplace. This conference aims to address a number of the current and emerging issues confronting the Catholic practitioner. This is also a time where we can connect with each other and become more acquainted with the professionals within our network. For more information and registration: The Conference will also enable the First ever national “White Mass” for Catholic Health Care professionals. <https://acma.glueup.com/event/acma-national-conference-2023-85401/>

Father and Teenage Son Weekend

Growing Good Men Father and Teenage Son Weekend Experience 20–22 October 2023 Cataract Scout Camp Appin One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father or significant father figure. The encouragement and affirmation that this relationship could, and should, provide, is a key ingredient for how young men view themselves and embrace their faith and gifts as they take their place in the world.

Don't miss this life-changing father and son weekend! Spots are limited to just 25 fathers with their sons aged between 12 and 16 years. This is a unique opportunity for dads and their sons to embark on a quest of discovery with Robert Falzon and the team from menALIVE. Register online: www.dow.org.au/events/ or contact Jude Hennessy on 42222407 jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

Bishop Brian's Annual Appeal

The Bishop's Annual Appeal will be promoted in our parish on the weekend of 16/17 September "Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared for us; and a sound and holistic formation of our young seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated." + Bishop Brian Mascord

Mary in the Bible ~ Campbelltown Monday 18 September

Mary in the Bible Talk The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) in the Diocese of Wollongong invites you to discover the unique role of Our Lady as the Ark of the Covenant, New Eve, and Queen Mother in an eye-opening inservice presented by our very own CCD faith education office, Daniel Saliba, revealing the deep theological connections between Mary and her ancient biblical types.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the rich theological significance behind titles the Church has historically assigned to Our Lady and their implications for Mary's relationship with Christ and the Church.

Whether you are a catechist, a devoted Catholic, or someone seeking to deepen their understanding of Mary's role in salvation history, this talk will provide invaluable insights into the profound symbolism and theological depth of Catholic teaching on Mary.

Join us on this spiritual journey as we uncover the beauty and significance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the pages of Sacred Scripture.

Campbelltown Monday 18 September 10.00am - 12.30pm
Level 1, Micah House 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown

Sunday 10th September ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 9th September

| | | | |
|---------|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| Camden | 5:00 PM | Father Michael | Maria & Rachael |
| Oakdale | 5:00 PM | Father Victor | Jo |

Sunday 10th September

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------------|-------------|
| The Oaks | 9:00 AM | Father Victor | Nicole |
| Camden | 8:00 AM | Father Michael | Choir |
| Camden | 10:00 AM | Father Michael | Eva & Darko |
| Camden | 5:00 PM | Father Victor | Tony |

| 10 th September | Acolyte | Lector | Lector | Special Minister | Special Minister | PC |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Sat 9.00am | Enzeigh Thomas | | | | | |
| Sat Vigil 5.00pm | Ray Cusack | Stephen Barrett | Toni Sillis | Chris Keun, Wal Glynn | Diane Kennaugh | Elizabeth |
| Oakdale Vigil 5pm | Chris Billett | Jo | | | | |
| Sun 8.00am | Mark Coleman | Maureen Grisdale | Cheryl Carroll | Lucy Aquilina | Glenn Crawford | Cheryl/ Kathryn |
| The Oaks Sun 9.00am | | Nicole Comerford | | | | |
| Sun 10.00am | James McFarlane | | Joseph Hanson | Peter Grizelj | Kylie Crnek-Georgeson | Raphael |
| Sun 5.00pm | Andrew Watson | Dianne Garland | Judith Madsen | Dianne Garland | Samantha Vergara | Lo Cascio family |

Sunday 17th September ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 16th September

| | | | |
|---------|---------|----------------|------------------------|
| Camden | 5:00 PM | Father Victor | Belinda & Tasha |
| Oakdale | 5:00 PM | Father Michael | Jo |

Sunday 17th September

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

For our Faithful Departed: Alexander Frater, Francesca Raso, Jean Bardsley, Torjus Linow, John Sammut, Thomas Funnell, Clem O'Brien, *who died recently*. Max Baragry, Michael Antalfy, Peter Cox, Marie Becus, Vincent Grech, Colin Lloyd, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Cath Bourke, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Lewis family, Ryan family, Sabas Bolivar, Oliva Bolivar, msgr Pastor Bolivar, Maria Irwin, Barry Myles, Mary, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Louis & Victoria Gauci, *RIP*.

We Pray for those who are unwell: Margaret Roach, Betty Thomas, Marie Dunn, Wayne Fletcher, Betty Aquilina, Kerry Hudson, Barbara Brodnik, Chris Yopp, Monica Tattam, Hector Balestri, Glenn Murphy, Olivia Toole, Michael O'Sullivan, Myra Dozzi, Des Grissell, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Norman Richardson, John and Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Fr Michael Williams