



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

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St Charles Borromeo ~ Feast 4 November

Charles was born in 1538 and obtained doctorates in civil and canon law. He was created Cardinal by his uncle Pope Pius IV and chosen to be bishop of Milan. He was a very dedicated bishop who – after many years of pastoral care – died in 1584. To his priests, he made the following remarks:

“Is your task the care of souls? Then do not neglect your own. Do not spend yourself so completely on other people that you have nothing left for yourself. Of course, you have to look after the souls you have been put in charge of, but not to the extent that you forget your own”.

WEEKEND AND MIDWEEK MASSES

With Father Victor's return after a well-deserved holiday, our weekend and midweek Mass schedule is back to normal at Oakdale, The Oaks, NV presbytery and Camden.

NOVEMBER MASS INTENTIONS

Specially designed envelopes are still available from the magazine tables. Our list of the Holy Souls will continue to be updated each week during the month of November.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are celebrated at Camden every weekend. Following the impact of Covid, a limit of eight families per ceremony was introduced to avoid overcrowding and to allow each family to be allocated to one of the eight blocks of pews. Seems to be working well. However, every weekend is fully booked until the end of the year.

From this coming Wednesday, bookings will be available for the four Sundays in January.

CATHOLIC MISSION

Parishioners will recall that about two weeks ago over the weekend of 21/22 October, an appeal for Catholic Mission was conducted.

Might have thought a few thousand would have been raised especially considering that the little film clip about Sister Carolina and the medical centre in East Timor was quite moving. The appeal focused upon the need to raise funds for a doctor. So how much do you think our parishioners contributed?

\$2,000 - wrong. Double that to \$4,000 – still wrong. What about another 50% to \$6,000 – still hopelessly wrong. The final figure donated from our parishioners was \$7,496.25. Just outstanding.

Charity is one of the most powerful manifestations of holiness. Gotta love our parishes.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

At this stage, it appears likely that our PPC will have about 12 parishioners. Good size!

By a stroke of good fortune, the Office of Bishop (OOB) has organised a seminar on Friday 10 November about leadership with a leading overseas presenter, Mr Ron Huntley. The priests and members of PPCs from around the diocese have been invited to attend this seminar in Wollongong.

Well just for the record, eight of our own PPC members have indicated their intention to attend with myself. Should be a most interesting occasion.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE (PFC) ~ 1ST NOVEMBER 2023

Two agenda items:

1. Parish finances were reviewed. It was noted that for the nine months of 2023, income and expenditure were in keeping with expectations. The planned giving renewal programme in May 2022 helped to get the parish back on track after the exceptionally tough years that were experienced during the Covid pandemic.

It was also noted that 2024 is likely to be a time of financial consolidation. However, harder times will emerge in 2025. Why? Because the considerable volume of accumulated savings will be dedicated to a beautiful new church at St Clare's with an accompanying loss of interest-income. The 'wait' for the church will have been over 25 years. But it's needed and will be worth it.

2. A report was received from the Quantity Surveyor who estimated the cost of the church. The good news is that the parish is likely to have enough money to build the church without requiring a loan. Can't be completely 100% sure of this outcome, but projections are good so far.

Gratitude to all our parishioners for keeping the parish operational.

THE OAKS

The last few months have been rather quiet because of (1) the annual leave taken by Fr Michael and Father Victor. And (2) that although the large parcel of land adjoining the cemetery has been sold and contracts exchanged, the final settlement awaits the slight readjustment of the boundary.

As we await this development, application will be submitted to Wollondilly Council for permission to remove trees that have become seriously hazardous. The gusty winds from earlier this week and the hot season ahead have really elevated the need for tree removal. Will provide further updates according to developments.

FATHER RICK

Father Rick's health had been improving but may have since encountered a few more challenges. He's as tough as an old South Sydney Rabbitoh. But this lengthy duration in hospital has at times been punishing and, indeed, far longer than expected. It's all been a test of endurance. Hopefully there'll be further improvement ahead.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

This weekend First Holy Communion families need only to hand in their completed workbooks. Tubs will be available in the usual positions around the altar. The opportunity should be taken, before books are handed in, for a parent/carer to run their eyes over the workbooks. Every question/puzzle should be answered. Workbooks either not completed, or with items completely missed will be returned. Ceremony allocation is reliant on the satisfactory completion of the workbooks.

REMINDER ~ MASS ATTENDANCE COUNT

In keeping with requests from Bishop Brian, a Mass count will need to be taken during the weekends of November. So when you see people counting heads, it's all about compliance with diocesan directives. Nothing suspicious happening.

TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER ~ HEALING MASS

This Tuesday 7th November being the first Tuesday of the month our normal morning Mass is a Healing Mass. All parishioners who are unwell and wishing to have extra blessings are extended a most heartfelt invitation to attend. A cup of tea is offered in the Meeting Room adjoining the church afterwards. If you are unwell please consider joining in, the fraternity is uplifting.

THE OAKS ~ MORNING TEA

With it being the First Sunday of the month, there is the customary morning tea for those who enjoy a little conversation and community after Mass. If you are able to join in, please bring along a plate and enjoy the company and celebration.

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER OAKDALE ~ ROSARY

This Saturday evening, the first of the month, the Rosary will be said in the church at Oakdale after normal Saturday evening Mass. Everyone is very welcome to stay and to be a part of these beautiful prayers and to enjoy the company of other parishioners.

HERITAGE HALL ~ FLOORING AND PAINTING

Restoration process continues. Painting has been in progress for a week. The internal work has been completed and the external work has now begun. The flooring begins this Monday 6 November. Hoping that the job will be completed by 17 November.

There were 100 comfortable chairs but these needed to be recycled because the fabric had become mouldy. Will submit an order for another 100 in mid-November. Now looking as though the HH will be available for business from early December.

This wonderfully historic building continues to contribute enormously to the old-world charm of both our township and our parish.

Volunteers for the 25/26 November

Rosters for the First Holy Communion ceremonies are still being prepared. Several of the Masses still need volunteers for Acolytes, Lectors and Special Ministers. If you are available and are able to assist there is a signing sheet on the magazine table in the chapel. Alternatively please contact the parish office during normal hours. Thanks are extended to all volunteers in advance.

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

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

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

Sunday 5th November ~ 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 4th November

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

Sunday 5th November

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Steve & Damian
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jenny & Sally

5 th November	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	John Roberts					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	John Roberts	Pat O'Flynn	Chris Keun	Robin Roberts, Wal Glynn	Russell O'Brien, Angelina Vecchio	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Jo				
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Cheryl Carroll	Kathryn Hampton	Lorraine Phillips	Lucy Aquilina	Cheryl/ Kathryn
The Oaks Sun 9.00am		Carol Ann Meiklejohn				
Sun 10.00am	Mark Coleman	Helen Lanyon	Maria Caridi	Joseph Hanson	Michael Reardon	Raphael
Sun 5.00pm	John Marchand	Dianne Garland	Maria Kosiak	Jacinta Abernethy	Simion Abernethy	Eugene

Sunday 12th November ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 11th November

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

Sunday 12th November

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

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