



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ YEAR B

Saint Ambrose
Feast Day 7 December

1. When we speak about wisdom, we are speaking about Christ.
2. When we speak about virtue, we are speaking about Christ.
3. When we speak about justice, we are speaking about Christ.
4. When we speak about peace, we are speaking about Christ.
5. When we speak about truth and life and redemption, we are speaking about Christ.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

With plenty of needs in our area, our local conference extends care and concern by trying to assist as many families as possible who are really battling. Typically, those in most need are on low government incomes and/or experiencing rental and mortgage stress.

Over the past year, the conference has supported 130 families with 145 children. Assistance is generally offered through food hampers, and vouchers for Coles and Woolies. Other assistance includes payment for chemist and medical bills. Through NSW, the SVDP society helped over 87,000 people this year.

If you are aware of any families who would benefit from such assistance, please notify the Camden office during the parish business hours, Tuesday to Friday. The helpline is 9173 1256. Email camdenoranpark.conference@vinnies.org.au

Accordingly, there will be a 'Leaving Appeal' after Masses this weekend. People might be able to contribute a note or a few coins to support the appeal. The proceeds from this week's 'Tap & Go' will be directed to the appeal.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PROGRAMME ~ REGISTRATION THIS WEEKEND

Families with baptised children who are now in Year 2 or higher are invited to register them in the Sacrament of Penance Programme beginning this weekend of 2/3 December. The programme will be administered from this time until well into the Season of Lent. There will be an extended break during the Christmas holidays.

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

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Sunday	24 th December	Camden	Vigils at 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM
Midnight	25 th December	Camden	Carols from 11:30 PM
Christmas Morning	25 th December	Camden	9:00 AM

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December **Oakdale** at 5:00 PM and **The Oaks** at 6:30 PM

Please be mindful that the normal Sunday morning Masses at both parishes on Sunday the 24th still apply as these will be for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ~ WRAP UP

Beautiful ceremony last Saturday 25th November. Because there were 15 adults who were initiated into the church – with 9 of the 15 baptised – the duration of Mass was about 90 minutes.

However, the Mass was very absorbing and enhanced with beautiful sacred music. Congratulations to all these adults and their families. And thanks to our parishioners who provided the customary assistance and support with such competence and reliability.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME ~ WRAP UP

Huge Weekend. Thanks to the large support team who provided secretarial assistance, sacred music, altar serving, concierge, and various other forms of help. Absolutely invaluable.

From among our schools, parishioners and parish office personnel there were such a very large number of people who assisted in a very coordinated and reliable manner to ensure that the five FHC Masses proceeded with the precision of a Swiss watch. So impressive.

And thanks to the big majority of parents and family members who embraced the programme with their children in a dedicated and committed way. Full credit to those parents and family members.

There's only been the one problem. No idea of the age but it appears there's a person with a slight intellectual and personality impairment who keeps jamming the ladies toilet with toilet paper by the roll. This has now been happening for about a month. If noticing a blockage, please advise the acolyte as soon as possible so that the perpetrator might be eventually uncovered. Professional counselling is obviously needed.

MASS ATTENDANCE COUNT

To resume this week for the final time this year.

HERITAGE HALL ~ FLOORING AND PAINTING

Painting now completed. Cleaning scheduled to be completed this week. 100 new cushioned chairs are to be ordered and should arrive within the next few weeks.

ST CLARE'S CHURCH ~ CATHOLIC WEEKLY

In last week's edition of the Catholic Weekly, there was an advertisement on page 9 for digital artist(s). This process is expected to take a few months before finalisation. Expressions of interest from digital artists are still invited. The advertisement is expected to appear for a few more weeks.

Somewhat coincidentally, it was at about this time last year that expressions of interest were invited from architects. There were 13 responses. The project is now moving steadily towards the formal submission of a Development Application to Camden Council. Drawings are still with the Office of Bishop. Approval from the Bishop is required before moving to the next stage.

More news will be provided according to developments.

COME AND SEE, GO AND MAKE

Bishop Brian Mascord was ordained almost 6 years ago, and the Diocese of Wollongong is approaching its 75th Anniversary. With these timeframes in mind, Bishop Brian would like us all to pause and reflect on the life, health and direction of our parish. Our parish communities are the life centre for many of our parishioners. It is much more than just buildings to celebrate weddings and baptisms or to pray for the repose of the soul of a loved one.

To support us in this endeavour, the Diocese has issued three beautiful publications which are available for all to collect from the magazine tables, to assist during this most blessed time of the year with prayer, reflection and discernment for the New Year. Every family is encouraged to take one of each of the publications to share in their home during the Advent season; a short video from Bishop Brian will also be shown after Communion to encourage us all to engage in his aims.

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER ~ HEALING MASS

This Tuesday 5th December 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

This Sunday, The Oaks will be celebrating Christmas with the monthly morning tea. This will be the last occasion until February. If you enjoy a little conversation and community after Mass, 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.

Saturday/Sunday 2nd/3rd December ~ First Sunday of Advent

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Sarah
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	Ilona and Tasha

3 rd Dec	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	John Roberts					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	John Roberts	Jim Gallagher	Diane Kennaugh	Chris Keun, Angelina Vecchio	Russell O'Brien, Trish O'Flynn	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Jo				
Sun 8.00am	None	Cheryl Carroll	Warren Johnson	Maryann Ace	Lucy Aquilina	Cheryl/ Kathryn
The Oaks 9.00am		Melissa Duck				
Sun 10.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Maria Caridi	Nada Simich	Cathy Conwell	Peter Grizelj	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	None	Dianne Garland	Maria Kosiak	Jacinta Abernethy	Simon Abernethy	Eugene

Saturday/Sunday 9th/10th December ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria & Rachael
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	Eva & Darko
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tony Lo Cascio

For our Faithful Departed: Des Grissell, Kerry Hudson, Virginia Mackie, Filippo Lo Conte, Barry Jones, Michael Greene, Paul Agius, Nicolina Tallack, Doris Bromfield, *who died recently.* Harvi Chessell, Josephine Albany, Brett Gray, Peter Cox, Dayne Mackie, Joseph Zoric *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 and Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Louis & Victoria Gauci, *RIP.*

We Pray for those who are unwell: Anne Lonsdale, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Marie Dunn, Wayne Fletcher, Betty Aquilina, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Norman Richardson, John and Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Fr Michael Williams