



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Mark Zimmermann on Our Advent Journey

“This Advent we look to the Wise Men to teach us where to focus our attention. We set our sights on things above, where God is. We draw closer to Jesus... When our Advent journey ends, and we reach the place where Jesus resides in Bethlehem, may we, like the Wise Men, fall on our knees and adore him as our true and only King.”

Mark Zimmermann serves as the Senior Product Developer at Creative Communications for the Parish, where he has worked since 1994. In this role, he acquires authors for worship and devotional materials, procures permissions from other publishers, moulds and shapes submissions to meet the changing needs of today's pastors and parishes.

The son of a pastor, he grew up in Nebraska, Ohio and Iowa before settling in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a graduate of Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Professional Writing.

PLEASE READ ~ CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS ~ THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER

There will be an opportunity this coming Thursday 21st December in the morning at 9:30 AM and in the evening at 6:00 PM.

Both priests will be available for both sessions. All encouraged to attend as part of Advent preparation for Christmas.

Making a heartfelt confession at this time of year is very much in keeping with the passionate preaching from John the Baptist to repent, and to keep on repenting.

So what barriers can we find to avoid a deep and heartfelt confession?
Maybe “I don't really have any sins”.

Much more preferable to embrace a humility-of-heart like St Peter who once said to Jesus:
‘Leave me Lord for I am a sinful man.’

An examination of conscience involves – as we recite in the Penitential Act at Mass – “for what I've done and what I've failed to do, through my fault,.....”.

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS, CHRISTMAS TIME

The parish office will close at midday, Thursday 21st and reopen on Wednesday 27th at 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PROGRAMME RETURN OF ENROLMENT FORMS THIS WEEKEND

Families are asked to return the enrolment forms with \$25. The enrolment number is about 180 which is much the same as the recently completed FHC programme.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

The Parish Office is still compiling the Christmas Mass Roster and we are especially looking for Special Ministers to assist with distribution of Holy Communion at both the 5.00pm and 7.00pm Christmas Eve Masses. If you can assist and have not yet put your name forward, the office is asking if you could either email or call the Parish Office by Tuesday morning 19 December. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of the Christmas celebrations.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2024 MASS ROSTERS

Since the Covid lockdowns and limiting of people able to attend Mass not all volunteers who previously assisted with being rostered for the weekend Masses as Readers and Special Ministers have advised that they would like to go back to the Rostering. If this is you, and you have been considering a return, we would be very happy to hear from you as we start the New Year. The Parish Office always tries to make sure any special requests for times and frequency to be rostered are taken into consideration, so please if you can assist with Reading and the distribution of Holy Communion at Weekend Mass please contact the Parish Office during normal hours on 4655 8797 or email Camden@dow.org.au.

Christmas Tip

For quite a few decades, an increasingly popular option for the Christmas lunch has been the inclusion of chilled seafood in addition to the traditional cuisine of the stuffed turkey, glazed ham, marinated fowl and roast pork and crackle, all accompanied with seasonal veg.

Well if buying seafood, the Fish Feast at NTC opens for trading – would you believe – at 3:00 AM on Christmas Eve. Must be plenty of people about who think there's big advantage of being 'first in, best dressed'.

Can't help wondering if it would be a little easier to purchase the evening before at a more civilized hour of 5:00 PM. But maybe there's a huge consignment of ocean-fresh produce arriving well after 5:00 PM in the dark of night. And it's probably ok to presume that the queue is not likely to be too long at 3:00 AM.

Gotta an ole footie mate who buys his seafood from an outlet in Canley Heights. Pacific oysters are seriously large, with almost as much body and spread as a poached egg. Just about need a knife and fork to eat. OK, that's a slight exaggeration. But in all honesty, half a dozen would for most people be a real 'belly filler'. In contrast, it's very easy for the oyster-lover to eat a couple of dozen of Sydney rock oysters and still want more.

DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

	Church	Celebrant	Musicians
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM	Oakdale	Fr Victor	Jo
Christmas Eve 6:30 PM	The Oaks	Fr Victor	Nicole
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM	Camden	Fr Michael	Maria and Rachael
Christmas Eve 7:00 PM	Camden	Fr Michael	Craig, Brian, Colin, Sally
Christmas Eve 9:00 PM	Camden	Fr Victor	Eva and Sarah
Midnight ~ Carols from 11:30	Camden	Fr Victor	Choir
Christmas Morning	Camden	Fr Michael	Ilona and Bill

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**.

Diocesan News



A New Vision for Parishes

Bishop Mascord has supplied multiple copies of **Come and See Go and Make** – It's presented as a three-volume set. Copies still available for collection from our magazine tables in the various churches.

Pilgrimage of Mercy 11 – 21 June 2024

Father Christopher Sarkis, Parish Priest of Rosemeadow, will be the Chaplain accompanying Harvest Journeys Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy in June 2024, visiting Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Pilgrimage includes the Shrines of Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and the Infant of Prague. It visits places of importance to St John Paul II, St. Faustina and St. Maximillian Kolbe, among others. Optional Extension:

There is also an optional 6 night/7-day extension (21 – 27 June) to Bavaria and Austria. It will include the Marian Shrine of Altotting, as well as Marktl in Bavaria; Salzburg of the Sound of Music fame and the hometown of Mozart; and the historic, cultural, and artistic city of Vienna in Austria.

Pilgrims will also visit various other shrines and attractions along with some spectacular churches and monasteries. Enquiries: 4628 1385 or directly at harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimageof-mercy Bookings only through Harvest Journeys.

**Summer School of Evangelisation (Sydney): 7-14 January 2024,
Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville**

NSW Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations opened 31st October. Register by 30th November, to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625) these could still be available on enquiry. More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: summerschool.org.au

And lots more 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.

Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th December ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday

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

Celebrant

Musician/Vocalists

Sunday

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

17 th Dec	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Mark Coleman					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	John Roberts	Kerry Todd	Tony Sillis	Chris Keun, Anglina Vecchio	Russell O'Brien, Pat O'Flynn	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Brian				
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Kathryn Hampton	Anthony McElhone	Lorraine Phillips	Maryann Ace	Cheryl/ Kathryn
The Oaks 9.00am		Nicole Comerford				
Sun 10.00am	John Marchand	Wal Glynn	Brad McAllister	Cathy Conwell	Michael Reardon	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Mark Coleman	Samantha Vergara	Judith Madsen	Sharon Picken	Joseph Hanson	Craig

Saturday/Sunday 23rd/24th December ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo

Sunday

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

For our Faithful Departed: Marcia Apap, Giacomo Favot, Terrence Belleville, Des Grissell, Kerry Hudson, Virginia Mackie, Filippo Lo Conte, Barry Jones, Michael Greene, *who died recently*. Robert Sinclair, Laurence & Alex Rooney, Sam Fenech, Dorothy Dunn, Margaret Thurn, Thurn family, Sutton family, Dunn family, 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, 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