



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 Camden and The Oaks

6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

### St Scholastica Feast Day 10 February

The sister of St Benedict, born in Norcia about the year 480. Together with her brother, she consecrated herself to God and she followed Benedict to Monte Cassino in Italy, where she died about the year 547. She writes:

“If men knew the peace that good Religious enjoy,  
the whole world would become a monastery.”

### FATHER JAMES ARBLASTER ~ ARRIVING 15 FEBRUARY 2024

Fr James grew up in Albion Park Rail as the eldest of three boys. While going to school at St Paul's Primary and St Joseph's High School, both in Albion Park, he attended World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney as a Year 12 student, which was pivotal for his faith journey.

That year, he first felt the call to the priesthood, but ignored it. He went on to study Law and International Studies at the University of Wollongong, during which time he also spent a year as an international student in Leon, Spain.

Upon returning to Australia, Fr James wrestled with his faith until he finished university, when he decided to enter the seminary to further explore the call to priestly ministry. After much discernment, James realised the call to the priesthood was the best path for his life and the best thing he could do for others and personally committed his life to God.

After seven years in formation, Bishop Mascord ordained James to the priesthood on 10 Dec 2022. Fr James has been ministering in the cathedral parish and the university chaplaincy in Wollongong but will take up his new appointment as assistant priest in Camden parish effective the First Sunday of Lent 2024. As Father James will be in residence from the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, he has also agreed to assist with morning Masses on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY

Reminder of the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at Camden. And please try to take home a copy of the three pastoral programme booklets entitled 'Come See, Go Make'. Should be an actioned packed 90 minutes. Refreshments afterwards. Fr Michael will buy the twisties.

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## Ash Wednesday ~ 14 February

Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Narellan Vale	Mass at 8:00 AM (Hall)
		Camden	Mass at 9:15 AM with children
		Camden	Mass at 7:00 PM

BTW: For those who have been in this world for over six decades, the memory might stretch back far enough to recall the introduction of decimal currency on the 14 February 1966.

Previously, legal tender in Australia was in pounds, shilling and pence. It was a very difficult currency. The change to decimal currency was an enormous step forward for the economy, and for the retail sector especially.

## Season of Lent

The season of Lent is period of fasting and regret for one's sins that is observed on the 40 days from Ash Wednesday up until – but not including – the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday Evening.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving should in various ways be embraced during the season of Lent by the *Christifideles* (Christ's faithful).

Meat should not be eaten on Ash Wednesday and, in the spirit of fasting, gourmet foods like prawns, oysters and lobsters should also be avoided. Keep it simple!

So before Ash Wednesday, there is a responsibility upon the *Christifideles* to consider possible sacrifices that require some effort but still manageable.

## Lenten Group and Resources

For those who are interested, there is a Lenten group on the Thursday mornings during Lent after the 9:00 AM Mass. Please, for a few dollars, buy a copy of the diocesan Lenten publication entitled, *Pieta*.

Even if not joining the Lenten group, this publication is a valuable resource for prayer at home. The cost of the booklet is just \$4.50.

If wanting a booklet but unable to afford because of rising cost pressures upon the family budget, please feel free to take a complimentary copy.

In our own parishes of Camden and The Oaks, affordability will never be a barrier to parishioners having possession of the spiritual reading and publications that are produced by our own diocese.

## MORNING TEA FOR FATHER VICTOR

This weekend's Masses at Oakdale and The Oaks are the last for Father Victor in our Parishes. Because last weekend he was able to say goodbye to the Camden Parishioners, those at The Oaks would like to be able to see him off in a fitting manner. A morning Tea has been arranged for after the 9.00am The Oaks Mass, with everyone from both Oakdale and The Oaks invited. Please bring along a plate and share good wishes and thanks with Father Victor.

## PENANCE PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN

- Notes for parents / carers to assist completion of the second chapter will be distributed after Masses this weekend, and attendance recorded.
- Families who have not yet collected their workbook should firstly have their attendance recorded, pick up week 2 notes, then seek out the attendant who will have their workbook in which week 1 notes are enclosed.
- Please be mindful of the PAE (Prayer Assessment Evening) on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Children should, by now, be quite advanced in the process of learning their prayers. Learning these foundation prayers of our Catholic faith are an essential condition in being assessed as ready to celebrate their First Confession.
- Please note that every question/puzzle must be completed every week to avoid problems at the end of the programme when workbooks are marked.

## AGED CARE ~ PRESENTATION IN OUR OWN PARISH

Are you or a loved one looking for in-home Aged Care services but not sure where to start?

CatholicCare are visiting our parish to help you understand how they (CatholicCare) can provide the services you or your loved one need to continue to live independently with the right support.

Details:           Friday 22 March following 9:00 AM Mass.  
                          The meeting will be in the meeting room or possibly in the heritage hall.  
                          CatholicCare to provide morning tea.

So the Over 55s at Camden and The Oaks are invited to come along and hear the important information our aged care specialists have to offer. Good investment of time.

Please RSVP to Elizabeth / Cheryl on 4655 8797 or email [camden@dow.org.au](mailto:camden@dow.org.au).

## Enrolments in our Catholic Schools

Please be mindful that application for enrolments for kindergarten and year 7 in 2025 are now open online. All applications must be submitted via the schools' enrolment portals.

Please be extra mindful that all our Catholic schools in the parish receive more applications than places available. To avoid serious disappointment, it's most necessary to collect an application form as soon as they become available.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> February ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B

### Saturday

		<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>Musician/Vocalist</b>
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Belinda and Rachael
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	Eva & Darko
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Tony Lo Cascio

11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Ray Cusack	Wal Glynn	Chris Keun	Sharon Picken, John Roberts	Pat O'Flynn, Trish O'Flynn	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Albino				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Deanna David	Warren Johnson	Cheryl Carroll	Lucy Aquilina	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Carol Ann Meiklejohn				
Sun 10.00am	James & Peter	Helen Lanyon	Michael Toweel	Kylie Crnek-Georgeson	Michael Reardon	Raphael
Sun 5.00pm	Andrew Watson	Judith Madsen	Joseph Hanson	Samantha Vergara	Dianne Garland	Lo Cascio family

## Saturday/Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> February ~ First Sunday of Lent

### Saturday

		<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>Musician/Vocalists</b>
Camden	5:00 PM	Father James	Maria and Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

### Sunday

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

*For our Faithful Departed:* Marie Dunn, Sime Frkic, Beryl Hankin, Michael Ainsworth, John Davenport, William Burnell, *who died recently.* Rita Grubisic, Alenka Zuvela, Valtin Thurn, Saveria & Toni Grech, Eric Busby, Liam Cantarella, Dorothy Dunn, Margaret Thurn, Thurn family, Sutton family, Dunn family, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time.* Cath Bourke, Thurn Family, Sutton Family, Dunn Family, John Sammut, Givanni Pittana, Rose Mari, Josephine Sciberras, Keith, Maureen Millar, Bruce Millar, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Maria Irwin, Barry Myles, Mary and Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Louis & Victoria Gauci, *Requiescat in Pace.*

*We Pray for those who are unwell:* Lyn Simich, Renee Rutland, Myra Dozzi, 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**

**Father Michael**