



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

### 4th Sunday in Lent ~ 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 ~ Laetare Sunday

**Question:** What Is Laetare Sunday?

Most Catholics today are used to the Mass being conducted in English, and they hardly ever think about the fact that Latin remains the official language of the Catholic Church. But occasionally, Latin reasserts itself, as it does in the case of Laetare Sunday.

**Answer:** Laetare Sunday is the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. *Laetare* means "Rejoice" in Latin, and the entrance antiphon begins "*Laetare, Jerusalem*" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem").

Because the midpoint of Lent is the Thursday of the third week of Lent, Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. And on Laetare Sunday, the violet vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and **rose** ones are used instead when available.

Flowers, which are not encouraged during Lent, may be placed on the altar. Traditionally, the organ was never played during Lent, except on Laetare Sunday.

Laetare Sunday is also known as **Rose Sunday** or **Refreshment Sunday**, and it has a counterpart in Advent which is Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, when violet vestments are exchanged for rose ones.

The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of each respective penitential season.

### Aged Care ~ Midweek Mass

Presentation for many of our parishioners who have reached a venerable age in life:

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.

Father Michael will be attending for two reasons: (1) he's getting a bit 'long in the tooth' and so the presentation will be of personal interest, and (2) CatholicCare are supplying complimentary morning tea.

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

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Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) [theoaks@dow.org.au](mailto:theoaks@dow.org.au)

## Palm Sunday ~ 24<sup>th</sup> March

If any of our parishioners at The Oaks / Oakdale / Camden are able to donate any palms, please advise our secretaires during parish office hours. In recent years, the donation of palms has been greatly needed and appreciated. Thanks in advance to all who assist.

## St Clare's Church

The project is now on public exhibition on the Camden Council website until 18 March.

The documents made available to the public can be seen on the page link below. Please scroll to the bottom of the page. There are 22 documents listed and able to be viewed by the public.

<https://planning.camden.nsw.gov.au/Application/ApplicationDetails/010.2024.00000033.001/>

## Bishop Brian's Pastoral Plan ~ Come See, Go Make

### A New Vision for Parishes

Bishop Mascord has supplied multiple copies of Come and See Go and Make - A vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong for distribution amongst the faithful. Further to this, a short introductory video message from Bishop Mascord may be viewed / downloaded at:

<http://dow.sh/CSGMvision>

Come See, Go Make: A Vision for Parishes resources available at <http://dow.sh/CSGMresources>

## Vocations

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

To be cut off from the treasures of the Church is to be cast away from life itself. As the Israelites longed to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem, so must we long to continue to build up the Church today. (Psalm 137). If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## Mater Dei Annual Golf Fundraiser

Today, Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, is the occasion for the annual Mater Dei golfing fundraiser at the picture-postcard Camden Lakeside. Our best wishes are extended to the organisers and all the golfers for another very successful day in raising funds to be dedicated to the Mater Dei school and the students.

## Penance Programme

Families are requested to complete the ceremonies selection form and return to the attendants. Please do not take the form home. Options for First Confessions:

Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup> March	6:00 PM
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> March	7:00 PM
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	9:30 AM

Workbooks will be returned to the candidates this weekend. If the work has been approved, a parish stamp will appear on the inside front cover. Books with sections marked with a tab need to be reviewed or corrected with parents assisting their child. Books that have the parish on the inside cover do not need to be returned a second time.

Parents are required to assist their children prepare their children's consciences so that they (the children) will be able to make a thoughtful and considered confession. Sins might include:

### In terms of our relationship to God:

Faking sickness to avoid Sunday Mass  
Using Our Lord's name in vain  
Spiritual laziness resulting in the avoidance of prayer.

### In terms of human relationships and family responsibilities:

Fighting with others	Harmful words and actions
Disregard to home duties	Selfishness
Temper tantrums	Negligence to family pets
Foul language	Carelessness with the truth
Anti-social behaviour	Sulking

## Morning Tea at The Oaks this Sunday

A special morning tea is going to be held this Sunday 10 March to welcome Father James to the parish. Our normal monthly morning tea was held last Sunday in perfect weather, and we are hoping for a repeat this Sunday. Everyone from Saint Aloysius and Saint Joseph the Worker are invited to come along and enjoy meeting Father James in an informal setting and joining in the gathering of fellow parishioners. Please bring a plate, morning tea will be at about 10.00am after the normal 9.00am Mass.

## 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.

# SAVE OUR GRAVES

Dear Michael

Almost three years ago, you signed a petition to ‘Save Our Graves,’ resisting an attempt by the then- Coalition Government to exclude faith and charitable groups from cemetery management in this state.

In particular, they sought to take over the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (**Catholic Cemeteries**), which had been operating cemeteries in this state for more than 150 years, serving family and friends in their time of grief.

The new NSW Labor Government indicated that it wanted Catholic Cemeteries to continue its operations as a standalone entity not subject to government control, but the NSW Auditor-General continued to insist that CMCT was not a charity but a “controlled entity of the state.”

Recently the NSW Court of Appeal – in a unanimous decision – affirmed that Catholic Cemeteries is indeed a charity and not under the control of the NSW Treasury or the Auditor-General.

While Catholic Cemeteries will continue to operate transparently under the authority of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission and do what it can to facilitate the Auditor-General’s oversight of its work, in order to protect against a future government attempting to take over Catholic Cemeteries, it was very important that the Court of Appeal unanimously acknowledged it as a charity.

**It was a big victory and a win for the countless bereaved families Catholic Cemeteries serve each year.**

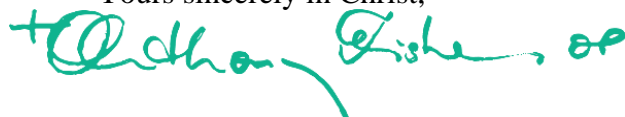
And it would not have happened without your support.

You and tens of thousands of people like you raised your voices to let our elected officials know that caring for the dead and those who grieve them is a work of the Church, not a government service.

The overwhelming support of the Save Our Graves petition meant the Government knew that there were many people who wanted Catholic Cemeteries to continue its important mission of mercy, so I am deeply grateful for your cooperation.

Thank you and God bless you and your loved ones.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP  
Catholic Archbishop of Sydney

## Saturday/Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> March ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Saturday

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

### Sunday

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

10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Pat O'Flynn					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Ray Cusack	Chris Keun	Jim Gallagher	Trish O'Flynn, Pat O'Flynn	John Roberts, Angelina Vecchio	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Albino				
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Warren Johnson	Kathryn Hampton	Cheryl Carroll	Lucy Aquilina	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Leslie Meiklejohn				
Sun 10.00am	James McFarlane	Maria Caridi	Michael Toweel	Maria Debrincat	Cathy Conwell	Raphael
Sun 5.00pm	Peter Grizelj	Joseph Hanson	Judith Madsen	Margaret Thornton	Dianne Garland	Lo Cascio family

## Saturday/Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> March ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Saturday

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

### Sunday

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

*For our Faithful Departed:* Ivy Gleeson, Lyn Simich, Marie Dunn, Sime Frkic, Beryl Hankin, Michael Ainsworth, John Davenport, William Burnell, *who died recently.* Mary Feehan, Juliet Benedict, Brian & Julie Jenkins, Pat Rheinbeger, Faye Humphries, Dorothy Dunn, Margaret Thurn, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time.* Clare Marousis, Gemma Veness, Cath Bourke, Thurn Family, Sutton Family, Dunn Family, 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:* Alexia Nawaling, Robert & Margaraet Roach, Anne Hyeronimus, Dianne Koens, Myra Dozzi, Anne Lonsdale, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Wayne Fletcher, Betty Aquilina, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Norman Richardson, John and Iona Somoracz.

**Kind Regards**

**Father Michael**