



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 Lent ~ Year C ~ 8/9 March 2025

This Sunday the first of Lent is also known as Quadragesima Sunday. Quadragesima is from the Latin word for fortieth from this Sunday it is exactly 40 days until Good Friday.

Some suggestions of how we can observe our obligations during Lent are:
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Penance and all who are aged 14 years and older must abstain from eating meat on these days.

Prayer ~ additional Mass attendance, family prayer, reading the bible, making the Stations of the Cross, praying the Rosary.

Self-denial ~ not eating sweets or desserts, giving up entertainment to spend time with family, limiting food and drink to give to the poor.

Helping others ~ special attention to the poor, the ill, the elderly, the lonely, the bereaved, the depressed, the overburdened.

Penance Programme 2024/25

Families with children in the Sacrament of Penance programme need to hand in their completed workshop books. Tubs will be in place on either side of the altar and books need to be placed into these. Books should be fully completed before being handed in, no pages or activities can be missed, or the books will be returned for further working.

Next Tuesday 11 March at 5.00pm the first of our Prayer Assessment evenings will be held in the church. Wednesday 12 March at 6.00pm will be the second Assessment evening. Children with even birthdays are asked to attend on Tuesday and those with odd birthdays on Wednesday. These times need not necessarily be strictly adhered to, if your family has a commitment and you need to come on the opposite evening or if you have two children in the programme one with an even birthday, the other with an odd date you are welcome to come to the evening that best suits your family. Children should know the three prayers, The Our Father, The Hail Mary and The Act of Contrition very well. There will sufficient numbers of attendants to hear the prayers and this will help the evenings to run smoothly. Quietness will need to be observed while families are in the church, please ensure that every child has the ambiance you would like for your child.

CatholicCare ~ Foster Care

CatholicCare is on a mission to find people to help turn a child's life around. They urgently need carers who can share their homes and lives to make a positive impact on a child's future for a short time or a lifetime. With this in mind, we have invited CatholicCare to share a presentation at mass on the weekend of 22 & 23 March. They will be at the Saturday vigil and both Sunday morning masses. They will stay after mass to answer any questions that you may have or just provide more information on this urgent situation.

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

Year of Jubilee

Gotta Question: **Would you like a Jubilee Indulgence?**

In our everyday vocabulary, the idea of an indulgence is normally associated with earthly pleasures that stimulate the senses. A big part of spiritual growth is to keep these carnal desires under control. And that's not always so easy. Far too easy to fall into sin, sometimes seriously.

So across the centuries, the church teaches that plenary indulgences are available – which is a way for Catholics to reduce the amount of punishment and penance that needs to be undertaken for sins. Here's a simple breakdown:

- **Indulgence:** It's a reduction of the temporal punishment due to sin, the guilt of which has already been forgiven. So an indulgence is a bit like a big discount from the debt that needs to be paid for sin.
- **Plenary:** This means "full" or "complete". A plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due to sin. Seems almost too good to be true.

To receive a plenary indulgence, certain conditions need to be met, such as performing a specific act (like reading the Bible for half an hour), going to confession, receiving the Eucharist, praying for the Pope's intentions, and being free from all attachment to sin, including venial sin. Indulgences can also be partial, which means they only reduce part of the punishment due to sin.

So what's so different about a **Jubilee Indulgence?**

The overarching theme of a Jubilee indulgence is to encourage spiritual renewal, reconciliation, and acts of kindness, emphasising God's boundless mercy and forgiveness.

So here's what it takes from the faithful:

- ✓ To be truly repentant.
- ✓ Free from the affection for any particular sin.
- ✓ Moved by a spirit of charity.
- ✓ Purified through the Sacrament of Penance.
- ✓ Refreshed by Holy Communion.
- ✓ Praying for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

Pope Francis explained that the Jubilee Indulgence is also a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy.

BUT: a Jubilee Indulgence also requires devoutly visiting any Jubilee site and there, for a suitable period of time, engage in Eucharistic Adoration and meditation, concluding with the Our Father, the profession of faith, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God. Pilgrims are also encouraged to recite the Holy Year Pilgrim's Prayer.

So this is where the parish will help.

All parishioners from both our parishes will be advised of a bus trip to one of the pilgrim sites. Details have yet to be determined.

However, the visit to a particular site will be for a few hours and include the above-mentioned devotions and opportunity to receive the sacraments.

More news in coming weeks.

Lenten Group for Young Adults.

Last Thursday evening Father James held the first of the young adult Lenten group meetings. 19 parishioners were in attendance. The group will be meeting each Thursday evening in the meeting room for the 6 weeks of Lent, it will be following the Diocese programme 'Metanoia'. The first week's topic was Jesus in the Desert. The artwork in the booklet is very beautiful and the reflections are inspiring. The lesson was laid out very well and the evening passed extremely quickly. Parishioners in attendance were all impressed with the first lesson and expressed their anticipation for the coming weeks.

Diocesan News

For 2025, there's a very strong emphasis on Year of Jubilee.

Good idea to visit the diocesan website jubilee.dow.org.au

Saturday/Sunday 8/9 March ~ First Sunday of Lent

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria B & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father James	Jo

Sunday

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

9 th March	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Pat O'Flynn					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Pat & Olivia	Maria Kosiak	Toni Sillis	Russell O'Brien	Sharon Picken	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Albino				
Sun 8.00am	Mark Coleman	Deanna David	Warren Johnson	Cheryl Carroll	Glenn Crawford	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Melissa Duck				
Sun 10.00am	John Marchand	Meaghan Marchand	Oscar Marimbe	Michael Reardon	Nada Simich	Rafael
Sun 5.00pm	Peter Grizelj	Stephen Barrett	Margaret Thornton	Joseph Hanson	Therese Easter	Lo Cascio family

Saturday/Sunday 15/16 March ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday

Celebrant

Musician/Vocalists

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	Cheryl
Camden	10:00 AM	Father James	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Craig

For our Faithful Departed:

Jeanette Devlin, Suzie Freestone, France Zamudio, Maureen Foley, James Seedsman, *who died recently*. Zorka Perak, Faye Humphries, Juanito Cruz, Juliet Benedict, Pat Rheinberger, John Spora, Antonia Scarcella, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Burns family, Vaughan family, Lilian Grech, Valtin Thurn, Margaret Thurn, Dorothy Dunn, John Dunn, Sutton, Thurn and Dunn families, Cath Bourke, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Anthony Paul, Paul Barry, Jeremy Barry, Fr John Whitty, Paul & Phyl Star, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Barry Myles, *Requiescat in Pace*.

We Pray for those who are unwell:

Kylieann Back, Kerri Haughton, Luigi Zanatta, Fr Rick McCann, Diana Lee, Noel Lowry, Betty Aquilina, Eric Arblaster, Mary Murphy, David Schwarb, Fr David Catterall, Marie Saba, Stephen Goonan, Jan & Terry Chanter, Ralph Sawyer, Tarnia Pisano, Ilona Maros, Michael O'Sullivan, Nell and Wal Glynn, Pauline Cepak, Joseph Camilleri, Abbey Kohler, Brian Ovington, Bernardine Hagan, Les Lugowski, Alexia Nawaling, Margaret Roach, Anne Hyeronimus, Dianne Koens, Myra Dozzi, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Betty Aquilina, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Norman Richardson, Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Father Michael