



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

Conclave

The conclave is one of the most secretive and significant events in the Catholic Church, where cardinals gather to elect a new Pope. The term "conclave" comes from the Latin cum clave, meaning "with a key," referring to the tradition of locking the cardinals inside the Sistine Chapel until they reach a decision.

The Process

The conclave begins after the death or resignation of a Pope. The College of Cardinals, composed of senior church officials from around the world, convenes in Vatican City. Only cardinals under the age of 80 are eligible to vote. Before the voting starts, they attend a special Mass and take an oath of secrecy.

The voting process follows strict procedures. Each cardinal writes the name of their chosen candidate on a ballot and places it in a chalice. The votes are counted, and if no candidate receives a two-thirds majority, the ballots are burned, producing black smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel. This signals to the world that no decision has been made. When a candidate finally secures the required votes, the ballots are burned with a special chemical, producing white smoke—announcing that a new Pope has been elected.

Historical Significance

The conclave has been a crucial part of the Catholic Church for centuries. The longest papal election in history lasted over two years in the late 13th century, prompting reforms to speed up the process. Today, conclaves typically last a few days, with recent elections concluding within two days.

The Mystery and Tradition

The conclave remains one of the most fascinating rituals in the modern world. Despite technological advancements, the process remains deeply rooted in tradition, with cardinals secluded from outside influence. The secrecy surrounding the election adds to the intrigue, as the world watches for the moment when white smoke rises from the Vatican, signalling the arrival of a new leader for the Catholic Church.

As a little 'Obiter Dictum', it's been reported that an international leader had indicated that he wouldn't mind being elected as Pope. But that's not possible because the papacy is a religious office within the Catholic Church.

Project Compassion

Our collection for Project Compassion this year is now more than \$5,000.00. Gratitude is expressed to everyone who has contributed to this wonderful amount. The Parish office will be sending on the funds this week, if you still have to return your envelopes or money box it is not too late.

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

Confirmation Programme 2025

At all Masses this weekend families who submitted their child's name last weekend need to have their attendance recorded by one of the attendants and collect an enrolment form which needs to be returned next weekend along with \$25.00.

If your family was away last weekend and you were unable to submit your child's name, this weekend you need to collect a small form which then needs to be exchanged for the programme timeline and the enrolment form, again the enrolment form needs to be returned next weekend with \$25.00.

All enquiries should be directed to the office during normal hours by calling 4655 8797 or emailing camden@dow.org.au.

Parish Men's Group ~ Wednesday 7 May

This coming Wednesday evening the May meeting of the Parish Men's Group will be held in the Parish meeting room commencing at 6.30pm. The topic for May will be a "surprise" but will follow the usual format. This month being the alternate month will be Pizza night. The parish will supply refreshments and Pizza for all those in attendance. This is a new initiative for 2025 and was very popular when trialled, the Parish bears all the costs for the meal and all attendees are encouraged to stay and enjoy the food and fraternity.

Parish Event ~ Saturday 31 May

Our next Parish Event is scheduled for the 31 May, in our Heritage Hall. Numbers are capped at 90 as this is the number that can be comfortably seated in the Hall. Cost for the two course meal and refreshments is \$20.00. Father Michael always has interesting and varied topics that are discussed, sometimes with very funny results. To allow for the catering numbers if you are intending to come along, please advise the Parish office during normal hours.

Golden Anniversary of Ilona and William

Congratulations are offered to long time parishioners and our outstanding Choir co-ordinators Ilona and William 'Bill' Degeling who are celebrating 50 wonderful years of marriage. Ilona and Bill were married on the 3 May 1975 at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church in Tamworth. They are celebrating with a luncheon after renewing their vows this Saturday morning, their children and grandchildren will all be in attendance.



CatholicCare ~ Cross+Gen

Due to the popularity of the Cross+Gen technology program, CatholicCare, will again partner with St Benedict's Oran Park and CEDoW to assist with the technology issues that you may be struggling with. Bring your device, your phone, laptop or tablet and the students will assist you with becoming more confident in downloading apps, sending messages or even using google maps.

The dates are as follows, and afternoon tea will be provided:

- Tuesday 13 May 1pm-2.30pm
- Tuesday 27 May 1pm-2.30pm
- Tuesday 3 June 1pm-2.30pm
- Tuesday 10 June 1pm-2.30pm

Please join us in this unique opportunity to connect with seniors and students for some information sharing in a fun, relaxed setting at St Benedict's Catholic College Oran Park.

To book, contact Jane Hollier Parish and Community Officer CatholicCare on 0417 018 152 or email janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

Diocesan News

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

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

Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th May ~ The Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father James	Belinda & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father James	Steve & Damian
Camden	10:00 AM	Father James	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jenny & Tasha

4 th May	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Pat O'Flynn	Kerry Todd	Danielle Caruana	Ray Cusack, Diane Kennaugh	Angelina Vecchio, Russell O'Brien	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Albino				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Cheryl Carroll	Warren Johnson	Lucy Aquilina	Glenn Crawford	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Warren Jones				
Sun 10.00am	James McFarlane	Helen Lanyon	Nada Simich	Kylie Crnek- Georgeson	Peter Grizelj	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	John Marchand	Maria Kosiak	Meaghan Marchand	Joseph Hanson	Olivia Kosiak	Eugene Kosiak

Saturday/Sunday 10th/11th May ~ The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria B & Maria C
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 & Choristers
Camden	5:00 PM	Father James	Tony

For our Faithful Departed:

Warren Dodds, Eric Melham, John Mainwaring, Alfred Pirrone, Michael Barahona, Joan Clarke, Judith Ashdown, Helen Spiteri, *who died recently*. Joseph 'Joe' Carlon, Giuseppe Zinghini, Mary 'Maisie' Falconer, Teresa Amoroso, Rosario Debono, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Cath Bourke, Sutton, Thurn and Dunn families, Burns family, Vaughan family, Lilian Grech, Valtin Thurn, Margaret Thurn, Dorothy Dunn, John Dunn, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Anthony Paul, Paul Barry, Jeremy Barry, Fr John Whitty, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Barry Myles, *Requiescat in Pace*.

We Pray for those who are unwell:

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

Kind Regards

Father Michael