



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ YEAR A ~ 2/3 MAY 2026

Friday 1 May ~ Saint Joseph the Worker ~ Foster Father of Jesus, husband of Mary

Saint Joseph is honoured as the patron saint of workers. A carpenter by trade, he provided for the Holy Family through manual work and taught his skills to Jesus. Saint Joseph embodies the dignity, patience, and holiness of daily labour, he represents the value of honest work and quiet strength. His life reminds communities to serve with purpose, protect others and contribute meaningfully to the world through steady, faithful effort.

### BREAKING NEWS

#### ST CLARE'S CHURCH ~ SOD-TURNING CEREMONY

Details have been finalised for the '**Sod-Turning**' Ceremony for **Thursday 28 May at 1:30pm**. The formalities are expected to be about 30 minutes with afternoon tea available afterwards.

All invited but it could be a good idea to bring a camping chair if seating is required.

A sod-turning ceremony is a *symbolic event marking the official start of construction*, usually involving dignitaries turning the first shovelful of soil. Bishop Brian will officiate at the ceremony.

But we've got a problem. We need a **ceremonial shovel** – which is often painted gold or engraved – to dig into the ground as a symbolic gesture. Please contact the parish office if you've got any ideas.

These ceremonies serve several important purposes:

**Symbolic commencement** — The act of cutting into the soil marks the transition from planning to actual construction.

**Publicity and media attention** — Our parish will use the event to generate positive press and build excitement around the project.

**Community and stakeholder engagement** — Inviting local leaders, supporters, and the community helps strengthen relationships and demonstrate the project's significance.

**Tradition** — The practice has deep historical roots and remains common in many countries, especially Commonwealth nations such as Australia, Canada, and the UK. Indeed, there was a 'Sod-Turning Ceremony' about 15 years ago for the building of St. Justin's at Oran Park.

A Catholic sod-turning ceremony often includes:

- Prayers including a Sprinkling with Holy Water
- Few short speeches
- Media attendance and photo opportunities
- The ceremonial turning of soil with a special shovel

For organisational and catering purposes, please advise the parish office 4655 8797 if you would like to attend.

## OUR 2026 PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM

Welcome to the Engagement Weekend of our Parish Renewal Program! This week celebrates our commitment to being a Mission driven parish – helping all celebrate God’s presence and expressing our faith through outreach, service, and justice. We all have a role to play –indeed a responsibility to use our gifts and talents for the benefits of others. So please be involved in one of our parish Groups or Ministries – either for the first time or in a continuing role – your involvement will be a clear expression of your faith, personally rewarding, and a great contribution to our parish. Our Program Coordinator, Stephen Littleton will speak with us at each Mass and distribute copies of the special Ministries form.

A special thank you to our wonderful parishioners, Damian Ward, Elizabeth Paparo and Sheereen Brunetta who spoke so beautifully at Masses last weekend as we launched the Program. A special thanks and “get better soon” to Trent Sinclair, whose heartfelt message was delivered by Stephen at the 10.00am Mass.

### THOUGHT FOR REFLECTION:

Q: Why is it important to be actively engaged in parish Ministries?

“It is important for the mission of our parish to be engaged! When we engage, our faith becomes stronger, we help others, and we keep our community strong and vibrant. Engagement is faith in action!” “To give back for all we have received – and by our example, encourage others to do the same. It is being a community!”

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ~ 2026

This weekend families need to return their completed enrolment form, which was distributed last weekend, along with the \$25.00 fee.

Should your family still not have enrolled your child into the programme and wish to do so please see one of the attendants to collect the enrolment form, please come prepared to fill it in and return immediately, do not take it home, and then exchange it along with the \$25.00 fee and receive a Programme timeline.

Packs of Holy cards will be available for families who need to refresh their knowledge of the prayers that will need to be very well known for the Prayer Assessment evenings. The prayers are The Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Act of Contrition. Please ask the attendants if your family needs a prayer pack.

Attendance as a worshipping family is an integral part of all Saint Paul’s programmes and families should arrive at Mass on time; this shows the children respect for God and their community. Late arrival causes disruption to other parishioners. The practice of arriving at the end of Mass just to have your child’s name marked off and to pick up any paperwork is highly discouraged, this is not in the children’s interest as when the beautiful Confirmation ceremonies are held they are unfamiliar with the rhythm of Mass and as a result do not get every benefit from the occasion that they should.

## 2026 ST PAUL’S WINTER WONDERLAND SCHOOL FETE



The annual school fete of Saint Paul’s Primary school will be held on Saturday 30 May from 9.00am until 4.00pm. This year the theme will be “Winter Wonderland” Come along and join the P and F and parent volunteers for a fun-filled day with games, food, live entertainment, crafts and community spirit. Bring your family and explore the colourful stalls, enjoy the carnival rides and support our school. There’s something for everyone.



## ROSARY AT ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, OAKDALE

This Saturday evening 2 May following the 5.00pm Vigil Mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Oakdale the monthly praying of the Rosary will be held. All parishioners are encouraged to stay after Mass and take part in this devotional practice with the beautiful Marian prayers.

## MONTHLY MORNING TEA AT ST ALOYSIUS, THE OAKS

This Sunday 3 May being the first of the month morning tea will be held after the 9.00am Mass at Saint Aloysius, The Oaks. The weather is perfect at the moment so please stay after Mass to enjoy a “cuppa” and fraternity with fellow parishioners. Please bring a plate to share.

## HEALING MASS ~ TUESDAY 5 MAY

This Tuesday 5 May our morning Mass will be the monthly Healing Mass for May. Father Hung will be the celebrant with Father Victor as concelebrant. If you are unwell, facing surgery or waiting for a diagnosis please come to this Mass to receive the additional prayers and anointing that is available to all.

A cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit is offered in the Parish Meeting room after Mass for anyone who would like to share with fellow parishioners.

## PARISH MEN’S GROUP ~ WEDNESDAY 6 MAY

Next Wednesday evening the Parish Men’s Group will be meeting in the Parish meeting room from 6.30pm for their May meeting. Father Hung and Father Victor will be the facilitators with prayer, scripture reading and discussion.

The Parish will be supplying delicious Pizza and refreshments for all attendees at the conclusion of the meeting which is at about 7.30pm. All men of the Parish are invited, so come along and join in this spirited group.

## AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA ~ SATURDAY 23 MAY

On Saturday 23 May from 10.00am until 12.00 noon the Parishioners of Saint Aloysius The Oaks will be holding a morning tea to raise funds for The Cancer Council of Australia. Tickets will be \$10.00 for the morning tea which will have a delicious array of cakes and pastries and a cup of tea or coffee on offer, a raffle will be held and all funds raised will go to this most worthy cause.

If you would like to bring a plate to share on the day this will mean additional funds can be raised. The last Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea held at The Oaks was two years ago and a substantial amount was raised and sent to the Cancer Council. *Save the date for this great initiative.*



## PLEASE PRESERVE THE REVERENCE OF THE CHURCH

All who enter our Church are asked to please refrain bringing in fizzy drinks, coffee, lollies and treats, especially chewing gum. Our church is cleaned to a very high standard, and sweets and spills left by those who attend early Masses leave those who attend at later times unable to enjoy the same cleanliness. Our electronic sign has this request on it at all times.

## ACCESS TO THE CHURCH TOILETS DURING MASS

Access to the church toilets will continue to be through the rear single door of the church only. Gentlemen need to proceed straight ahead to the rear of the buildings and then turn right up the short ramp. Lady's facilities are still in the toilet block at the rear left-hand corner of the church. Please follow the signs.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### The Tribunal of the Catholic Church

The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney has an office in the Diocese of Wollongong. The Tribunal offers a service to people who are civilly divorced and who are wishing to remarry, want their current marriage recognised by the Church or clarification of their standing within the Church. Any divorced person, divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong office of the Tribunal Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays by calling 4222 2409 or by contacting [tribunal@dow.org.au](mailto:tribunal@dow.org.au) further information is available on their website [www.tribunal.dow.org.au](http://www.tribunal.dow.org.au)

### “Journeying Together” Diocese Newsletter

The Diocese has begun producing a periodical with news and events that are occurring around the Diocese. Volume 1 number 1 for May 2026 is now available from the magazine tables around the church. Bishop Brian writes to us all with his thoughts and hopes for us all. There is information about the 2028 Eucharistic Conference, updates on what is occurring in the various parishes and invitations to join like-minded people with Compass and Ignite Youth. Well worth taking home a copy and knowing what is available to us all.

## SATURDAY/SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>/3<sup>RD</sup> MAY ~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Saturday

|         |         | Celebrant      | Musician/Vocalists |
|---------|---------|----------------|--------------------|
| Camden  | 5:00 PM | Father Victor  | Belinda & Maria C  |
| Oakdale | 5:00 PM | Father Michael | Jo                 |

### Sunday

|          |          | Celebrant      | Musician/Vocalists |
|----------|----------|----------------|--------------------|
| The Oaks | 9:00 AM  | Father Michael | Nicole             |
| Camden   | 8:00 AM  | Father Victor  | Cheryl             |
| Camden   | 10:00 AM | Father Hung    | Choir              |
| Camden   | 5:00 PM  | Father Hung    | Sally              |

| 3 <sup>rd</sup> May  | Acolyte           | Lector              | Lector              | Special Minister                  | Special Minister                   | PC               |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Sat<br>9.00am        | Enzeigh<br>Thomas |                     |                     |                                   |                                    |                  |
| Sat Vigil<br>5.00 pm | Peter<br>Grizelj  | Danielle<br>Caruana | John<br>Roberts     | Mary Bartolo,<br>Angelina Vecchio | Heather Cox,<br>Russell O'Brien    | Kerry            |
| Oakdale<br>Vigil 5pm | Chris Billet      | Brian               |                     |                                   |                                    |                  |
| Sun<br>8.00am        | Enzeigh<br>Thomas | Cheryl<br>Carroll   | Glenn<br>Crawford   | Lorraine Phillips                 | Maryann Ace                        | Cheryl           |
| The Oaks<br>9.00am   |                   | Jeanette<br>Reid    |                     |                                   |                                    |                  |
| Sun<br>10.00am       | John<br>Marchand  | Maria<br>Caridi     | Meaghan<br>Marchand | Kylie Crnek-Georgeson             | Maria Debrincat,<br>Michael Toweel | Brad             |
| Sun<br>5.00pm        | Olivia<br>Kosiak  | Joseph<br>Hanson    | Maria<br>Kosiak     | Jacinta Abernethy                 | Simon Abernethy                    | Eugene<br>Kosiak |

## SATURDAY/SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>/10<sup>TH</sup> MAY ~ SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Saturday

|         |         |               |                   |
|---------|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| Camden  | 5:00 PM | Father Hung   | Maria B & Maria C |
| Oakdale | 5:00 PM | Father Victor | Jo                |

### Celebrant

### Musician/Vocalists

### Sunday

|          |          |                |                   |
|----------|----------|----------------|-------------------|
| The Oaks | 9:00 AM  | Father Victor  | Nicole            |
| Camden   | 8:00 AM  | Father Hung    | Choir             |
| Camden   | 10:00 AM | Father Michael | Eva & Youth Choir |
| Camden   | 5:00 PM  | Father Michael | Tony              |

#### *For our Faithful Departed:*

Winifred Tegg, Margaret Britton, Joyce Lawler, Elaine Belleville, Alice Thew, Jennifer Johnson, Angela-Maria Arcuri, Mauricio Garcia, *who died recently*. Joseph Calleja, Michael Vella, Paul Barry, Lilian Grech, Raymond Noel King, Jessica King, Matthew Dunn, Elizabeth Thurn, Faye Humphries, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Thurn family, Dunn family, Sutton family Msgr Pastor Bolivar Virginia, Cath Bourke, Sammy Fenech, Barry Myles, Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, Pat O'Flynn, Fr Allan Hartcher, Fr David Catterall, Fr John Whitty, *Requiescat in Pace*.

#### *We Pray for those who are unwell:*

Ladislaus Parragi, Mason Bayliss, Patricia Stubbs, Jan & Terry Chanter, Helen Parragi, Oliver Franklin, June McCullough, Dean Masciocchi, Abigail Chan, Kylieann Back, Kerri Haughton, Fr Rick McCann, Diana Lee, Noel Lowry, Betty Aquilina, Stephen Goonan, Ralph Sawyer, Tarnia Pisano, Michael O'Sullivan, Nell Glynn, Abbey Kohler, Brian Ovington, Bernardine Hagan, Les Lugowski, Alexia Nawaling, Bob & Margaret Roach, Dianne Koen, Myra Dozzi, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Ilona Somoracz.

**Kind Regards**

**Father Michael Williams PP**