



**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

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A ~ 18/19 JULY 2026

Wednesday 22 July

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Saint Mary Magdalene

Saint Mary Magdalene, who was sometimes called Mary of Magdala, or simply the Magdalene was a woman who, according to the Gospels, travelled with Jesus as one of his followers and was a witness to his crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Saint Mary Magdalene is seen as a prominent follower of Jesus and it is believed she was healed by him, supported his ministry financially, and was present with his followers until the end.

DECLINE IN HEALTH OF FATHER RICK McCANN

Many of our parishioners especially those from Saint Aloysius, The Oaks, have been wondering about the welfare of Father Rick. He has moved permanently from his residency at Elderslie and is now in full-time care.

Most unfortunately, Father Rick has been in decline. He is being comforted by a little medication but requires continuous assessment and support. Because of his medical condition, communication for Father Rick is not easy. However, when visited a few days ago, he immediately asked – referring to The Oaks – “how’s the parish going.”

So, we continue to support Father Rick with our prayers and hope, especially that he may be comforted by the best available medication.

BACK-UP PENANCE PROGRAMME ~ CAMDEN ONLY

This weekend at all Camden Masses, Backup Penance Programme Workshop Books and the first week’s assistance sheets will be distributed. The Assistance sheets have been placed within the front cover of the Workshop books.

During the coming week Workshop One is to be completed, pages 4 to 8, please read the Assistance sheets to understand what subject the puzzles are looking for. The Assistance sheets are intended as aid for family members who will be working with the children, they are not intended to be given to the children who are told “here are the answers”. Every question and puzzle must be answered.

During the initial submitting of the children’s names two weeks ago, parents were given a set of Holy cards and advised to commence the learning of the three prayers, The Hail Mary, The Lord’s Prayer and the Act of Contrition as they would need to be very well known. The timeline also indicates that the children would be tested on their knowledge. Last weekend at all Masses the children were called forward to be tested as a group on the Act of Contrition, it was obvious to Father Michael that most of the children had very little knowledge of the prayer. The children will be called forward again this weekend at all Masses and asked to recite the Act of Contrition as a group, parents and families are asked to ensure the children have started learning this and the other prayers as they will all be tested individually on Tuesday 28 July. Packs of Holy cards are always available and can be collected at any time, by request from the attendants.

RCIA ~ ADULTS INTO THE CHURCH 2026

This coming Wednesday evening, 22 July is the next scheduled meeting for our RCIA candidates for 2026. The subjects this week will be The Trinity, Pentecost, The Church, Scripture and Tradition. Father Michael will be the facilitator. The meeting will commence at 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting room.

SAVE THE DATE ~ PARISH ADVENT EVENT ~ 29 NOVEMBER 2026

Early notice is given that the Parish will again be hosting an Advent Event. The date is Saturday 29 November, the first week of Advent, in the Heritage Hall. Tickets will be on sale closer to the event.

Early notice was given of the Pentecost event that was held in May, and we found that because parishioners knew to save the date in advance, they did so and all tickets were sold within two weeks. These events are very popular, very reasonably priced and a truly enjoyable evening, so please save the 29 November in your calendars now and avoid disappointment.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FROM FATHER VICTOR

~ The Patience of God ~

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the weeds. A farmer sows good seed, but during the night an enemy scatters weeds among the wheat. When the servants notice the weeds, they want to remove them immediately. The master, however, replies, "Let them both grow till the harvest."

At first, this response seems surprising. Why allow the weeds to remain? Jesus is teaching us something profound about the heart of God. While we are often quick to judge and eager to separate the good from the bad, God is infinitely patient. He sees what we cannot. He knows that hearts can change, lives can be transformed, and sinners can become saints.

The life of St Augustine beautifully illustrates this truth. Before his conversion, he lived far from God and pursued a life of worldly ambition and pleasure. Yet through God's grace and the persistent prayers of his mother, St Monica, he experienced a profound conversion and became one of the Church's greatest saints. God did not give up on him, and neither should we lose hope in anyone.

This parable also invites us to examine our own hearts. The field is not only the world around us but also the landscape within us. Alongside faith, hope and charity, there may also be pride, impatience, resentment or selfishness. Rather than becoming discouraged, we are invited to allow God's grace to continue its work through prayer, the sacraments and daily acts of love.

The Gospel reminds us that judgment belongs to God alone. Our task is not to condemn but to remain faithful, trusting that God is always at work, often in hidden ways. May we reflect His patience in our relationships, never losing hope in ourselves or in others, confident that His grace can bring forth a rich harvest in its proper time.

PRAYER FOR OUR SEMANARIANS

The Diocese has supplied us with Prayer cards with a Prayer for our seminarians, Quy Tran, Anthony Rewak and Joshua Lee who are currently undertaking their religious studies.

The Diocese requests that we pray the prayer and support the seminarians. Without seminarians joining the priesthood, in future years Parishes will not be able to have a Priest in residence, so our prayers and support are truly needed.

PLEASE PRESERVE THE REVERENCE OF THE CHURCH

All who enter our Church are asked to please refrain from bringing in fizzy drinks, coffee, lollies and treats, especially chewing gum. The consuming of drinks and sweets shows disregard for the reverence of the church, fellow parishioners and our clergy. Our electronic sign has this request on it at all times.

ACCESS TO 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

2026 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are warmly invited to the Significant Marriage Anniversaries, celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on Sunday 6 September 2026 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

Registration is essential and must be completed online at dow.sh/ma26 by no later than Monday, 17 August 2026. Any enquiries please email Helen Bennett helen.bennett@dow.org.au

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 18TH/19TH JULY ~ 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Belinda & Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Jo
Sunday			
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Cheryl
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Hung	Nicole
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Craig

19 th Jul	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Mark Coleman	Sandra Skarsky	Diane Kennaugh	Ray Cusack, Russell O'Brien	Arthur Samcam, Mary Bartolo	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Albino				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Warren Johnson	Kimberley Logue	Lorraine Phillips	Cheryl Carroll	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Nicole Comerford				
Sun 10.00am	John Marchand	Oscar Marimbe	Nada Simich	Meaghan Marchand, Mary Velardi	Michael Toweel,	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Peter Grizelj	Judith Madsen	Ann Madsen	Therese Easter	Clare Power	Craig

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 25TH/26TH JULY ~ 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Maria B & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo

Sunday

Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Nicole
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Hung	Damian
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Craig

For our Faithful Departed:

Amelia Breaden, Maria Kelemenic, Kenneth Barrett, Shamie Glavey (Ireland), Rico Aquilina, Nino Grizelj, Lynda Rankin, Suzanne Walter, Rosalia Caccamo, Benito Cavallaro *who died recently*. Pato Arlegui, Janice Louise Davis, Ena Lang, Mary Thurn, Joe and Peter Scholte, David Lewis, Anthony Mifsud, Anthony Paul, Joe Scholte, Peter Scholte, Daniel Perinich, Michael Thornton, Veronica Sargeant, Jerry Leonardi, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Lillian Grech, Tony Barr, deceased members of the Lewis & Ryan families, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Cath Bourke, 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:

Fr Rick McCann, Sarah Oaten, Evelyn Duck, Ladislaus Parragi, Mason Bayliss, Patricia Stubbs, Jan & Terry Chanter, Helen Parragi, Oliver Franklin, June McCullough, Dean Masciocchi, Abigail Chan, Kylieann Back, Kerri Haughton, 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 Koens, Myra Dozzi, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards, Father Michael Williams PP