

*Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden*

**RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 15/16 August**

This weekend we welcome the return of Father Michael, he has had a very few days to recover from his outside duties as the parish continues to be extremely busy with weddings, funerals and baptisms all being celebrated, as well as our normal Mass timetable.

Again this weekend Mass times for all the churches will be the same as has been in place for the past few weeks.

Saturday at Camden 4.30pm and 6.00pm and Oakdale at 5.00pm

Sunday at Camden 7.30am 9.00am 10.30am and 5.00pm and the Oaks at 9.00am

Father Joseph will be celebrating Mass this weekend at Camden 4.30pm and 6.00pm Saturday 7.30am and 9.00am Sunday.

There is no change to the numbers able to attend the churches, 36 at Oakdale and 16 at The Oaks and as a result we still have Covid 19 arrangements in place. The Oaks is strictly by prior arrangement through contact with Susie Freestone. Oakdale has been able to accommodate those wanting to attend, but should you be aware of anyone who would like to attend Mass and has not yet done so, please ask them to contact Susie on 4657 1723 she is very happy to hear from them.

St Paul's at Camden is only able to have 100 worshipers so everyone is encouraged to book either on line or by contact with the parish office on 4655 8797. Office bookings can be made from Tuesday morning until Friday morning 11.00am. Every weekend sees an increase in our numbers attending the various Masses so we cannot stress enough to parishioners to please book to avoid being disappointed at the door of the church.

All Masses are still quiet Masses due to the Covid 19 restrictions. Morning Mass is continuing at Camden 9.00am Tuesday to Saturday no booking is required for the morning Mass but the usual Covid 19 sign in, social distancing and clean up rules all apply.

Father Joseph is very proactive and has trialled a different way of Covid cleaning which we will continue at morning Mass but on the weekend we are going back to dry wipes and sprayers. Please be mindful of socially distancing when collecting wipes from the tubs that are placed around the church. From as far back as June some parishioners have been bringing their own "wood friendly" wipes as Father Michael requested at that time, this helps enormously with preparation and cost and our thanks are extended to everyone who assists with the wiping as well as the supply of their own wipes.

The Covid 19 situation continues to be a great worry to us all, masks although not mandatory at this time are appearing more and more in the church. Parishioners are deciding they feel more comfortable with this further protection and both Father Michael and Father Joseph are very supportive if your decision is to wear a mask.

Unfortunately because of the deteriorating conditions in schools, the diocese has decided that the Saint Paul's Primary school children should not attend the week day Mass, very disappointing, not only for the children but Father Joseph who was very happy to have them back. It is much better to be safe than sorry with their health.

One of Father Michael's first priorities since his return is to start planning for the Sacramental programs, that providing the Covid situation does not change, he will be able to celebrate later in the year. These plans will be in next week's message and also on our website as soon as they are finalised.

Envelopes for the 2020 – 2021 year are still available to be picked up either by asking the monitor on arrival or when leaving Mass or just pop into the office during office hours.

Just to finish, Father Joseph would like us all to follow the 11th commandment "Do not Covide your neighbour"

We look forward to Father Michael taking back the preparation of the weekly message from next week,

Father Michael, Father Joseph, Elizabeth and Cheryl