

Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 5/6 SEPTEMBER

Weekend Masses

Because of the Corona Virus, and subsequent directives from the NSW Department of Health, our religious ceremonies still require those in attendance to have registered. Because of the need for social distancing the limit in our own church is 100 for each ceremony. Please register on-line from as early as the previous Tuesday via the homepage on the parish website.

In Camden there are seven Masses to make possible the opportunity of having as many as 700 people at Masses over the weekend. Registration can be arranged by ringing the parish office during parish business hours. But the strong preference is for our parishioners to register on-line to spare the secretaries the job of registering many 100s of people.

Spiritual Insight

An invitation is extended to all our parishioners to have a presence at Mass each weekend. Recordings are ok but the experience of Mass is never as enriching without reception of Holy Communion.

As Pope Francis insists: “The Eucharistic bread and wine are not a prize for the perfect or a reward for good behaviour. Rather they are food for the human journey and medicine for the sick. We come forward not because we are worthy but because we are all wounded and somehow “unworthy”.

Mutual desiring is the intended impact of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is an encounter of the heart.

In the Eucharist we move beyond mere words or rational thought and go to that place where we don't talk about mystery anymore; we begin to chew on it. Jesus did not say “Think about this” or “Stare at this” or even “worship this”. Instead he said: “Eat this”.

Confirmation Programme

Parents and carers who returned enrolment forms last weekend are invited to collect a personalised book this weekend. And for the next two weeks, there's plenty of pressure with lots of work to be done by the children.

Parents will need to help bigtime. It's ok to recruit big brothers and sisters, aunties and uncles, grandparents and godparents, and even next-door neighbours. Just need to get the job done, with the children to have a good understanding of the content.

To make life a little easier, there's an added 'parent page' that contain answers to many of the activities. These have been prepared by clergy and are to be distributed to parents this weekend. Doesn't that just fill your hearts with warmth for the local clergy? 😊

Parents are asked to read, especially, pages 3 and 15.

Children need to start considering their sponsor and confirmation name.

Mass Times

Please remain mindful of our weekend Mass schedule at The Oaks and in Camden. It's most important to register in advance via the parish website or by ringing the parish office during business hours **4655 8797**. (Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM).

SATURDAY VIGILS

<u>Oakdale</u>	5:00 PM	<u>Camden</u>	4:30 PM and 6:00 PM
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SUNDAY MASSES

<u>The Oaks</u>	9:00 AM	<u>Camden</u>	7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10.30 AM, 12 Noon and 5:00 PM
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Kind Regards

Father Michael Williams PP

www.stpaulsparish.org.au

PS- If wishing to reply, please direct emails to camden@dow.org.au. If you were to just press 'reply' to this message, we unfortunately do not receive your email.