

Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 10/11 OCTOBER

Weekend Masses

Many of our parishioners may recall the dilemma that was raised in last Sunday's "Weekly Message"

To recap, the situation is as follows:

Each of our Saturday evening and Sunday Masses are "full" at 100 which is the maximum permitted under Directives from the NSW Department of Health.

Pre-registration is required although some people with the best of intentions arrive without having pre-registered. It may reasonably be suggested to these people by the Church Monitor to wait in case some people who have registered don't turn up.

So if there's five people who are waiting and five people who don't turn up, then the Church Monitor can take the contact details of those who are waiting and then invite them to enter. But then a few moments later, those who have registered arrive late. What a drama!

Parishioners were invited to submit a solution. And two of our parishioners responded:

- One parishioner was able to advise that there is another parish that simply closes and locks the doors when Mass starts. At that moment, no one can then enter the Church.
- Another parishioner advises that those who arrive late need to be politely turned away. Parishioners without registration should also be politely turned away if Mass is fully booked.

The great irony here is that the Church has a capacity of 600 and the mission of the Church is to offer every encouragement to people to be a part of our worshipping community. This, of course, is exactly what we'll be doing as soon as possible.

Do you remember that hymn "Come As You Are"? It's surely one of the least appealing hymns ever to have been composed – a real "bottom-of-the-barrel" hymn. Rather unfortunately, it's not possible for people to 'come as they are' during this time of the Corona virus, and especially if they have a heavy and persistent cough or other flu-like symptoms.

It's always a little disconcerting to imagine heavy, persistent and uncovered coughing that invariably results in droplets being turbo-powered towards the breathing space of others. At this time more than any other, we all share the mutual responsibility of being extra mindful of the serious need for a clean environment. Fortunately, in our own churches of The Oaks, Oakdale and Camden, our parishioners have been overwhelmingly sensitive to the requirements of the present situation. Many thanks.



Confirmation Programme

There are still a few books to be collected. Please move towards the baptism font after Mass.

Also, new forms will be distributed so that parents can write the names and contact details of the other people – a relative or friend – who will be present during the ceremony. These forms can be returned the following week. BUT the parish must have the name and contact details of every person. Their presence will be marked upon entering the Church. Thanks

Ceremonies

Thursday 29 October 7:00 PM
Friday 30 October at 7:00 PM
Saturday 31 October 10:00 AM
Saturday 31 October 12 Noon
Saturday 31 October 2:00 PM
Sunday 1 November 2:00 PM

Rehearsals

Tuesday 20 October 6:00 PM
Tuesday 20 October 7:00 PM
Saturday 24 October 10:00 AM
Saturday 24 October 11:00 AM
Saturday 24 October 12 Noon
Saturday 24 October 1:00 PM



Spiritual Insight

Saint Benedict lived in Italy in the fifth and sixth centuries. He founded 12 communities for monks. Benedict's main achievement, his "Rule of Saint Benedict", contains a set of rules for his monks to follow. His Rule became one of the most influential religious rules in Western Christendom and is regarded by many as the founder of Western Christian monasticism. In terms of alcoholic consumption, he writes:

“Everyone has his own proper gift from God, one after this manner and another after that; and so it is with some misgiving we appoint the measure of other men’s living: however, duly considering the infirmity of the weak we believe that half a pint of wine per head per day suffices.

But let those to whom God gives the power of the endurance of abstinence know that they shall have their due reward. But if the necessities of the place, or the work, or the heat of the summer should call for more, let it stand within the discretion of the superior to grant more, he taking all care that neither surfeiting (an excessive amount) nor drunkenness creep in.

Although we read that wine is by no means for monks, yet because in our time monks cannot be persuaded to see this, at all events let us agree as to this – that we will not drink to satiety (excess), but somewhat sparingly; because: “Wine makes even the wise to fall away.”.... let those who live there (in the monastery) bless God and not murmur; for this especially is what we are admonishing, that they be free from murmuring”.



First Holy Communion Programme

Enrolment forms need to be returned this week. It's still possible to collect a timeline and enrolment form this week if away last week. Because of the Confirmation programme and the limit of 100 people at Mass, we're moving much quicker this year. Families unable to provide 100% commitment are asked to withdraw and leave until a later year.

Families are asked to approach the Church organ at the end of Mass while observing social distancing. Thanks



Parish Collections

Because of the Corona Virus, it's not permitted to pass around the collection bags in the traditional way. That's why people are asked to make their offerings as they walk past the collection baskets near the back eastern corner of the church.

In keeping with contemporary times, however, a new facility has become available. It is referred to as a "**Donation Point**". Many of our parishioners may find greater convenience in making an offering in this way.

The Donation Point Tap device will enable those attending Mass to quickly accept cashless donations by using a debit or credit card – or even a saving card if it has a chip – especially since many people no longer carry much cash.

The Donation Point Tap device processes a set donation of \$10.00 and donors simply tap their Visa Card or MasterCard to make a donation. It is fully secure and the screen will show if the card donation has been successful. The parish will not be able to access the details of the cards so all donations will be anonymous. The Donation Point device has been set to \$10.

Your card must be held on the device to make a donation and takes about 4-5 seconds to register. It cannot read card details from your wallet or bag as you walk past and the device makes a loud beep sound when you hold your card on it. Why not give it a try?



Parish Renewal

Reflecting on Pope Francis' **Recent Instruction on Parish Life** Online Sessions will be conducted in Three Parts - Held between 12 October - 13 November.

Visit: www.dow.org.au/news-and-events for more information.


All parishioners are invited to join in, over three (3) sessions, to reflect upon Pope Francis' instruction "**The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelising Mission of the Church**".

Bishop Brian has strongly invited all the clergy, along with Parish Pastoral Councils to spend time reflecting upon and seeking ways in which this document can be put into action within our Diocese. For further information please contact Darren McDowell on darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

This document is exceptionally interesting and highly recommended.



Celebrants for Weekend Masses

		10/11 October	17/18 October
Saturday			
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Joseph	Father Michael
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Anthony	Father Joseph
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Anthony	Father Joseph
Sunday			
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Joseph	Father Michael
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Joseph	Father Michael
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Anthony	Father Joseph
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Michael	Father Anthony
Camden	12:00 noon	Father Michael	Father Anthony
Camden	1:30 PM	Father Michael	Father Anthony
 Camden	3:00 PM	Father Joseph	TBA
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Father Anthony

Kind Regards

Father Michael Williams PP