



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

RE: **WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 30/31 JANUARY 2021**

Spiritual Insight

Clinical psychologist M. Scott Peck in his book "The Road Less Travelled" writes:

The best decision-makers (decisions that affect the lives of others) are those who are willing to suffer the most over their decisions but still retain their ability to be decisive. One measure – and perhaps the best measure – of a person's greatness is the capacity for suffering. Yet the great are also joyful (p.76).



Mass Timetable and Covid-19

Encouraging News: The NSW Department of Health has issued a relaxation in the Covid-19 restrictions to allow the Covid-capacity of the Camden church to rise from 100 to 135 before this weekend. That's a very welcomed development.

As a parish, all our parishioners are asked to retain the deep personal resolve to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to contain the spread of this most infectious virus. Thanks to all for every personal readjustment so far. Greatly appreciated.

And there's even more good news.

Booking can now be made until Saturday 12 Noon if room allows for the:

Saturday 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM Masses, and for Sunday 7:30 AM Mass.

Booking can now be made until Sunday 7:00 AM if room allows for the

Sunday Masses 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 Noon, and 5:00 PM.

Please continue to wear masks in church. It's not the ideal but we need to be grateful that we can continue to gather for Holy Mass. Tennis legend Serena Williams has remarked that we who are in Australia are the envy of the world. In many countries, it would not be possible to celebrate the sacred mysteries for a public gathering in church.

Somewhat ironically, this is especially a good time to bring children to Mass so that in the years ahead they will retain a memory of worship during these pandemic times. And hopefully we will all

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Weekend Masses (Covid-19 capacity of 135 for each Mass at Camden)	
Saturday 30 January	Sunday 31 January
9:00 AM Parish Mass 4:30 PM Parish Vigil Mass 6:00 PM Parish Vigil Mass	7:30 AM Parish Mass 9:00 AM Parish Mass 10:30 AM Parish Mass 12 Noon Parish Mass 5:00 PM Parish Mass
Oakdale – Saturday 5:00 PM	The Oaks – Sunday 9:00 AM



Sacrament of Penance Programme

Registrations for Mass are essential. On-line bookings can be made through the parish website, or by phoning the parish office during business hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

When children were enrolled at the end of November and into December, a decision had still to be made about the kind of preparation that would apply for the programme – either preparation in groups or preparation among family members at home.

That decision has now been taken. The preparation will now need to be undertaken at home. So at Masses this weekend, there will be no need to indicate preferences for workshops, but parents/carers are asked to collect a form afterwards and complete before leaving the church. This should only take a few moments and will assist in administering the programme which needs to be “family-friendly”.

Books will be distributed on the weekend of 6/7 February. The following two weeks are intense. Parents/carers will need to be motivated. About two hours in each of these two weeks will be necessary for assisting the children to complete the assigned activity pages which over the following seven days will span from page 3 to page 15, inclusive.

The most difficult part of the programme is when, in instances of unsatisfactorily completed books, I need to ring to advise the parents that they cannot continue in the programme this year. That was the unfortunate experience for some parents in last year’s First Holy Communion Programme. Never pleasant but occasionally unavoidable.

Bushfires

This time last year the bushfires in various parts of NSW were raging like an inferno from hell. Smoke blanketed so many parts of the state causing serious concerns about air pollution. At times it was all quite suffocating. There were numerous reports about widespread destruction of homes, properties, businesses and our natural environment. If anyone is aware of people living in The Oaks and Oakdale suburbs who were seriously affected, please advise the parish office in Camden at your own convenience. Thanks



Ash Wednesday ~ 17 February 2021

Masses have been scheduled at Oakdale at 5:00 PM (capacity 36)

Masses have been scheduled at Camden at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Bookings for Masses will be possible from Friday 5 February. At this time, the Covid capacity of 135 will apply but this could change and, hopefully, rise to a substantially large number.

To comply fully with Directives from the NSW Department of Health, the ashes will be distributed using cotton buds. The priest and adult server will use both ends of the cotton bud and then discard.

Celebrants for Weekend Parish Masses

30/31 January

Saturday

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Anthony
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Joseph
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Joseph
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Anthony

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Michael
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Michael
Camden	Noon	Father Anthony
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Joseph

6/7 February

Saturday

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Anthony
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Anthony
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Anthony
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Michael
Camden	Midday	Father Joseph
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Anthony

Kind Regards

Father Michael Williams PP