



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 27/28 MARCH 2021

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

Spiritual Insight

From Father William Casey:

Everytime I hear a televangelist emphasize a personal relationship with Christ, I thank God that I'm Catholic. For only here can I receive the Lord - body, blood, soul and divinity. It doesn't get much more personal than that.



Covid-19 and Registrations for Mass

Weekend Masses Timetable ~ Palm Sunday (Covid-19 capacity of 250 for each Mass at Camden)			
Saturday 27 March		Sunday 28 March	
9:00 AM	Parish Mass	7:30 AM	Parish Mass
		9:00 AM	Parish Mass
		10:30 AM	Parish Mass
4:30 PM	Parish Vigil Mass	5:00 PM	Parish Mass
6:00 PM	Parish Vigil Mass		
Oakdale – Saturday 5:00 PM (72)		The Oaks – Sunday 9:00 AM (36)	

Registrations through parish website.
Or if having difficulty, ring the parish office before Midday Friday 4655 8797.



26 John Street (PO Box 7) Camden NSW 2570 (02) 4655 8797 camden@dow.org.au
59 Holdsworth Drive, Narellan Vale NSW 2567 (ring Camden) camden@dow.org.au
5 /15 Merlin Street (PO Box 169) The Oaks NSW 2570 (ring Camden) theoaks@dow.org.au
Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) theoaks@dow.org.au

Lent

Lent began on Ash Wednesday and comes to completion when the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins at 7:00 PM on Holy Thursday evening. Best to continue the fasting for a little time more, especially since Good Friday is most certainly a time of fasting.



Palms ~ BYOP

Many palms have been delivered to the church. 'Very grateful to those who have provided. There remains, however, a possibility of a slight shortage. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own palm if at all possible. With thanks.



Church Wardens

With the assistance of more parishioners, the collections are slowly returning to normal. Gratitude is extended to our parishioners who contribute to the collections and to those who have been helping by passing around the bags. From this week, there are plans to recommence locking the bags. Such measures are never to question the integrity of those who handle money. The locks are essentially a means of adopting "best practice" and of ensuring that money does not fall out everywhere when being deposited into the safe and being retrieved from it. Thanks



Father Joseph

As indicated in last weekend's Weekly Message, the proceeds from this week's "tap and go" device will form the basis of a gift for Father Joseph. Our parish has a long history of warmth and generosity, and of farewelling clergy with an appreciative gift of one kind or another. Thanks in anticipation.



Sacrament of Penance Programme

A very small number of books are still to be collected. Please take home this week to avoid them be consigned to the recycling bin. Because of last weekend's deluge, mementos can still be collected this weekend.



Second Rite of Reconciliation

The Second Rite - a wonderful opportunity for personal renewal - has been scheduled for this **Monday 29th in Camden at 7:00 PM**. Five priests will be in attendance. It was at this time last year when, because of the Coronavirus, all the Holy Week ceremonies were axed.

So for the first time in well over 12 months, the Second Rite is again available to parishioners who wish to receive this sacrament as a way of preparing for the Easter Triduum, which extends from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday Evening until Easter Sunday.

Our parishioners are able to attend to the Second Rite by simply supplying name and contact number at the entrance to the Church.

This is the final occasion for confessions before Easter. Confessions will not be available either on Good Friday 2nd or Holy Saturday 3rd.



Holy Thursday

No Masses on the morning of Holy Thursday.



Good Friday ~ Time of Prayer and Fasting

Day of fasting from meat. A spirit of fasting and penance should also be embraced. Accordingly, parishioners should avoid substituting meat with gourmet seafoods such as oysters, king prawns and lobsters.

Restraint from other delicacies – typically from retail cooked food outlets – such as vegetarian pizzas, dim sims, fishcakes, cheeseburgers and hot chippies, is to be commended.

Could also be a good idea to avoid sweets and to minimise consumption of alcohol. Fasting is important.

Need to “subdue the body”. Don’t want to be in mixed company where those who have gathered feel uninhibited about gormandizing on this deeply sacred day.

Children should also be persuaded to delay consumption of Easter Eggs and Easter Rabbits until after the Easter Vigil.

Good Friday should have a sharp focus upon prayer and Our Lord’s sacrificial death on the cross. Perhaps light a candle at mealtime.

Advisable to also avoid mixed company that leads to filibustering and tiresome verbiage.



Easter Triduum Ceremonies ~ Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday

Registrations for all our solemn ceremonies are open. The Covid restrictions still apply. Congregational music now permitted.



Sacrament of Penance Programme ~ Catch Up Programme

Change from last weekend's notice.

Opportunity to enrol will actually be on the weekend of the Third Sunday of Easter 17/18 April.



Speakers in the Church

Many parishioners had brought to my notice that the speaker on the western side of the church was *defunctorum*. That's the Latin for defunct. Indeed, before the computerisation of parish records and archives, there was a big register entitled *Liber Defunctorum* which translates as Book of the Dead.

The speaker now appears to be back in good working order. If there's a further problem, please bring to the attention of one of the priests. Thanks.



Needed ~ Computer Operators and Monitors

Would you like to contribute to the organisation of Mass? There are so many hidden jobs that contribute to the smooth and cohesive celebration of Holy Mass. The washing and ironing of altar linen, for example, is one such very important job. Stock inventory – altar hosts, wine, candles, incense – is another. There has been a recent emphasis on the serious need for church wardens. Then there are readers, acolytes and musicians. Over the course of a month, an amazing number of emails, texts and telephone calls flow from our parish office.

So can you help? If you would like to assist with operating the computer for hymns and prayers, or simply monitoring the arrival of parishioners during this period of the pandemic, then please see Father Michael or contact the office during parish business hours. Help is genuinely needed. And it won't cause you any suffering.



Thank you from Fr Joseph

Father Joseph would like to thank everyone who has expressed their kind wishes for his new appointment, especially the children. He has been overwhelmed by the cards and pictures that have been so beautifully made and are arriving at the presbytery for him. He would like to show his gratitude to all the children, so at his Masses this weekend he would like to give the children a small prayer book for them to have with his thanks.

Celebrants and Musicians for Easter Triduum

Covid Capacity: Camden 250, The Oaks 32, Oakdale 72

	Camden			The Oaks/Oakdale	
	Priest	Musician	Vocalist	Church	Priest
Holy Thu. 7 pm	Fr Joseph	Choir		The Oaks	Fr Michael
Good Friday					
Stations 10 am	Fr Michael	Iona	Tasha	Oakdale	Fr Joseph
Passion 3 pm	Fr Joseph	Choir		Oakdale	Fr. Michael
Easter Vigil	Fr Michael	Choir	Darko	The Oaks	Fr Joseph
Camden 6 PM				6:00 PM	
Easter Sunday					
6:00 AM	Fr. Joseph	Choir			
7:30 AM	Fr Michael	Cheryl	Maria C.		
9:00 AM	Fr. Joseph	Maria B.	Sarah	Oakdale 9 am	Fr Michael
10:30 AM	Fr Michael	Jenny	Tasha		
12 Noon	Fr. Joseph	Craig / Mates	Craig		
5:00 PM	Fr Joseph	Tony /Family	Family		

Palm Sunday 27/28 March

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

Kind Regards

Father Michael

Please Pray for the sick in our Parish

We pray for those who are unwell, especially Barry Myles, John Giles, Cath Bourke, Alma McCourt, France Zamudio and all our unwell family and friends.

AU REVOIR, MERCI BEAUCOUP

After working in regional/rural Victoria for a long time, I decided to move to a city diocese. Here at Camden, with busy public places and a large congregation, which I was looking forward to and to enjoy, brought back nostalgic memories of my busy Mumbai life in India.

The terrifying bush fires followed by the pandemic kept all of us distant for quite some time but we could slowly start reconnecting through online Masses and limited number of people coming to Church.

We survived those miserable days all together as a Team, thanks to Father Michael adding more Masses to accommodate everyone and reaching out to the maximum through weekly messages and online Masses. We also managed to have 330 baptisms and many weddings, even consoling bereaved families in their most difficult times.

I had the privilege to witness and was also motivated by the Team Spirit of the parish communities at Saint Paul's Camden, Saint Clare Narellan, Saint Aloysius The Oaks and Saint Joseph Oakdale.

It's hard to believe it is almost time to say my 'goodbyes' and 'thank yous' to these beloved communities and move to Nowra

Words aren't enough to thank Father Michael for his fraternal guidance, support, respect and care which enabled a smooth transition into a new place and parish. A big thanks to Elizabeth and Cheryl, who have spoiled me with their support and care, Father Anthony for putting up with me and my spices. The hard work and accomplishments of various volunteers and leaders of the parish groups are praiseworthy. Special thanks to the principals, staff, children and parents of Saint Paul's, Saint Clare's, Mater Dei and Magdalene for your welcome and support.

I'm glad to say that in my last 30 years of Priestly life, my time in Saint Paul's has been one of the best and most satisfying. We were just getting to know each other but my 482 days here have been filled with happiness due to your warm welcome, acceptance, love and concern for which I will always be grateful and will stay with me wherever I go.

Easter Sunday would be my last weekend here and I leave by Easter Monday.

It's hard to say goodbye and I will miss you all but let's keep our smiles as we learnt last year through testing times, hoping for the best in God's plans.

As I promise my prayers, I humbly request your valuable prayers that keep me persevering in my vocation "***to love and serve the Lord, our God (and His Church faithfully) with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength.***" (Mark 12:30)

God bless you all always. Saint Joseph, pray for us

Love

Father Joseph
19 March 2021
St Joseph Day