



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: **WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 17/18 APRIL 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 Pope Frances:

“In a culture paradoxically suffering from anonymity and at the same time obsessed with the details of other people’s lives, shamelessly given over to morbid curiosity, the Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary.”



Confirmation Programme

The Confirmation Programme for 2021 will be launched this weekend, with the distribution of the programme timeline and the enrolment form. Very important weekend for families to be present. Please assemble near the organ after Mass. It’s essential to register for Mass through the parish website as soon as possible.



Sacrament of Penance Programme ~ Catch Up Programme

Enrolment forms will be distributed this weekend. Please assemble near the baptism font after Mass.



Camden Catholic Cemetery

During Lent in 2020, our state of NSW went into lockdown/clampdown/shutdown. Public gatherings were prohibited, including occasions of religious worship.

And at the same time, there were dramas concerning the over-growth of grass and vegetation in the Catholic Cemetery on Cawdor Road. In response to a desperate appeal, almost 50 parishioners arrived at 9:00 AM one beautiful autumn Sunday morning to rectify the situation. There were mowers, whipper snippers and even a heavy-duty ride-on. After about an hour, the cemetery was unbelievably transformed. The morning of manual labour was a great success. Under normal conditions, the large number of parishioners would have been at Mass. But these were unique times.

And in a display of gratitude, a couple of slabs of beer had been purchased so that each willing worker could be rewarded by taking home a beer. In most instances, however, the beer never made it to the car. The ladies and gentlemen shared about 15 minutes together enjoying a cold beverage.

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

Anyway, just wondering if any of our parishioners would be interested in making this an annual event! With less domestic pressures for mowing at home during the cooler weather, there may be a group who would like to turn up again some time in May. Please notify the parish with any thoughts.

The Oaks is also blessed with a beautiful and most dignified cemetery. This cemetery receives high quality professional care and doesn't need too much special attention. However, please feel free to make contact to communicate any ideas.

The Oaks and Oakdale

Need to have a meeting together within a month or two. It will probably be scheduled for a Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM followed by conviviality. The meeting is to provide an opportunity for parishioners to share feelings about parish life over the past few years and to discern together the future direction of the parish.

Parish Renewal ~ Parish Pastoral Council

With so much of society retuning to normal following the toughest times of the corona virus in 2020, it's easy to have the impression that parish life is again back to normal. The reality, however, is quite different. The Covid capacity in our churches is 250 at Camden, 76 at Oakdale and 32 at The Oaks.

Without the need for social distancing, the capacity of Camden is about 600 seated. This loss of capacity has required the addition of two extra Masses – an extra Vigil plus an extra Mass on Sunday morning.

Furthermore, the loss of capacity also limits the number of family members and friends who can be present at the ceremonies for Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Social distancing also applies to other meetings spaces. Our Heritage Hall can in normal conditions accommodate 90 for a sit-down meal, but this number is seriously reduced at the present time.

However, notwithstanding these challenges, it's become necessary to embrace renewal. Easter Sunday was the beginning with the reintroduction of sacred music at almost all Masses. And this has been quite outstanding. It's hard to imagine a parish with such a reservoir of outstanding musical talent.

The Oaks and Oakdale are also improving by the week with most Masses now being accompanied with sacred music.

Beyond the sacred ceremonies, the next step in the process of renewal is pastoral. The sacramental programmes will continue to be administered with parents and carers in a way that requires them to not only have a presence at Mass with their sons/daughters on weekends, but to also prepare them at home rather than meet in groups.

In a survey among the most recent group of parents/carers who participated in the Penance Programme, respondents to a survey towards the end of the programme indicated that this was their preference by ratio of almost 4:1. This new arrangement however remains experimental because, unquestionably, there's value in families coming into each other's presence for such workshops. Discernment with parents/carers will continue.

Another pastoral initiative on the horizon is the formation of a new Parish Pastoral Council. The term of such councils is generally about three years, and the incumbent council seems to have had about three terms. Existing members are still able to be on a new council, but should be motivated and able to be present at meetings. More details in the next few months.

Fourth Sunday of Easter 24/25 April 2021

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Michael	Sarah
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Michael	
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tracy
Sunday			
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Victor	Cheryl
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Nicole
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Trent and Damian
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Craig

Fifth Sunday of Easter 1/2 May 2021

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Quiet Mass
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Victor	
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and TBA
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Tracy
Sunday			
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Michael	Maria C.
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Victor	Darko
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jenny and Tasha

Kind Regards

Father Michael