



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 8/9 MAY 2021**

### Spiritual Insight

From Pope Frances:

But we need to create still broader opportunities for a more inclusive female presence in the Church. Because “the feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society, (and so) the presence of women must also be guaranteed in the workplace.”



### Registering for Mass

Gratitude is extended to all our parishioners who continue to register for Mass from the parish website for Oakdale, The Oaks and Camden. This is the “new normal” and is likely to continue for a long time to come.

The only difficulty, so far, is the heavy concentration of people who arrive at Camden just as Mass is about to start. There were instances last week where the queues were noticeably lengthy.

Could be a good idea to try arriving at Mass about five minutes earlier. The experience of then slowing down and sitting quietly in church for a few moments can be rather calming. A few minutes without verbiage can also help to discern the presence of God in our lives.

’Definitely worth a try. And it won’t cost anything, and nor will it cause any suffering. Silence, stillness, solitude!

Much better to be experiencing silence, stillness, and solitude rather than sin, suffering and sickness. (and that’s too true)!



### Sacrament of Penance Programme ~ Catch Up Programme

Books to be distributed this weekend with a slip of paper that contains some of the answers for the first workshop. Good time to take an exceptionally close interest in the spiritual formation of children, especially in their knowledge of prayers.

Children should be able to recite the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. Before the end of the programme, it will also be necessary to be able to recite the Act of Contrition (parents/carers and children).



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## Confirmation Programme

*(Please note change of details to indicate preferred times for ceremonies and Masses.)*

Personalised books will be distributed this week along with a slip of paper that contains some of the answers for the first workshop. Enquiries can be directed to one of the priests or attendants after Mass.

Reminder that families will have the opportunity to select their preferred time for Ceremony/Mass on the weekend of 22/23 May. Interim leaflets will be distributed the following weekend on 29/30 June that list the Ceremonies/Masses to which candidates have been assigned.

However, an official final leaflet will be distributed on 12/13 June that may (or may not) be the same as the interim leaflet according to whether the books have been satisfactorily completed.

Up until now every measure has been taken to assist families towards having an enriching experience of the programme. So from this weekend, the programme moves up a gear. It becomes the turn of parents/carers and their children to invest time and dedication to carefully completing the activity pages at home.

In terms of one cliché (possibly tedious) “parents and carers need to catch the ball and run with it”.

Also, it’s not too soon to start thinking about sponsors and names for saints. This needs to involve discernment and a discussion among family members.



## New Coronavirus Restrictions Introduced

For three days up until this Monday 12:01 AM, it has become necessary to wear masks indoors. This applies to places of worship. So please BYOM if possible although there will be spares available on the registration table.

Congregational singing is prohibited which doesn’t really matter while masks are mandatory. Not so easy trying to sing with a mask especially when needing to inhale. The good news is that it’s still ok to have one lead singer so most of our Masses will have sacred music. But please refrain from joining in.

If spluttering or sniffing or coughing or “all of the above”, probably best to stay at home or, if symptoms are very mild, sit away from others if possible. Mutual care is important especially in a community setting. Thanks

BTW, shaking of hands is still prohibited during the sign of peace. Little smile is a good substitute.



## Adults wanting to become Catholic

A programme will begin from early June. If interested, please contact the parish office during parish business hours to leave name, contact phone number and email address. More information in coming weeks.



## National Count of Attendance

There were almost 1,200 people at Mass last week in Camden. Because of social distancing requirements, there were not so many at Oakdale and The Oaks where there remained plenty of room at both churches for those who value Sunday Mass.

'Thought this extract could be interesting:

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the faithful have been able to switch between TV channels in search of televised Masses that suite their time and taste. The data provided by Google Analytics for the parish of Greystanes in the Diocese of Parramatta indicate that during live-streamed Mass, most viewers stay for an average of two minutes during the homily before moving to other TV preachers. It is not the boring homily causing the tap on the remote control. Rather, many Mass viewers are not regulars and hence are alien to the priests and parish community.

(cited from The Australasian Catholic Record, January 2021, Father Joseph Lam, page 89)



## Sixth Sunday of Easter 1/2 May 2021

| <b>Saturday</b> |          | <b>Celebrant</b> | <b>Musician/Vocalists</b> |
|-----------------|----------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Camden          | 9:00 AM  | Father Victor    | Quiet Mass                |
| Camden          | 4:30 PM  | Father Michael   | Maria and Sarah           |
| Camden          | 6:00 PM  | Father Michael   |                           |
| Oakdale         | 5:00 PM  | Father Victor    | Tracy                     |
| <b>Sunday</b>   |          |                  |                           |
| Camden          | 7:30 AM  | Father Victor    | Cheryl                    |
| The Oaks        | 9:00 AM  | Father Victor    | Nicole                    |
| Camden          | 9:00 AM  | Father Michael   | Steve and Damian          |
| Camden          | 10:30 AM | Father Michael   | Darko                     |
| Camden          | 5:00 PM  | Father Victor    | Tony                      |

## Seventh Sunday of Easter 15/16 May 2021

| <b>Saturday</b> |          | <b>Celebrant</b> | <b>Musician/Vocalists</b> |
|-----------------|----------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Camden          | 9:00 AM  | Father Victor    | Quiet Mass                |
| Camden          | 4:30 PM  | Father Victor    |                           |
| Camden          | 6:00 PM  | Father Victor    | Belinda and Tasha         |
| Oakdale         | 5:00 PM  | Father Michael   | Tracy                     |
| <b>Sunday</b>   |          |                  |                           |
| 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   | Craig                     |

Kind Regards

Father Michael