



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 15/16 MAY 2021**

### **Solemnity of the Ascension**

#### **Spiritual Insight**

An excellent book was published in 2013 entitled 'Rebuilt'. It was about the revival of a parish in the Archdiocese of New York. The book was co-authored by the parish priest Father Michael White and the pastoral associate Mr Tom Corcoran. It covers numerous areas of parish life and has the following to say about sacred music:

Literally, after air quality, music is the single greatest environmental factor for your church community because it determines how people feel in your church. It has the power to make them feel like pampered customers or dissatisfied ones. It also has the power to make them feel like they're part of the movement of growing disciples that we want our parish to be.

Furthermore, and emphatically, we are convinced that churches will remain consumer-driven as long as people aren't singing. It's not exactly clear to us *why* that is so, but congregational singing seems to be a reliable bellweather for church health. We like to say coming to church and not singing is like going to the gym and not working out. You've gotta sing! (p. 105)

We look forward to the day when we can set aside our masks and sing again.

BTW: Anyone ever thought about having a fashion contest for masks. There are a growing number that seem to be becoming more exotic by the week.



#### **Registering for Mass / Coronavirus Restrictions**

The overwhelming number of our parishioners have been wonderfully responsive in registering for Mass. So grateful! The requirement to wear masks still applies this weekend. And congregational singing is still not permitted. Hopefully, these restrictions will no longer apply after this weekend and we'll be able to sing together next weekend in which the Church celebrates the great Solemnity of Pentecost.



#### **Sacrament of Penance Programme ~ Catch Up Programme**

Just a few books not collected last week. If not collected this week those who have enrolled will be regarded as having withdrawn from the programme.

Notes for Workshop Two are available this weekend after Masses. Please feel most welcome to email the parish office with any inquires about the activity pages or any other matters relating to the programme.



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## Confirmation Programme

There are almost 200 families in the programme and a few books remain uncollected. If not collected this weekend, the families yet to collect the books will be regarded as having withdrawn from the programme.

Notes for **Workshop Two** will be distributed this weekend. Thanks to the very large majority who have been committed to the programme's requirements and their children's preparation.

Before the end of the programme, parents and carers will be invited to complete a brief survey. The answers will form part of a discernment process in assessing the most desirable way of preparing children to celebrate the sacraments – (a) either in groups, (b) by parents at home, (c) or in a combination. The thoughts of these parents and carers will be especially interesting because they will have participated in sacramental preparation in different ways.

PS: And what a beautiful way to celebrate Mother's Day last weekend with such a large number of families at Mass with Mum. And we were also to reflect prayerfully upon Mary, Mother of Jesus who gave to us his own mother to be our spiritual mother. So holy, so beautiful, so comforting.



## Mass Count

This is Week Three of the Mass count which has been undertaken so far by registrations. The organisers this week have asked/directed that the count be divided according to gender. Only two options are available – male or female. The registrations provide sufficient information to record this information.

Next weekend, however, the organisers of this national exercise have directed that the information needs to be supplied according to age bracket. So some of our parishioners will be asked to assist. Thanks in anticipation.



## Propagation of the Faith ~ Mission Appeal

All parishes are required to conduct the appeal which will take place in our own parishes of The Oaks and Camden this weekend. The appeal will be assisted by a short DVD at Camden and then a collection will be taken. At The Oaks and Oakdale a little improvisation will be required. Special envelopes will be supplied. All contributions to our 'tap and go' device this weekend will be directed to the appeal. This may well be the preferred way for parishioners to contribute.



## 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 and contact phone number. More information in coming weeks.



## Overhead Screens

After heavy rain from a few weeks ago, problems emerged with the Church's electrical system which resulted in a few of the lights, two screens and two projectors becoming inoperable. In response, high quality electrical work over the last few weeks has rectified the problem and everything is back in excellent working order.

The screens are necessary not only for weekends but – and most importantly – for funerals when families almost always request a visual tribute to the deceased.

After the remedial work had been completed, all that was necessary was for another heavy downpour to ensure everything was now in good working order. Sure enough, Mother Nature didn't disappoint, providing another heavy downpour a few nights ago. The electrical work was checked the following morning and everything remains in excellent working order. Thanks to our electrician.



## Year of St Joseph

Late last year the Vatican announced that the year (8 December 2020 – 8 December 2021) would be a year dedicated to St. Joseph, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ.

Complimentary commemoration cards are available near the entrance to the church. They're quite lovely and would serve as an excellent bookmark.

The Diocese has initiated some special events that may be of considerable interest to our own parishioners:

There is a Men's Weekend from 12-13 June at St Patrick's Port Kembla. In the words of St Ireneaus "God is glorified when men are fully alive". Enquiries with Helen 4222 2403. A small cost applies but the parish will meet this cost for any men wanting to attend. Why not 'hunt as a pack'? Grab a few mates and go together.



## Church at St Clare's

All interest parishioners – especially those who have been steady long-term financial contributors to the parish – are invited to a meeting on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00 PM** in the Heritage Hall at Camden. The newly formed Parish Finance Council met on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June to discuss options relating to the new church. It was agreed that the process should be broadly consultative by inviting as many people as possible to share their thoughts and opinions.

The gathering is not to be regarded as a decision-making body. And it's not envisaged that any committees will be formed from the gathering. Quite simply, it's been a long time since parishioners have had the opportunity to share thoughts, ideas and reflections. So this is an opportunity.

Please contact the parish office to register your attendance. A little hospitality will be offered after the meeting which is expected to be no longer than one hour.



## Ascension of Easter 15/16 May 2021

### Saturday

		<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

### Sunday

Camden	7:30 AM	Father Michael	Cheryl
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

## Pentecost Sunday 22/23 May 2021

### Saturday

		<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>Musician/Vocalists</b>
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Michael	
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria and Sarah
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

Kind Regards

Father Michael