



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 17/18
JULY 2021**

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Unfortunately, with the continuation of the lockdown, it is still not permitted to celebrate Weekend Masses or midweek Masses up until and including Friday the 30 July.

Spiritual Insight

From Pope Francis.

Our words can do much good and also much harm; they can heal and they can wound; they can encourage and they can dishearten.



Coronavirus Restrictions

Only funerals are permitted in the parish churches at Camden and The Oaks. The celebrant, musician, vocalist, funeral directors and other necessary attendants are not included among the 10.



Mass Times Baptisms from 17/18 July

All baptisms are postponed during the lockdown.

As lockdown measures are eventually and gradually eased, a decision will be taken upon the days, times and number of guests permitted. Plans had been formulated to return the celebration of all baptisms to the tradition of Sunday mornings. However, midweek ceremonies may also be necessary. The pivotal consideration relates to the number of people permitted in the church at any one time. Please contact the parish office if an infant is quite unwell.



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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

Sacrament of Penance Programme

Plans to have First Confessions on Saturday 17th from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM have been axed because of the continuation of the lockdown. A new time will be advised as soon as possible, most likely in early September.



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Confirmation Celebration

The new Confirmation date for 24 July has been cancelled along with the rehearsals of a few days earlier.. A new date will be determined as soon as possible but will not be during the winter. Families will be advised as soon as possible after negotiations with the Office of Bishop have taken place.



First Holy Communion Programme

The distribution and enrolment process has been planned to begin from the first weekend in Spring 4/5th September after all Masses. Families interested in the programme will need to be motivated, committed and resourceful.

The most recent Confirmation programme proceeded extra well but a small number of families most certainly cause organisers plenty of grief by their absence from Mass and the return of poorly “completed” workbooks.

Without the qualities of motivation, commitment and resourcefulness, families are invariably requiring extra consideration, time, energy and attention. This brings much pressure to bear upon those who are administering the programme which will again be a huge job with more than 200 families expected to enrol. Best not to enrol if ambivalent about the programme’s requirements. Families are, of course, very welcome to enrol in future years when circumstances are more favourable.



Parish Finances

There is a very serious and considerable business component to parish life. Annual costs at Camden are generally not far short of \$250,000. There's a great need for our parishioners at The Oaks and Camden to contribute to the financial life of the respective parishes. It's virtually impossible for small parishes to now survive. And it's even becoming much tougher for medium-size parishes as well.

When it comes to supporting the work of the church and the work of the parish, the biblical measure is tithing – 10% of personal income – which is actually embraced by many people of all adult ages in the bible-based churches.

In our own parishes, parishioners are requested to contribute \$100/month when in a stable financial position. If possible, it's best to contribute electronically. Please inquire with the parish office 4655 8797 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Tuesday to Thursday and 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Fridays.

Parishioners from The Oaks are also welcomed to ring the Camden office and details will be passed on.

BTW, it's not only the parishes – which like a great number of other small businesses – that have been hit hard by the lockdown, but also funds available for the support of clergy from the first collection. Without any income for more than a month, there will certainly be a need to withdraw from reserves.

Generally, clergy would prefer not to be donated food unless upon mutual arrangement. However, if anyone wants to donate Father Michael a freshly purchased lobster or half a kilo king prawns, then that's ok. Important not to be too precious.

If the lockdown continues indefinitely, Father Michael might consider washing cars at NV presbytery to earn a little cash. Cost would be two pineapples (\$50 notes) for outside clean, but not including wax. However, after becoming clean with a shine, owner would drive away with a special bonus. For two pineapples, driver gets clean car which is then given very sacred and prayerful blessing with holy water. Good value!

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 17th/18th July 2021

All Masses and Ceremonies are Cancelled.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 24th/25th July 2021

All Masses and Ceremonies are Cancelled.

Kind Regards

Father Michael