



*Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden*

**RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 24/25 JULY 2021**

*17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Public Masses still not able to be celebrated. On Sunday mornings, Mass is televised on Channel 10; they've been recorded very professionally from St John Vianney's Fairy Meadow.



**Spiritual Insight**

From Pope Francis.

Human beings cannot be expected to feel responsibility for the world unless, at the same time, their unique capacities of knowledge, will, freedom and responsibility are recognised and valued.



**Coronavirus Restrictions**

Still the same – only funerals are permitted in the parish churches at Camden and The Oaks. The celebrant, musician, vocalist, funeral directors and other necessary attendants do not need to be included among the 10 mourners.



**Mass Times Baptisms from 24/25 July**

Not possible to celebrate baptisms during the lockdown unless, for example, an infant is seriously ill. Details about future arrangements will be reported as soon as possible.



**Sacrament of Penance Programme**

Notice of future date for First Confessions will be provided as soon as possible.



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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

## Confirmation Celebration

The story continues. So there were 185 children to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation over the weekend of 26/27 June in a total of five Ceremonies and Masses across these two days.

On mid-afternoon on 26<sup>th</sup>, the Premier – after taking advice from the Health Authorities – announced that lockdown would begin at 6:00 PM that evening. So 111 children celebrated their Confirmation, and the other 74 children were out of luck.

A new date was set for this Saturday 24 July. And that was axed because the lockdown continues.

So, after further discussion, a new time has been set for Saturday 20 November at 10:00 AM and 12 Noon. Many other parishes have had the same disappointment and have been trying to reschedule Confirmation. And it's normally around these months that Bishop Brian tries to take a much needed and well deserved annual vacation.

The complication with the 20<sup>th</sup> November is that it's also the Solemnity of 'Christ the King', which is the final Sunday of the Church year, and the week before the First Sunday of Advent when violet vestments are worn.

So this will be one very, very busy weekend.

- ✓ Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November: Confirmation Ceremonies at 10:00 AM and 12 Noon.
- ✓ Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November: First Holy Communions at 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM.
- ✓ Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 7:00 PM: Time for Father Michael to have glass of cold lemonade or something similar.
- ✓ Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November (possibly): FHC Masses at 10:30 PM 12:30 PM 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM
- ✓ Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 7:00 PM: Time for another cold lemonade or something similar.

The times for FHC are tentative and will depend upon other factors relating to Covid and enrolment numbers. Who knows?



## Catholic Enrichment

Th programme has been suspended temporarily but will resume as soon as possible.



## Other Church and Diocesan Initiatives

### First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly ~ From 25 July

Sunday 25 July has been designated by Pope Francis as the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to coincide with the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents.

The message and prayers developed aim to reaffirm and reassure all of us of God's love, but especially the many older members of our faith communities who often endure loneliness and suffering. Beautiful holy cards are available but cannot be collected until the lockdown measures are eased.



### Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass ~ Sunday 19 September

Two Masses have been scheduled at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM. So if you've been married for 25, 40, 50 or 60 years, then you're very welcome to register interest with Helen who can be contacted on [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au) It's also possible to ring Helen on 4222 2403

As parishioners would well understand, scheduling may change because of the delta variant.



### Diocese's Weekend Focus on Marriage 19 September

The Diocese has also produced resources for parishes to highlight the importance of marriage in the life of the church. So there will be a special blessing for married couples, and a very lovely prayer card for wives and husbands to take into the family home.



### Position Vacant ~ Executive Assistant, Welcoming and Information

Suitably qualified and experienced individuals are invited to apply for this position. More details available from the website [www.dow.org.au/jobs](http://www.dow.org.au/jobs)



## **ACBC National Men's gathering**

After the success of the 2020 national Catholic Men's gathering with over 1,500 men participating around the country, the ACBC is considering a similar event for 2021.

More information available from [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au). The men will be invited to meet in one of the regional hubs and can make contact with Eddie on 0417 049 418. The hub in the Macarthur region is at OLHC Rosemeadow.



## **Fifth Plenary Council**

With less than three months to Assembly One of the Plenary Council, parishioners can keep up to date by accessing the Plenary Post on the Plenary council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>



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

All Masses and Ceremonies are Cancelled.  
Good idea to watch Mass on Channel 10 on Sunday morning – only 30 minutes.

## **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 31<sup>st</sup> July/1st August 2021**

As the politicians say on election night “too early to call:”

Kind Regards

Father Michael