



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 11/12 SEPTEMBER 2021

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Extract from Mr Greg Sheridan

Greg Sheridan is the foreign editor in The Australian newspaper. He is one of the nation's most influential national security commentators, and who is also active across television and radio. He has authored various books and is deeply committed to the Catholic faith.

A few years ago, he authored a book entitled '**God Is Good For You**' The following extract is taken from the book.

The western media like Pope Francis because of his folksy, direct style, his manifest personal commitment to a life of poverty and his radicalism – which accords more with a left-of-centre than a right-of-centre policy approach – on social, environmental, and economic issues.

But the same media almost never report how often Francis refers to the real presence of evil in the world, and specifically the work of the devil. Francis believes in the reality of Satan and his continuing work of leading people to evil choices.

Francis famously favoured slightly re-wording the Lord's Prayer because he believes the line asking God 'lead us not into temptation' wrongly implies that it is God that might lead us to evil.

Francis said people find their own way to temptation; God doesn't lead us there. Instead, Francis said in an interview: 'It's Satan who leads us into temptation, that's his department' (pages 127-128).



Recorded Mass from our Parishes ~ from 5:00 PM Saturday

The previous Weekly Message advised that our recorded Masses would be a little quieter and without much festivity. That is the case for this week's offering of Holy Mass. However, when our outstanding musicians and vocalists are available, a few hymns will also be included especially some of our parish favourites. We're trying to keep the length of Mass to within about 40 minutes. Please visit our parish website for links to watch from 5:00 PM Saturday. Very good investment of time for our spirituality.



Finances

Just a reminder than the planned giving envelopes are available and can be collected 9:00 AM to 12 noon Tuesdays to Fridays or by appointment. Thanks to all who continue to support the parish in this form of financial commitment. Seriously needed and much appreciated.



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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

Sacraments

With fresh reports from the Premier of NSW about the gradual easing of the lockdown at some time in October, new timelines for the administering of the sacramental programmes will be formulated in the coming week. Just need a few more days to absorb the growing number of references to roadmaps, pathways and new freedoms.

It's already become very apparent that the development of vaccine passports is gathering pace and – as lockdown measures are lifted – will almost certainly be required for attendance at indoor venues, inclusive of places of worship.

Unless there are very compelling reasons for not being vaccinated – reasons that have been validated by a physician – it's really becoming an imperative to be twice vaccinated as soon as possible. Pope Francis referred to vaccination as an 'Act of Charity'.

A parish priest does not really need to be a clairvoyant to know that when the time arrives for Confirmation and FHC, there may well be some family members who will presume to attend without having been vaccinated.

And if a vaccination passport is mandatory, then upon being refused entry to the church, the emotions of the unvaccinated family member may conceivably be of consternation, and perhaps also be inclusive of histrionics.

Truthfully, this scenario is not altogether unfamiliar – it will all be the fault of the parish priest. And in the weeks leading up to the ceremonies – and upon answering the phone – our parish secretaries will invariably 'cop an earful'. God have mercy on us!

So, please, let's have some foresight. Please be fully vaccinated. More news next week.



Upcoming Feasts

This is a very special time of the year when there are three consecutive feasts that are deeply spiritual and so important.

13 September **St John Chrysostom.**

Born in Antioch about 349. He laboured to reform the morals of both clergy and people. He was outstanding in his writings and sermons to explain the Catholic faith. He therefore became known as John of the Golden Mouth.

14 September **Exaltation of the Cross**

How great the cross! What blessings it holds! He/She who possesses it possesses a treasure. If there had been no cross, Life would not have been nailed to a tree. If He had not been nailed, the streams of everlasting life would not have welled from his side, blood and water, the cleansing of the world; the record of our sins would not have been cancelled.....paradise would not have been opened (Andrew of Crete).

15 September **Our Lady of Sorrows**

When Jesus was raised up on the cross, Mary stood there and suffered with him in her heart. No sword could penetrate the flesh of Jesus without also piercing the soul of Mary. At the time of the cross, the love and sorrow that was shared between Jesus and Mary was so completely and perfectly united. It is on this occasion that the Church solemnly recalls in prayer the spiritual martyrdom of Mary.

Kind Regards

Father Michael

From The Diocese.....

The Diocesan website contains a comprehensive coverage of all that is happening www.dow.org.au

Here is an abbreviated sample of the various notices and initiatives that are current. Many other diocesan pastoral initiatives were listed in last week's Weekly Message.



Men's Kickstart Program

Monday Evenings 13, 20, 27 September and 4 October

We are pleased to announce that the planned hubs for the National Catholic Men's Gathering (NCMG) have been replaced by Kickstart being facilitated by menALIVE for the Diocese of Wollongong, hosted online by Peter Gabauer and Colin Bennett and the menALIVE leaders from the Diocese of Wollongong.

To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/events/ancmgkickstart>

The Kickstart sessions are short and sharp and a great way for men in lockdown to come together to engage with the theme 'Brothers What must we Do' developed by the ACBC, hosted by Robert Falzon and Jude Hennessy with some excellent keynotes including: • Man of God: Tomasz Juszczak • Man of Service: Tim Davis • Man of Character: Shayne Bennett • Missioning and Sending: Archbishop Julian Porteous



Cursillo Weekend - 29th October - 1st November 2021

Registrations Now Open for St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park.

Cursillo is a life changing experience meant to be lived, a method of supporting and encouraging our lives as Christians through friendship and a way of living life to the full. The goal of the Cursillo Movement is that there will be more Christians who will live the Good News by becoming the Good News. Cursillo offers an opportunity to grow, a chance to experience the love and Grace of God and a way of continuing our life's journey together as Christians. Cursillo is for those who are curious, searching, discovering, growing and/or open to the journey of faith. For more information contact Lesley Wyatt at lesley.wyatt@inet.net.au



Plenary Council 2021

Plenary Council 2021 In less than a month, the Church in Australia will commence its fifth Plenary Council – the first in 84 years. 279 members will begin a process of dialogue focusing on 6 themes that were developed from the responses of over 220,000 people.

Checkout: • the latest media release which is also online here, • the agenda and is online here • Plenary Council by the numbers; and • Archbishop Coleridge – Why a Plenary Council are available In coming weeks, we will share short clips from our DOW delegates, that have been shared with the Plenary 2020 organising committee

Parishioners are most welcome and encouraged to google **Plenary Council**. The opportunity is available for many hours of reading.

