



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 2/3 OCTOBER 2021**

## 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Importance of Mass

When present at Mass, members of the Church are nourished spiritually by God's word and the blessed eucharist. From one, we grow in wisdom; from the other we grow in holiness. The celebration of Mass in which the word is heard and the eucharist is offered and received form but one single act of divine worship.

In the words of Pope Francis: *"The homily can actually be an intense and happy experience of the Spirit, a consoling encounter with God's word, a constant source of renewal and growth"*.

And BTW, those who have been viewing our Masses on-line would surely have appreciated our own parish celebrations. There's a very good production team who are responsible and who deserve enormous credit. And hopefully the prayers, readings, homilies and sacred music have all been very helpful in deepening a sense of belonging to our own parish communities.



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

Father Michael is the celebrant this weekend. The homily is about children with, hopefully, a few interesting insights for parents, carers and all family members.



### Sacraments for Children

#### First Holy Communion

'Reaffirming from last week that the Timeline and Enrolment Form will be available from the parish website by this Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October. It's all very self-explanatory but in a somewhat convoluted way. Good idea to have a cup a coffee near by when trying to understand.

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## **Weekend and Mid-Week Masses**

### **Resumption of Masses**

Please note that for the Vigil/Sunday Masses, there's still the need for bookings earlier in the week.

“**Why?**” you may ask!

Because up until 1 December 2021. Our Masses are only permitted to have about 135 people in the church. And if lots of people over this number arrive, it's far too difficult and hurtful advising people that entry is not permitted. From 1<sup>st</sup> December, about 250 people will be permitted.

### **New advice from Bishop Brian**

#### **STAGE ONE – WHEN 70% ARE FULLY VACCINATED – ESTIMATED DATE 11 OCTOBER**

This stage begins when 70% of eligible people are fully vaccinated – expected to be 11 October. Even though we would be entitled on this date to open churches to the vaccinated only, following consultation with the Council of Priests and other advisors, I have decided to wait a further two weeks until we reach the point where 80% of those eligible are fully vaccinated before re-opening our churches to the public, and conducting public Masses etc.

#### **STAGE TWO – WHEN 80% ARE FULLY VACCINATED – ESTIMATED DATE 25 OCTOBER**

At the 80% fully vaccinated milestone we will open our churches and ceremonies to “mixed” congregations (fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated and yet unvaccinated); the 4 sqm rule will apply, and masks must be worn indoors. At this time, we will not be required to check a person's vaccination status.

We continue to urge everyone to be vaccinated, and so to reduce their risk of serious illness or even death. We will do all that we can to keep safe: there will be good ventilation, social distancing, hand sanitising, no congregational singing, and the wearing of masks, etc.

People who are especially vulnerable, who are vaccinated but anxious about mixing with the unvaccinated, or who are unvaccinated and do not want to risk contact with others, are free to remain at home and participate in the live streaming of Masses which will continue from the Cathedral and some parishes.

Although congregational singing is not permitted, we presume that a cantor will be allowed as before. We believe that in terms of legal liability our compliance with the public health orders will mean that we have taken all reasonable steps to protect those who choose to gather in our churches.

#### **STAGE THREE – WHEN 90% ARE EXPECTED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED – 1 DECEMBER 2021 – “THE NEW NORMAL”**

1 December is the date that the Government has advised that there will be no difference between the Covid safety requirements for all NSW citizens, whether fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or unvaccinated. The essential requirement for churches will be the 2sqm rule at all indoor religious gatherings, including weddings and funerals.

There will be no limit on the numbers at outdoor events, and so outdoor Masses will be an option. Covid Safe plans will be required for outdoor events with more than 1,000 people. Masks will not be required inside a church, but this will remain an option for those who choose to do so for added protection.

We will continue to encourage our unvaccinated faithful to be vaccinated, to provide them with good information, and to offer them particular care since they (and certain vulnerable others) will be most at risk. We will also offer particular care to those faithful who, though fully vaccinated, are anxious about congregating with a mixed congregation.

## *Accordingly*

### **MIDWEEK MASSES:**

- Recommencing at St Paul's on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- Recommencing at St Clare's on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### **VIGIL/SUNDAY MASSES**

- ✓ Recommencing at St Joseph the Worker on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 5:00 PM
- ✓ Recommencing at St Paul's on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM
- ✓ Recommencing at St Aloysius' on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at 9:00 AM
- ✓ Sunday Masses at St Paul's: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM



## **Patronal Feasts this Week**

### **27 September: St Francis of Assisi**

Born at Assisi in the year 1182. From the beginning of a light-hearted youth he changed, gave up his inheritance and bound himself to God, embracing poverty and living the life of the gospels. He preached to all the love of God. He laid the foundations of an order of nuns, of groups of penitents living in the world, and of preaching the gospel to the unbaptised. He died in 1226.

### **7 October Our Lady of the Rosary**

Only in silence can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, the woman of the word and, inseparably, woman of silence. This feast urges all the faithful to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary in her own life of love, obedience, service and holiness.

Kind Regards

Father Michael

## *From The Diocese*

### Opposition to Euthanasia in NSW

29 September 2021 Urgent - Join in Opposition to Euthanasia in NSW before 11 October 2021 The move to make Euthanasia / Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legal will be introduced into the NSW Parliament in the week commencing 11 October 2021. From the perspective of our Church, we must uphold the sanctity of life from conception until natural death. In doing so we are called to boldly stand for life and to oppose what our church calls 'the culture of death'.

What can you do? As such, Bishop Mascord has asked me to encourage and support the faithful throughout the Diocese of Wollongong to urgently contact their local state MPs directly, and strongly encourage local politicians to oppose the proposed legislation and vote No. Please note, that our opponents, a small but well organised group, are working very hard to lobby local MPs around NSW to introduce assisted suicide. Without similar efforts from those who uphold the sacredness of life, it will be very difficult to stop this terrible bill from becoming law.

It is absolutely vital that your local state MP is engaged by voters like you, clearly explaining the reasons why they believe that assisted suicide must be opposed and voted down. There are many arguments emanating from our faith but also many good arguments from a secular perspective. I have outlined these below in summary form for your consideration and use.

Phone calls are by far the best means of communication. From the perspective of a politician, there is much more weight from a phone call or phone message than an email, particularly an email that is not personal in nature.

How can I help stop Euthanasia from becoming law in NSW? Below I have listed the names, phone numbers and email addresses of all state MP's that are in our Diocesan boundaries – one is your local Member of Parliament. I have also included all members of the Legislative Council. • Please phone your local MP. • Please phone as many members of the Legislative Council as you can. • If the phone is not answered please leave a message. •

I again stress that a phone call to your local member is the most impactful option. • If you instead wanted to write a personal emails, that will contribute less, but some weight to their understanding of public sentiment. • Finally, if you can only spend a short amount of time in assisting in this issue, there is a proforma email that has been established by Hope Australia. Go to [www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition\\_2108\\_ocp\\_nsw](http://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw) Whilst this is a less impactful mode of communication than a call or personal email to your local MP, it still will be effective in communicating your viewpoint.

2 There are many good reasons listed below to oppose this bill. Please select one or two below that you feel comfortable to communicate to your local Member & Members of the Legislative Council – asking them to No. What might I say? When phoning your State MP / MLA's– You may, after reading these talking points below, include a few selected points you feel most strongly about in your phone conversation or recorded message. • Killing is not true compassion – and it should never be taken into our own hands. •

This bill - Assisted suicide - can be suggested by medical practitioners. That is terrible – making people feel like a burden • Approval for assisted suicide can be as short as 5 business days. There is not enough time to even move to assess and intervene in what may be complex mental health issues – let alone for families to intervene and have dialogue with their loved one – or

to figure out if any coercion is going on behind the scenes. • Coercion going on behind the scenes is a reality in regions / states that have adopted assisted suicide •

Communication for the first and final request for assisted suicide can be done via telehealth. Not only is it a breach of the Federal Criminal code which states that it is an offence to use any form of electronic communication to publish, counsel or incite committing or attempting to commit suicide, but it is just so impersonal, removed, disconnected – themselves things that are so often at the heart of the desire to seek suicide as a solution •

In this proposed Bill – all Faith-based hospitals and nursing homes must allow all stages of the assisted suicide process on their premises for permanent residents. As a person of faith – how dare this legislation be forced on us – euthanasia and abortion are abhorrent to people of faith – who started these facilities. The notion of caring for the sick and vulnerable is a Christian Principal – how dare this bill look to legislate to ‘force’ people and faith based institutions in this way, and attempt to undermine the core reason for the development of hospitals by people of faith – the dignity of human life - long before governments did •

Faith-based hospitals must allow VAD navigators into hospitals to provide information to persons relating to voluntary assisted dying. Again, this is massive overreach and an attack on religious freedom •

It is ridiculous that a psychologist referral is not required to see if a person is suffering from mental illness. The referral is only mandatory to assess a person’s capacity, pressure, or duress. This is outrageous, especially given the mental state of so many people post covid – it looks to provide a terrible permanent ‘solution’ to a desire that has often been shown to be linked to depression, loneliness and feeling like a burden to others – the solution is to address these things, not to normalise a suicide solution. •

Ultimately, the bill has detailed instructions to ‘educate’ or ‘re-educate’ a generation of medical practitioners on how to take life instead preserving it. Many Doctors are scared to speak up about this tectonic plate shift, which changes the culture of the medical profession, and those that are speaking up are being ignored.

3 This is urgent – please don’t delay! Many thanks for your assistance in this regard. Please also pray that the politicians of NSW are able to hold out against this push to extend the reach of the culture of death. It has already been taken up in all other states and territories and without your support and action, politicians are unlikely to oppose this terrible, proposed bill.

I am happy for you to forward this communication to other friends and family members in order to urge them to oppose Euthanasia / Voluntary Assisted Dying in NSW. Where can I get more information? If you would like to do some more reading, I would suggest the following:

1. HOPE Australia: Preventing Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide Website Preventing Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide <https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/> 2. Media Article

The following link will take you to a recent article that appeared on the MercatorNet website <https://mercatornet.com/euthanasia-fundamentalists-sell-death-in-the-netherlands/73751/>.

It is titled Euthanasia fundamentalists sell death in the Netherlands dated 29 July 2021. 3. Australian Care Alliance Website <https://www.australiancarealliance.org.au/>. It contains valuable updates and information about overseas developments.

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