



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 11/12 DECEMBER 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent



Advent Insight by Pope Francis

Let the season of Advent prepare you for the final meeting with Christ

“During Advent we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return of Christ when he will return at the end of time. (So we dedicate time to) preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him.

We remember Christmas, we await the glorious return of Christ, and also our own personal encounter for the day in which the Lord will call.



Christmas Appeal for St Vincent De Paul

Towards the end of all Masses last weekend, a brief presentation was delivered about the work of the SVDP society in our own area in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It was acknowledged, firstly, that students in our Catholic schools had contributed quite a large variety of food items for the making-up of hampers. This had, indeed, been a most impressive response from our school communities!

The second part of the presentation introduced a ‘leaving appeal’ to be conducted as parishioners departed from Mass. It was explained that the goal this year was to raise cash to buy vouchers for use at butchers and the large food retailers. These vouchers would be added to the food hampers.

Questions: So, what do you think happened? Any idea? Care to have a guess?

The collective response was remarkably generous with over \$6,000 being contributed. That’s not a mistake; it was truly \$6,000. This quality of pastoral care and holy charity is what makes our parish so extra special. It’s so true to that part of our parish mission statement that reads:

...the parishioners of St Paul’s Camden embrace renewal and regeneration by a commitment to pastoral care and holy charity, producing a harvest of good works both within our own parish and far beyond.

Heartfelt thanks to all who ‘chipped-in’. As Jesus said (and recorded so beautifully in Matthew’s Gospel): “Whatever you do to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do to me.”



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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

Parish Christmas Concert at St Paul's

Those leading our Christmas favourites are among the very best of musicians and vocalists. If this was theatre, it would be considered a cast of Hollywood proportions. Collectively, and after their respective names, these people have more letters than an alphabet soup.

Tasha Hodges - Craig Davidson - Joseph Zoric - Ria Brcic - St Pauls Camden Choir - Joseph Hanson - Darko Zoric - Belinda Vaccaro - Eva Batten.

Sunday Evening ~ 19 December from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Evening suitable for children, teenagers, and adults of all ages.

Great way of preparing for Christmas.

Bookings NOW OPEN and can be made in the usual way on our parish website.



Renewal ~ Spiritual, Pastoral, Temporal

The most recent occasion for renewal was way back in 2016. That programme was reasonably successful with a survey afterwards indicating overwhelmingly that renewal was desirable every five years.

Because of extenuating circumstances, no such programme was even remotely considered for 2021.

However, 2022 presents a new opportunity. And preliminary inquiries indicate that a very experienced professional man, Mr Stephen Littleton, is available to assist with such a programme in May. Stephen has had over 15 years experience in Victoria with his main focus being the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

These programmes can sometimes be met with resistance. People across all religious denominations are not too excited by conversations about money. But it really doesn't have to cause any suffering. Just need parishioners to increase giving by about 25% once every five years.

Even before the programme begins, I've already decided to raise my own monthly contribution from \$125 to \$150 a month. The only qualification, however, is that if The Oaks and Camden formalise a partnership, then it will be \$75 each way. Can't afford \$300. Well, I probably could but prefer to set aside a little in reserve for golf and holidays.

As my dear ole dad use to bark back when asked for a few quid: "Do you think I'm Nelson Rockefeller?". But he'd still give me something anyway, though probably not as much as I asked for! Actually, giving away money can become quite easy, but only with practice. We can genuinely feel our lives being blessed when we embrace holy charity.

But there is one detail that needs to be raised and brought to the attention of all our parishioners. Planned-giving professionals ask for access to 'giving records' for the three-week duration of the programme. Stephen has indicated he operates under strict privacy guidelines and has never had an issue in over 15 years of renewal in Victoria. If there are any parishioners who oppose this process, please email the parish office asap.



Sacrament of Penance Programme for Children 2021/2022

The opportunity for enrolment closes this week. Books will be ordered and distributed early in the new year. Parents and carers are strongly encouraged to make a commitment to Sunday Mass. The spiritual formation of these young children should be among the highest of family priorities. Years lost are years that can never be reclaimed.

Christmas Mass Times ~ Bookings Necessary

Christmas Eve ~ Friday 24th December

Friday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Maria and Sarah
Camden	7:00 PM	Father Victor	Craig, Brian and Colin
Camden	9:00 PM	Father Michael	Belinda and Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	TBA
The Oaks	6:30 PM	Father Michael	TBA

Christmas Day ~ Saturday 25th December

Camden	Midnight	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Jen and Josh

Boxing Day ~ Sunday 26th December

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Michael	Eva and Darko
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Craig



Patronal Feast this Week

13 December: St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr, Memoria

St Lucy from her cradle was nurtured and educated in the Catholic faith under the love and care of her widowed mother. At an early age she made a secret vow of virginity. She resisted the advances of a young nobleman. Under a persecution of the time, she was accused by this nobleman of being a Christian. She was imprisoned and tortured. In 304 Lucy met her death by the sword, having retained her virginity.

14 December: St John of the Cross, priest, doctor, Memoria

Born in Spain about the year 1542, John became a Carmelite friar in 1568. He was dedicated to the reform of the Order which cost him much hard work and many trials. He was outstanding in holiness and knowledge as his many spiritual writings testify. He had a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

Interestingly, in his last illness he had a choice between two monasteries – one of them was a pleasant residence and its prior was his intimate friend but he chose the other which was a bit of a dump and where the prior was ill-disposed toward him. After much suffering he died in 1591.



Third Sunday of Advent 11/12 November

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria and Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	
Sunday			
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Michael	Eva and Darko
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tony

Please be mindful of a timely arrival to be seated at the commencement of Mass, and allow our monitors to do the same.

Fourth Sunday of Advent 18/19 December

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Quiet Mass
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	
Sunday			
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Maria
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Craig

From The Diocese ~ Get Connected

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith.

A simple way to stay informed and connected is to invite the faithful to subscribe at <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> to receive regular stay connected updates or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to parishes weekly.



Kind Regards

Father Michael