



# Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 18/19 DECEMBER 2021

## 4th Sunday of Advent



### Advent Insight by Pope Francis

Pope Francis has encouraged the faithful to use the final weeks of Advent to find concrete ways to prepare for Christmas.

*"I can call a person who is alone. I can visit an elderly person or a sick person, do something to serve the poor, someone in need. Or maybe there is something for which I must ask forgiveness, or something to forgive; a situation to clarify, a debt to repay. Maybe I have neglected prayer and after such a long time, it is time to turn to the mercy of the Lord."*



### Confessions before Christmas

Because of the need for social distancing, there will be no 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation this year. The reason is because it is within this Rite that penitents often whisper and move very close to the priest where there's very little space between the melons.

With the high transmissibility of the delta and omicron variants, there's a much higher level of safety to have the First Rite in the confessional in the old chapel. The penitent is then positioned either behind a screen or in a chair more than a metre away from the confessor.

So, for this coming week. Confessions are available from the following times for one hour or until there's no one waiting. Best to arrive no later than half an hour beyond the scheduled starting time:

Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 AM	Father Victor	6:00 PM	Father Michael
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 AM	Father Victor	6:00 PM	Father Michael
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30 AM	Father Michael	6:00 PM	Father Victor

Please be mindful that there are no confessions on Christmas Eve. If making a confession, please try to be concise and loud enough for the priest to hear. Many thanks.

### Midweek Masses this coming Week

Masses are as usual this week except that on Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be no morning Masses at Narellan Vale and Camden. Clergy need to have an easy morning in preparation for vigils later in the evening.



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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 ~ 400 Maximum

With school now having come to completion for 2021, parents might be feeling a little relieved if only because their children and teenagers are more cheerful, in anticipation of the beautiful celebration of Christmas and then the summer holidays. It's a great time for our families, our community and our whole nation.

And special thanks to our teachers who have really been giving 100% during these tough times.

So, the week leading up to Christmas will become extra beautiful and more spiritual by having a presence at our own Christmas concert.

Many parishioners would be aware of the TV productions that have Christmas concerts from The Domain in Sydney or the Myers Music Bowl in Melbourne. Always better to record these telecasts and watch later so it's possible to fast-forward through lots of those songs that are fringe and peripheral to the spiritual heart of Christmas. And to be totally honest, the frivolous verbiage can also be a bit tiresome.

Our own Christmas Concert will be short on self-promoting commentary and big on the beautiful sacred Christmas carols that we've all known since childhood. Might be some occasional departure from sacred music for the purpose of adding a little variety to the evening.

Not sure if there'll be many places remaining. Have already registered 369 by close-of-office on Thursday. But it should be a lovely evening for all who are able to attend. Hope you can make it!

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

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



### Sacrament of Penance Programme for Children 2021/2022

The opportunity for enrolment officially closed last weekend. However, because we're leading into the beautiful season of Christmas – a time of goodwill towards all – an extra week has been provided *conditionally* at the 8am and 5pm Sunday Masses. Please see parish staff at 8.00am or Fr Michael at 5.00pm Sunday Mass to collect a form to complete and return at the same time with your \$20 payment. Forms will not be available at the Saturday Vigil or 10.00am Sunday Masses.

Families not having enrolled this week will not be able to join this programme. Quite possibly, however, a catch-up programme may be provided after Easter.



## Christmas Mass Times ~ Bookings Necessary

**Bookings for Christmas Masses will open at 9:00 AM on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

Because of developments over the past week in which the number of infections has been soaring, the covid capacity of our Masses has been reduced from 500 to 400, the latter being about two-thirds of the church's capacity.

To compensate, an extra Mass has been added on Christmas morning at 7:30 AM. So instead of having 5 Masses with 500, there's now six Masses with 400.

Each of the six Masses at Camden will be limited to 400 people. Both parishes at Camden and The Oaks need to have a duty of care to all our parishioners. No longer acceptable to have people packed in like sardines.

Please only book if you're certain of attending. The 'no shows' continue to be a problem.  
*Bit unfair to fellow parishioners!*

Oakdale is limited to 100 people. The Oaks is limited to 60 people.

Parishioners are very much encouraged to wear masks, though not obliged.

### Christmas Eve ~ Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December

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 25<sup>th</sup> December

Camden	Midnight	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Victor	Cheryl
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Jen and Josh

### Boxing Day ~ Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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



## 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**