



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Christmas insight by Pope Francis

With reference to The Visitation – the occasion when Mary visited Elizabeth – Pope Francis noted how Mary set out from Nazareth “to go in haste” to travel to the hill country of Judaea, the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth. The Pope shared the following reflection:

Mary’s example “to go in haste” means living our daily lives with joy and looking ahead with confidence despite the temptation to do otherwise or to be immobile.

Mary proceeded with a "step" of one whose heart and life are full of God, full of his joy, the Pope noted.

And so, we should also ask ourselves how our own "step" is, and whether we move forward with hope, energy and perseverance.

If we get dragged down by melancholy, he pointed out, we will not bring God to anyone. The Pope encouraged everyone to be positive, despite our daily difficulties, and even cultivate a healthy sense of humour, adding that the first act of charity we can do is to offer "a serene and smiling face", to bring the "joy of Jesus, as Mary did with Elizabeth."

In conclusion, he prayed that the Blessed Mother may help us "to arise and to go in haste towards Christmas!"



Parish Christmas Concert at St Paul’s ~ Wrap Up

Congratulations are extended to all those who were involved with making such a success of the inaugural Christmas concert last Sunday evening. It became quite apparent that there were many highly accomplished people who were presenting a wide variety of sacred music. The healthy number of people who attended were also treated to a night of Christmas favourites.

And one of the features of the evening was the arrival of Santa Claus. It seemed for a few moments that he may have become disorientated and ended up in the wrong place. But soon enough, Santa arrived to the great delight of all the children. It was all quite a marvellous spectacle.

Thanks to all who participated in one way or another. There’s certainly a strong foundation to build upon for future years.



Midweek Masses this coming Week ~ Normal Timetable

26 John Street (PO Box 7) Camden NSW 2570 (02) 4655 8797 camden@dow.org.au
59 Holdsworth Drive, Narellan Vale NSW 2567 (ring Camden) camden@dow.org.au
5 /15 Merlin Street (PO Box 169) The Oaks NSW 2570 (ring Camden) theoaks@dow.org.au
Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) theoaks@dow.org.au

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

Christmas Mass Times ~ Bookings Now Open

Please note that (a) bookings are necessary, (b) congregational singing is permitted (c) masks are not mandatory, so far, and (d) numbers have been limited to 400 at Camden to avoid overcrowding and congestion.

Christmas Eve ~ Friday 24th 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	Jo
The Oaks	6:30 PM	Father Michael	Nicole

Christmas Day ~ Saturday 25th December

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

Boxing Day ~ Sunday 26th December ~ Feast of the Holy Family

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 Feasts this Week

27 December: St John, apostle, evangelist Feast

John became the “beloved disciple” and was the only one of the twelve who did not forsake the saviour in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully by the cross where the saviour made him guardian of His Mother. His later life was mostly dedicated in Jerusalem and Ephesus. He wrote the fourth Gospel, and three epistles and the Book of revelations.

He was banished to the island of Patmos for a year. He lived to an extremely old age, surviving all his fellow apostles. He died about 100 AD. He is known as the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he learned from his Divine Master.

28 December: The Holy Innocents, martyrs Feast

The feast is dedicated to the male children of two years and under that were killed in Bethlehem and its borders by order of King Herod who was intent of killing the baby Jesus. The Feast of the Holy Innocents has been commemorated since the first century

Saturday 1st January ~ Solemnity, Mary Mother of God

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	9:00 AM	No morning Mass	
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Quiet Mass
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	

Sunday 2nd January ~ The Epiphany

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Steve and Damian
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jenny and Tasha

QR CODING

After the great numbers who are welcomed into the church over the Christmas Masses, attendance usually declines with families on holidays and off visiting relations. With this in mind we are discontinuing the weekly necessity of booking into the Mass of your choice. We are asking that everyone QR codes on their way into the church. QR codes are on display on the walls of the Chapel entry as well as on the tables where we were having the lists to be marked off.

With the number of infections growing your assistance in ensuring that everyone is QR'd into the church will hopefully ensure we remain Covid safe and Government regulation complied.

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