



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 Camden and The Oaks

23RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME ~ 3RD/4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Pastoral Insight into Family Members Leaving the Church

From Father Ron Rolheiser OMI

If a child or a brother or a sister or a loved one of yours strays from the church in terms of faith practice and morality, as long as you continue to love that person, and hold him or her in union and forgiveness, he or she is touching the hem of the garment, is held to the Body of Christ, and is forgiven by God, irrespective of his or her official external relationship to the church and Christian morality.

Your touch is Christ's touch. When you love someone, unless that someone actively rejects your love and forgiveness, she or he is sustained in salvation.

And this is true even beyond death. If someone close to you dies in a state which, externally at least, has her or him at odds ecclesially and morally with the visible church, your love and forgiveness will continue to bind that person to the Body of Christ and continue to forgive that individual, even after death.

First Holy Communion Programme ~ 4 September

About prayer, the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** teaches the following:

Paragraph 2650:

In order to pray, one must have the will to pray; one must also learn how to pray.

Paragraph 2558:

In the words of St Therese of Lisieux: For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned towards heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.

Paragraph 2559:

But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or out of the depths of a humble and contrite heart? Humility is the foundation of all prayer.



In terms of preparing for **First Holy Communion** in our parishes of Camden and The Oaks, an added emphasis has now been assigned to candidates having a knowledge of prayer. Therefore, the readiness for children to be included in the programme will be assessed according to the following component parts:

1. To have been baptised.
2. To be in at least Year 3 at School.
3. To have celebrated First Penance.
4. To have a regular presence at Mass, which includes a weekly commitment during the FHC programme.
5. With the help of adults, to complete the programme workbooks in a highly satisfactory manner.
6. With the good example of parents, to be able to learn and recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Act of Contrition.

The first five of these six component parts have applied in the parish of Camden for almost 20 years. So why has the sixth been added?

Over the past six months, two programmes for First Penance were administered, with the second offering an opportunity for families who had not participated in the first to 'catch-up'.

Across both programmes, but in the second particularly, there were too many instances when children, after having made their confession, were then issued a penance, and advised to recite the Act of Contrition. It became quickly apparent that there were children who were unable to confidently recite the Act of Contrition and couldn't complete the penance because the Our Father and the Hail Mary were completely unknown.

So, in response, acceptance into the FHC programme will now require a knowledge of prayer that should have been known by the time of First Reconciliation.

The parish of Camden – and now also The Oaks – has always embraced an openness to preparing as many children as possible for the Sacraments. The quote contained in the Gospel of Matthew (19:14) about letting little children come to Jesus has been a leading priority in the parishes' pastoral agenda. Two examples:

Firstly, when the apostolate for catechetics was discontinued because of the pandemic when, at such time, 21 out of 25 catechists decided to resign, a response was offered in the form of a Parish School of Religion in which children in government and non-Catholic private schools could gather in the Heritage Hall for prayer and instruction after school for four weeks each term. But across both parishes, only two families expressed interest.

That's quite ok so long as families take responsibility, themselves, for raising their children in the ways of the Catholic faith.

Secondly – as stated – a second penance programme was offered this year to include about 30 families who had missed the first programme.

When it comes to administering sacramental programmes, there are no shortage of opinions. But few people other than clergy would have a familiarity with the Church's Code of Canon law. Canon 914 states:

It is primarily the duty of parents and of those who take their place, as it is the duty of the parish priest, to ensure that children have reached the use of reason are properly prepared and, having made their sacramental confession, are nourished by this divine food as soon as possible. It is also the duty of the parish priest to see that children who have not reached the age of reason, or to whom he has judged to be insufficiently disposed, do not come to holy communion.

So, for those families who would like to be included in the FHC programme for 2022, please be mindful that 'Information Forms' will be distributed this week after Masses.

Then this coming Wednesday and Thursday, candidates will be asked to attend St Paul's church and recite the three prayers – Our Father, Hail Mary and Act of Contrition.

- Candidates with birthday on an odd number are asked to attend Wednesday.
- Candidates with birthday on an even number are to attend on Thursday.
- Candidates with birthday falling in the first half of the month are asked to gather at 5:30 PM
- Candidates with birthday falling in the second half of the month are asked to gather at 6:00 PM

If these arrangements are inconvenient, it's ok to be flexible.

There will be two priests plus four carefully selected parishioners to help as attendants. And perhaps the seriously committed parents this year, might be happy to assist as attendants next year.

Upon entering the church, please collect a coloured slip on the baptism font and complete.

In no particular order, each candidate with accompanying adult meet with one of the clergy or one of the attendants to return the colour slip and recite the prayers. This encounter is expected to take no longer than five minutes.

There may be some nervousness but this is intended as an opportunity of affirmation and support. Please be trusting.

In the meantime, parents are greatly encouraged to pray with their children each day. It's an act of parental love.

The Oaks ~ Sunday 4 September

This Sunday 4 September there will be morning tea after 9.00am Mass with little delights brought along by the families. Custard tarts a specialty. All invited, especially the kids. And yes, Father Michael will be present and will indulge but with restraint and moderation. Hard to resist a good custard tart at morning tea! Preferable to lamingtons.

Mass of Anointing ~ Tuesday 6 September 2022

This coming Tuesday of the month at 9:00 AM Mass, there will be a Mass of Anointing followed by a cup of tea. All who are genuinely unwell are most encouraged to attend Mass for the reception of this healing sacrament along with the reception of Holy Communion. Occasion of grace!

Mention My Name Memorial Mass ~ 10 September 2022 ~ Ruse

St Thomas More Parish in Ruse will be holding a special memorial Mass to remember those who have lost their lives through suicide and pray for their grieving family, friends, caregivers and first responders. This Mass will be held at 11.00am on Saturday 10 September, St Thomas More Church at 43 Acacia Avenue, Ruse. For further information please contact the Grief Care Team on 02 9646 6908 or email team@griefcare.com.au.

Sunday 4th September ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 3rd September

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday 4th September

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Steve, Damian and Betty
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Tasha & Cheryl

4 th Sep	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Patrick O'Flynn	Stephen Barrett	Diane Kennaugh	Wal Glynn	Angelina Vecchio	Valentina V
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Cheryl Carroll	Glenn Crawford	Maryann Ace	Lucy Aquilina	Cheryl/ Kathryn
Sun 10.00am	Mark Coleman	Maureen Grisdale	Joseph Hanson	Michael Reardon	Cathy Conwell	Brad M
Sun 5.00pm	John Marchand	Meaghan Marchand	Maria Kosiak	Jacinta Abernethy	Simon Abernethy	Eugene K

Sunday 10th September ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil ~ Saturday Evening 9th September

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria and Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo

Sunday 10th September

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Michael	Eva & Darko
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tony Lo Cascio

For our Faithful Departed: John Du Verge, Colin James Lloyd, James (Jim) Vella, Florence Devine, Neill Chapman, *who died recently*. Michael Antalfy, Julie Jenkins, Giovanni Bergamin, Vincent Grech, Louis Gauci, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Cath Bourke, Mary, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll. *RIP*.

We Pray for those who are unwell: Maria Irwin, Syd Hyett, Trish Hyett, Brian Ovington, Norman Richardson, John and Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Fr Michael & Parish Office