



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ 17TH /18TH DECEMBER 2022

Pope Francis on Advent

At the beginning of Advent, Pope Francis remarked: "Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst,"

"Let us make the traditional Advent prayer our own: **'Come, Lord Jesus.'**

We can say it at the beginning of each day and repeat it often, before our meetings, our studies, and our work, before making decisions, in every important or difficult moment of our lives: **'Come, Lord Jesus,'**

Pope Francis stressed that Advent is both a time of "God's closeness and our watchfulness".

"It is important to remain watchful, because one great mistake in life is to get absorbed in a thousand things and not to notice God".

Saint Augustine said: 'Timeo Iesum Transeuntem' (I fear that Jesus will pass by me unnoticed). Drawn by our own interests ... and distracted by so many vain things, we risk losing sight of what is essential.

Pope Francis warned of the dangers of mediocrity, lukewarmness, and indifference in the Christian life.

"Without making an effort to love God daily and awaiting the newness he constantly brings, we become mediocre, lukewarm, worldly. And this slowly eats away at our faith, for faith is the very opposite of mediocrity: It is ardent desire for God, a bold effort to change, the courage to love, constant progress,"

Pope Francis said that prayer and charity are antidotes to mediocrity and indifference.

"Charity is the beating heart of the Christian: just as one cannot live without a heartbeat, so one cannot be a Christian without charity".

Sacrament of Penance Programme 2022/2023

About 155 families have joined the programme with the return of enrolment forms last weekend. A very genuine welcome is extended to all. The official timeline sets out the way the programme is administered. Enquiries can be directed to the secretaries during parish office hours or one of the priests.

Ordination of Reverend James Arblaster

Reverend James Arblaster was ordained last Saturday morning. Very beautiful Mass. He's been appointed to the Corpus Christ parish which incorporates Wollongong, Fairy Meadow and Gwynneville. Our prayers and best wishes are offered for Father James as he begins his priestly ministry.

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Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) theoaks@dow.org.au

Confessions before Christmas

First Rite of Reconciliation will be available at Camden according to the following:

Wednesday	9:30 – 10:00AM,	longer of necessary	(Father Victor)
Wednesday	6:00 – 7:00 PM,	longer if necessary	(Father Michael)
Friday	9:30 – 10:00AM,	longer of necessary	(Father Victor)
Saturday	9:30 – 10:15AM,	longer of necessary	(Father Victor)

Comments on Christmas Parties by Greg Sheridan

Who is Greg Sheridan? He is the foreign editor for The Australian' Newspaper. His most recent book, "Christians, the urgent case for Jesus in our world", became a best seller weeks after publication.

He is one of the nation's most influential national security commentators, who is active across television and radio, and also writes extensively on culture and religion. He has written eight books, mostly on Asia and international relations. A previous book, "God is Good for You" was also a best seller.

On a personal level, he acknowledges that he drank too much alcohol in his 20s and has long since given-up altogether.

Earlier this week, he was engaged in a conversation with Andrew Bolt who hosts an hourly current affairs programme on SKY TV at 7:00 PM Mondays to Thursdays. A big part of the conversation related to Christmas parties. The following are various extracts from Sheridan:

I don't attend Christmas parties because they're a place of danger...the vast majority of Australians go to Christmas parties and nothing bad happens.

The problem is the fetish of alcohol. Given the massive damage that booze does to our country and to human lives time after time after time, why don't office parties have a 'no booze' policy.

When you go out to celebrate with your workmates and your bosses and your subordinates, men and women,.....whose ever been to be Christmas party when at least somebody doesn't get drunk?

And getting drunk is a really bad, stupid, dangerous, unhealthy, vicious, nasty, retrograde, anti-human thing to do.

At 'booze-free' Christmas parties, more people will keep their careers and fewer people will die on the roads from coming home from Christmas parties.

Not everyone will agree with Sheridan but he does have a point.

Fortunately, at our own end-of-year Christmas socials in the Catholic schools in our parish, along with other parish Christmas socials, people have not been known to get drunk and ruin their careers.

St Clare's Church

Same advertisement still appearing in the Catholic Weekly. It's actually quite impressive. A meeting with the Project Manager will take place in January. Our parishioners will be kept informed according to developments.

Innovative Diocesan Initiative

On the various magazine tables in our churches, there a brochure entitled 'Reconnect'. There's also an accompanying 'Invitation Card' – the size of a typical business card – for you to hand on to a family member or friend who just needs a little encouragement to come to Mass. Please take home a copy of both. The brochure is very self-explanatory. And it's ok to take more than one business card.

This little initiative is most deserving of support. During our very lovely Christmas ceremonies, God can touch the hearts of people in the most mysterious of ways.

St Vincent De Paul ~ Christmas Appeal

An update on our Christmas appeal – Many thanks to our parishioners from The Oaks and Oakdale who recently contributed to the appeal. An amount of almost exactly \$700 was raised in The Oaks and Oakdale. Great effort. Charity directed to the world's great needs is a powerful expression of holiness. So grateful!

Saturday/Sunday 17th / 18th December ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Maria C and Cheryl
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Craig

Christmas Ceremonies

	Church	Time	Celebrant	Music
Saturday 24 th	Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo
Saturday 24 th	The Oaks	6:30 PM	Father Victor	Nicole
Saturday 24 th	Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Sarah, Ciara w. St Paul's children's choir
Saturday 24 th	Camden	7:00 PM	Father Michael	Craig, Brian, Colin
Saturday 24 th	Camden	9:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda and Tasha
Sunday 25 th	Camden	Midnight	Father Victor	Choir w. carols from 11:30
Sunday 25 th	Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Ilona and Rachel

18th Dec	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Mark Coleman					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Pat O'Flynn	Diane Kennaugh	Chris Keun	Trish O'Flynn	Russell O'Brien	Valentina V
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Warren Johnson	Kimberley Logue	Lorraine Phillips	Lisa McFadzean	Cheryl/ Kathryn
Sun 10.00am	James McFarlane	Nada Simich	Oscar Marimbe	Kylie Crnek-Georgeson	Maria Debrincat	Brad M
Sun 5.00pm	Mark Coleman	Joseph Hanson	Brian Jenkins	Samantha Vergara	TBA	Craig

Diocesan News

Get connected with what is on around the diocese. Conscious that with many messages to choose from to put in your bulletins every week, we are continuing to include a short message near the top of the message suggestions that captures an opportunity for the faithful to stay connected with what is happening around the diocese.

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:

<https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> or

visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to parishes weekly.

For our Faithful Departed: Robert Sinclair, Frank Attard, Brett Gray, Giovanna Caltagirone, Gary Burton, Liviana Demurtas-Costa, *died recently*. Dorothy Dunn, Anne Garofalo, Dorothy Jones, Joseph Ellul, Jason Whitfield, Peter Mulholland, William Mulholland, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Patrick Harriden, Mary, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Cath Bourke, Louis Gauci, *RIP*.

We Pray for those who are unwell: Liam Cantarella, Myra Dozzi, Des Grissell, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Anne Hyeronimus, Maria Irwin, Syd Hyett, Trish Hyett, Norman Richardson, John and Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Father Michael