



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

CHRISTMAS

Fulton John Sheen 1895 – 1979 was an American Bishop of the Catholic Church known for his preaching and especially his work on television and radio. He offers the following insight about Christmas:

“The world might have expected the Son of God to be born – if He was to be born at all – in an inn. A stable would be the last place in the world where one would have looked for Him. Divinity is always where one least expects to find it.”

Carolyn Kennedy, age 65, is an American author, attorney, and diplomat serving in the Biden administration as the United States Ambassador to Australia since 2022. She is the only surviving child of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy. She writes:

"It's true, Christmas can feel like a lot of work, particularly for mothers. But when you look back on all the Christmases in your life, you'll find you've created family traditions and lasting memories. Those memories, good and bad, are really what help to keep a family together over the long haul".

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

WITH GRATITUDE

Father Victor and I join together in thanking our parishioners for your warmth and support over the past 12 months. We're especially grateful to those who offer courtesies and continue to trust in our judgement. We acknowledge our imperfections and limitations but we're trying our best. Many thanks.

New Year Holiday Break

With the school holidays and so many people taking a well-deserved break, the pace of parish life slows noticeably from Christmas until mid-January, except for funerals. Accordingly, there's not expected to be any new initiatives over the next three weeks.

The next '**Weekly Message**', therefore, will be emailed in mid-January.

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2023

OK, so it's agreed that there's considerably variety in the ways that NYE can be enjoyed. Some will kick off the new year with lots of noise and revelry. Others will be horizontal well before midnight.

Whatever the circumstances, please keep in mind that the best way to begin the new year is by having a presence at Mass on Sunday 1st January or at the Vigil. Our normal weekend Mass timetable will apply.

The 1st January is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, as well as the World Day of Peace. And we all have our own personal and family needs that require divine grace.

BAPTISMS ~ SPECIAL FEATURE OF 2022

After lower-than-expected numbers in 2020 and 2021, the celebrations of Holy Baptism soared in 2022.

On Sunday 18th December, the number **500** was reached, with another four infants scheduled to be baptised before the end of the year. Huge! Gotta be some kind of record. Certainly, it's the largest yearly number in our own parish by a considerable margin.

Looking at this number in a more discerning way, great credit belongs to the 1,000 young parents who have presented their children to the church for this life-giving sacrament. Our parish is most welcoming and accommodating. And administering the Sacrament of Baptism will always be one of our areas of speciality.

25 th Dec	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	TBA							
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Pat O'Flynn	Helen Lanyon	Diane Kennaugh	Trish O'Flynn	Russell O'Brien		Kylie Crnek-Georgeson	Elizabeth
Sat Vigil 7.00pm	John Marchand	Meaghan Marchand	Chris Keun	Maryann Ace	Cathy Conwell	Sharon Picken	Gemma Sremchevich	Craig
Sat Vigil 9.00pm	John Roberts	Joseph Hanson	Stephen Barrett	Robin Roberts	Denise Carney	Dianne Garland	John Tannous	Valentina
Midnight Mass	Ray Cusack	Wal Glynn	Maureen Grisdale					Brad
Sun 9.00am	Mark Coleman	Kimberley Logue	Nada Simich	Lorraine Phillips	Cheryl Carroll			Cheryl

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: Maria Irwin, Victoria Gauci, Margaret Cook, Robert Sinclair, Frank Attard, Judith Langford, Brett Gray, *died recently*. Dorothy Dunn, Anne Garofalo, Dorothy Jones, Joseph Ellul, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Rino & Assunta Zanatta, Pasquale Zanatta, Barry Myles, Denise Grissell, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Mary, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Cath Bourke. Louis Gauci. *RIP*.

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

Kind Regards

Father Michael