



Dear Parishioners at Camden and The Oaks

1st Sunday in Lent ~ Year B ~ 18th February 2024

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

Archdiocese of Los Angeles ~ REC

This archdiocese is the largest in the United States. Each year there's a three-day Religious Education Conference (REC) which happens to be this weekend, 16/17/18 February.

The conference attracts over 40,000 participants who attend major presentations from some of the best church professionals across the world. The presentations are topical and cover a broad range of contemporary issues to church life, including sacred music. The daily conference Masses are held in a huge auditorium and include outstanding liturgical features. Very beautiful.

The Archbishop of Los Angeles is the Most Reverend Jose Gomez. About this year's season of Lent, he offers the following brief reflection:

"Lent gives us a new opportunity to be more serious about our personal conversion to Christ, more serious about becoming the people that God wants us to be."

Father James Arblaster ~ Arrived 15 February 2024

From all our parishioners at Camden and The Oaks, we warmly welcome Father James to our parishes. Father James has agreed to begin his time in our parishes by being the celebrant at Masses this weekend according to the following schedule:

Saturday:	Camden 9:00 AM (with confessions) and the 5:00 PM Vigil
Sunday	Camden 8:00 AM 10:00 AM and Baptisms

Parish Pastoral Council 21st February

Lots to talk about. However, the meeting will be confined to 90 minutes. Always try to avoid filibustering. Refreshments afterwards for those who have time stay a little longer.

Interestingly, there were some members of the previous PPC who with Father Michael would often remain behind for a time that was longer than the actual meeting. Always good fellowship.

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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

Carmelite Retreat Programme

At times, there's a genuine need to withdraw from the heavy demands upon our lives. The Carmelites at Varroville have a retreat programme that offers many such possibilities throughout the year.

There's the option of 'Day Retreats', 'Weekend Retreats' and 'Weeklong Retreats'.

One of the standouts (18-20 October) could be a retreat directed by the Most Reverend Greg Homeming who used to reside at the monastery before being ordained as the Bishop for Lismore.

Lots more information available from the website: mtcarmel.com.au or 8795 3400 or 0435 857 690

Carrington Pastoral Care

Periodically, the Pastoral Care Team at Carrington extends an invitation to people who would like to be part of a Pastoral Care Volunteer Programme. The aim is to provide person-centred care to the residents.

The job is essentially one of companionship and listening. No previous experience is necessary and training is provided. The next training course commences in March 2024. Applications close on 28 February 2024.

Penance Programme for Children

This week assistance sheets for Chapter 3 will be distributed to all children enrolled in the Sacrament of Penance program, workbook pages 17 to 22 should be completed. Names will be recorded.

After Mass children in the program will be invited to share with Father their ideas for fasting for Lent. Parents/carers should assist by speaking to the children with suggestions and perhaps stories of past Lents and how they prepared for Easter.

A further reminder is given of the Prayer Assessment evening that is planned for Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 of February, children should by now be very familiar with the 3 prayers that they will be tested on.

Attendance at Mass is a very important part of the program and children should attend each week.

Lenten Group and Resources

For those who are interested, there is still time to join the parish Lenten group on the Thursday mornings during Lent after the 9:00 AM Mass. Please, for a few dollars, buy a copy of the diocesan Lenten publication entitled, *Pieta*.

Even if not joining the Lenten group, this publication is a valuable resource for prayer at home. The cost of the booklet is just \$4.50 and available on the pew of the sanctuary.

If wanting a booklet but unable to afford because of rising cost pressures upon the family budget, please feel free to take a complimentary copy.

In our own parishes of Camden and The Oaks, affordability will never be a barrier to parishioners having possession of the spiritual reading and publications that are produced by our own diocese.

Aged Care ~ Presentation in our own parish

Are you or a loved one looking for in-home Aged Care services but not sure where to start?

CatholicCare are visiting our parish to help you understand how they (CatholicCare) can provide the services you or your loved one need to continue to live independently with the right support.

Details: Friday 22 March following 9:00 AM Mass.
The meeting will be in the meeting room or possibly in the heritage hall.
CatholicCare to provide morning tea.

So the Over 55s at Camden and The Oaks are invited to come along and hear the important information our aged care specialists have to offer. Good investment of time.

Please RSVP to Elizabeth / Cheryl on 4655 8797 or email camden@dow.org.au

Diocesan News

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

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

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

Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th February ~ First Sunday of Lent

Saturday

Camden 5:00 PM
Oakdale 5:00 PM

Celebrant

Father James
Father Michael

Musician/Vocalists

Maria B and Tasha
Jo

Sunday

The Oaks 9:00 AM
Camden 8:00 AM
Camden 10:00 AM
Camden 5:00 PM

Father Michael
Father James
Father James
Father Michael

Nicole
Maria C and Cheryl
Choir
Craig

18 th Feb	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Mark Coleman					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Pat O'Flynn	Jim Gallagher	Toni Sillis	Ray Cusack, Russell O'Brien	Chris Keun, Angelina Vecchio	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Jo				
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Anthony McElhone	Rebecca Ward	Lisa McFadzean	Lorraine Phillips	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Melissa Duck				
Sun 10.00am	John Marchand	Maureen Grisdale	Michael Toweel	Cathy Conwell	Maria Debrincat	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Mark Coleman	Samantha Vergara	Dianne Garland	Clare Power	Sharon Picken	Craig

Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th February ~ Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria B and Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father James	Jo

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father James	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Michael	Trent & Damian
Camden	5:00 PM	Father James	Craig

For our Faithful Departed: Ivy Gleeson, Lyn Simich, Marie Dunn, Sime Frkic, Beryl Hankin, Michael Ainsworth, John Davenport, William Burnell, *who died recently.* Rita Grubisic, Alenka Zuvela, Valtin Thurn, Saveria & Toni Grech, Eric Busby, Liam Cantarella, Dorothy Dunn, Margaret Thurn, Thurn family, Sutton family, Dunn family, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time.* Cath Bourke, Thurn Family, Sutton Family, Dunn Family, John Sammut, Givanni Pittana, Rose Mari, Josephine Sciberras, Keith, Maureen Millar, Bruce Millar, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Maria Irwin, Barry Myles, Mary and Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Louis & Victoria Gauci, *Requiescat in Pace.*

We Pray for those who are unwell: Anne Hyeronimus, Dianne Koens, Renee Rutland, Myra Dozzi, Anne Lonsdale, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Wayne Fletcher, Betty Aquilina, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Norman Richardson, John and Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Father Michael