



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 The Oaks and Camden

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B ~ 22 September 2024

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest – remembered as Padre Pio**

Known for his piety and charity, Padre Pio will long be remembered for countless spiritual insights, succinct spiritual direction and constant encouragement. Padre Pio said:

“Today’s society does not pray. That is why it is falling apart.”  
and

“Prayer is the best weapon we possess, the key that opens the heart of God.”

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

**Saint Vincent DePaul, Priest – born in 1581 and died in 1660**

A French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. Saint Vincent said:

“We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us the spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.”

### Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Enrolments for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion have now closed for this year. We will have 235 candidates who will celebrate the sacrament on the Feast of Christ the King in November. This weekend, workbooks will be distributed as well as the first week’s assistance sheet. The assistance sheets are offered to parents/carers as a guide. The sheets are not intended to be handed to the children with the comment “here are the answers”. One hour a week spent working with your children for the sacrament is the most wonderful opportunity to share your faith as well as quality time. A short form will be distributed within the church after Mass which needs to be filled in, then taken to the doors of the meeting room and exchanged for your child’s personalised workbook.

Candidates also need to attend this coming week for their prayer assessment. Children with odd birthday dates will be assessed on Tuesday 24 September at 6.00pm and children with even birthday dates on Thursday 26 September again at 6.00pm. If your family has commitments and you cannot come at your assigned time, you are able to attend either evening, contact should be made with the Parish office if you are unable to attend either and we will endeavour to make a time that is suitable to your family.

### Catholic Enrichment programme ~ Wednesday 25 September

We are now more than halfway through our 2024 Catholic Enrichment Programme. We have 24 adults who are taking part in the programme this year. The next evening is on Wednesday 25 September at 7.00pm, the subject is “The Eucharist, Praying the Mass”. A reminder is offered to all participants.

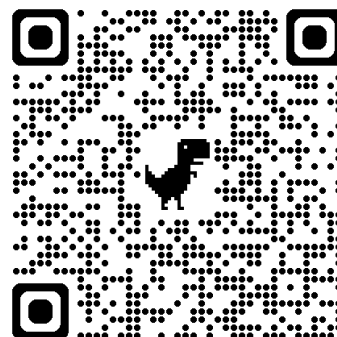
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Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) [theoaks@dow.org.au](mailto:theoaks@dow.org.au)

## Bishop's Annual Appeal

At all Masses this weekend there will be a short video played from Bishop Brian speaking to us about his Annual Appeal. Our faith calls on us to support one another, and our Priests live out this action. As our priests age they require additional support, this appeal gives us all the opportunity to give back to the priests who have supported and prayed for us and with us over many years. The collection will be a leaving collection, and the church wardens will be at all doors as we leave Mass. Father Michael never expects us to support three collections at a time and asks for our discretionary support this weekend to go to the Bishop's Appeal. Appreciation by all the priests is offered in advance.

## Opportunity to Learn More About the Mass ~ Workshops

Father James will be holding a series of weekly Workshops that will be taking us deeper into our faith. The Workshops are a video series by Bishop Robert Barron called "The Mass". The Workshops will be each Thursday evening in the Heritage Hall at 7.00pm to 8.00pm, commencing 10 October and going through to 14 November. Registration is by calling the Parish Office during normal hours on 4655 8797 or by scanning the QR code. Whether you would like to be more confident in explaining the Mass to your children or wanting to understand how and why we do what we do during the celebration of Mass this course will be ideal for you.



## Graduation Masses

Next Wednesday morning 25 September will be a very busy day for our priests, schools and parents. There will be three school Masses being celebrated all at a similar time. Father Michael will be celebrating at Magdelene Catholic College, Father James at Saint Patrick's College for Girls, and Father Sean will be at Saint Benedict's Catholic College. The Masses are to celebrate the Graduation of the year twelve students who will be sitting their Higher School Certificate exams over the next few months. We wish every student the very best as they move onto the next stage of their lives, be it University, Tafe or going out into the working world. They will all be in our prayers, and they take with them the values and standards of faith based schooling that they will now find invaluable.

## Pregnancy, Infant and Child Loss Mass ~ Saturday 5 October ~ 9.00am

Advance notice is given of the Annual Mass held for families who have lost children, before birth, at birth or soon after in childhood. The Mass will be held here at Saint Paul's on Saturday 5 October at the 9.00am Mass, with Father Michael being the celebrant. Kenneally Funerals, Catholic Cemeteries and Crematorium as well as Grief Care are the sponsors. Grief at the loss of a baby or child is always felt, and this Mass offers the opportunity for families who still grieve to come together and hear words of healing once again.

## Diocesan News

### Urgent Call for Foster Carers

In NSW, over 350 children and young people are urgently seeking foster care, with close to 100 of those children and young people living in our diocese alone. CatholicCare is doing all it can to meet this need – but more carers are desperately needed. Bishop Brian has recorded a short video that outlines the challenges of the foster care system and is urging all parishioners within the Wollongong Diocese to discern if you can help: <https://dow.sh/bmfc24>.

For more information on becoming a foster carer, please contact CatholicCare on 02 4227 1122 or email [fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au). CatholicCare will provide you and your family with training, emotional support, and financial assistance to ensure that you are supported every step of the way.

### Growing Good Men ~ Father and Teenage Son Weekend

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 27 October**

One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father or significant father figure. This experience is usually very positive and a key component as to how teenagers and young men view themselves and embrace the faith.

So do not miss this life-changing father and son weekend. Places are limited to 25 fathers and their sons aged between 12 and 17. Register online <https://dow.sh/ggm24>.

### More 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 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> September ~ 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B

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

22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Mark Coleman					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	Ray Cusack	Pat O'Flynn	Maria Kosiak	Sharon Picken, Diane Kennaugh	Fabian M, John Roberts	Eugene
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Albino				
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Anthony McElhone	Rebecca Ward	Glenn Crawford, Simon Huntley	Lisa McFadzean, Lorraine Phillips	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Leslie Meiklejohn				
Sun 10.00am	James McFarlane	Meaghan Marchand	Julie Sligar	Peter Grizelj	Michael Reardon	Che
Sun 5.00pm	Mark Coleman	Dianne Garland	Joseph Hanson	Samantha Vergara	Margaret Thornton	Craig

## Saturday/Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September ~ 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B

### Saturday

Camden 5:00 PM  
Oakdale 5:00 PM

### Celebrant

Father Michael  
Father James

### Musician/Vocalists

Belinda & Tasha  
Jo

### Sundays

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

Father James  
Father Michael  
Father Michael  
Father James

Nicole  
Cheryl  
Choir  
Tony

*For our Faithful Departed:* Peter Kiley, Donna Camilleri, Ann Simington, Maryanne Bonfiglio, Peter Plummer, Rocco Ventra, Elaine Williams, Marie-Jose Guernier, Gregory Stapleton, *who died recently*. Geoff O'Brien, Rosemary Corso, Mary Thurn, George Thurn, Frances Rouse, Maureen Ovington, Peter Cox, Joan Blewett, Stephen (Tony) Crnek, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Thurn family, Dunn family, Sutton family, Eric Busby, Michael Busby, Cath Bourke, Michael Vella, Mario Fenech, Vaughan Family, Burns Family, Clem O'Brien, Diane Vella, George Apap, Apap family, Joyce family, Barry Myles, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, *Requiescat in Pace*.

*We Pray for those who are unwell:* John Dogan, Pauline Cepak, Joseph Camilleri, Peter Williams, Abbey Kohler, Brian Ovington, Wal Glynn, Bernardine Hagan, Les Lugowski, Alexia Nawaling, Margaret Roach, Anne Hyeronimus, Dianne Koens, Myra Dozzi, Anne Lonsdale, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Betty Aquilina, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Norman Richardson, John and Ilona Somoracz.

**Kind Regards**

**Saint Paul's Parish Office**