



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

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross ~ 13th/14th September 2025

September 14 The Exaltation of the Cross commemorates the cross of Jesus as the instrument of salvation and victory over sin and death. This feast marks the date in 335AD when the Cross rediscovered in Jerusalem was first shown and exalted.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion ~ 2025 Programme

This weekend families should return their enrolment forms, which were distributed last weekend, along with the \$25.00 fee. Volunteers will be at all weekend Masses. If you have submitted your child's name, but you did not collect an enrolment form last weekend because you were away, you can still collect one from the volunteers, fill it in and return immediately with the \$25.00 fee. Please do not take the form home.

If families have a child or children who are baptised and have completed their sacrament of Penance and have not yet enrolled into the programme and wish to do so, this weekend is the last that candidates can be accepted. During this coming week workshop books need to be prepared, and numbers finalised so that Mass and Rehearsal times can be decided, and families notified.

Packs of Holy cards with the Act of Contrition, The Our Father and Hail Mary will also be made available this weekend should families need replacements for those given at the time of Penance. Children need to have a sound knowledge of these three most important prayers and although they were tested during the Sacrament of Penance programmes, every child is assessed again during the First Holy Communion Programme.

The importance of regular attendance, worshiping as a family, at Mass and having a firm knowledge of our prayers is an integral part of all our programmes.

If further information is required, please contact the Parish Office during normal hours.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal

Envelopes have been placed around the church for donations to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The appeal asks us for practical support of our retired, retiring and sick clergy who have served us over many years, as well as seminarians studying for the priesthood. We need to supply our clergy, after retirement, with independently living accommodation, or in some cases in care facilities, healthcare, transportation to medical appointments and assistance with their general wellbeing. Our Seminarians also require accommodation, food, health cover, travel costs, computers, educational fees as well as a small stipend to live on.

The Bishop's Appeal only happens once a year and is the way we can thank and support our priests and future priests with the assistance they need, as we recognise the assistance they have given and will give to us all.

Bishop Brian is very grateful for all consideration we are able to give.

26 John Street (PO Box 7) Camden NSW 2570 (02) 4655 8797 camden@dow.org.au
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

John Street Camden

Camden Council have big plans for John Street and have formed a John Street Project Team to assist in its development.

Draft designs are currently on public exhibition until 29 September 2025 and the team are more than happy to meet to discuss the plans and gather feedback from the Parish.

Two community consultation sessions have been scheduled, allowing an opportunity for parishioners to discuss the draft designs.

1. Saturday 13 September 2025 07:00 am to 12:00 pm
Camden Produce Markets at Camden Town Farm, Exeter Street, Camden
2. Wednesday 17 September 2025 04:00 pm to 06:30 pm
Drop In Session at Camden Library, 40 John Street, Camden

For all information on the Draft Concept Designs and consultation period, you can visit the Your Voice webpage: <https://yourvoice.camden.nsw.gov.au/camden-town-centre/john-street/john-street-john-street>.

From a parish perspective, it needs to be noted that there will be a total loss of parking on both sides of John Street in front of the school and the chapel. But from a positive perspective, John Street becomes far more pleasant with much wider sidewalks and enhanced landscaping.

Perhaps the questions that need to be raised with the project terms could include:

- ❖ Will the children and teenagers continue to have bus connections from John Street?
- ❖ Will hearses and wedding cars have access to the chapel from John Street?
- ❖ Will there still be access into the priests' garages from John Street?
- ❖ Will there be car spaces in the overall design for at least a couple of ambulant vehicles?
- ❖ Will Mitchell Street remain unchanged and be preserved for parking as now applies?

Parishioners may have their own questions that could also be directed to the project team.

More news according to developments. Thanks

Online Course for Special Ministers of the Eucharist

Parishioners may have noticed from our Weekly Message that our Special Ministers are few in number and quite often rostered multiple times each month. This is due to several reasons, which can include the passing of some of our dedicated volunteers, some who due to age have advised they can no longer be a part of the roster and those who have moved into Aged Care, often outside our Parish. Our thanks are always offered to all those who have helped and those who continue to help.

Have you ever considered becoming a Special Minister? If you feel that you could assist and would be able to be rostered at least one weekend a month, Father Michael has sourced an online course.

Parishioners can use the link listed below to access further information and if interested sign up to complete the course. The cost is \$22.00 but Father Michael will refund this amount to anyone who does complete the course. <https://liturgy-brisbane-learn-discover.learnworlds.com/course/lmhc1>.

The Parish office is happy to assist with either the signing up process, or access to further information, please contact us on 4655 8797 during normal office hours.

St Vincent de Paul ~ Recruitment

The Diocese is currently holding a recruitment for volunteers for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Last weekend leaflets were placed on the magazine table within the Chapel with information of how we can all assist this wonderful organisation.

The leaflets were snapped up by early Sunday morning and the office has received numerous requests for one of the leaflets; this is very encouraging. An additional supply of leaflets has been secured from the Diocese and are again available from the magazine table.

Our own branch of the society is a part of this recruitment and would welcome any additional assistance our Parish members can offer. For further information please contact Michael on 0413 174 440, who would be very happy to hear from you.

Canonisation of Carlo Acutis

Last weekend September 7 Carlo Acutis was canonised as the first millennium saint. Carlo Acutis was to have been canonised on 27 April but due to the passing of Pope Francis this was delayed until last weekend. Saint Carlo is the Patron Saint of the Internet; he passed away aged 15 from Leukemia on 12 October 2006.

The diocese originally supplied parishes with Holy Cards in April with prayers to be offered for Saint Carlo. The Parish office has held onto these prayer cards and are now making them available from the magazine tables around the church to recognise Saint Carlo Acutis.

Access to the Church Toilets during Mass

Access to the church toilets will continue to be through the rear single door of the church only. Gentlemen need to proceed straight to the rear of the buildings and then turn right up the short ramp. Lady's facilities are still in the toilet block at the rear left-hand corner of the church. Please follow the signs. These arrangements will need to be in place for the foreseeable future.

Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th September ~ The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday

Camden 5:00 PM
Oakdale 5:00 PM

Celebrant

Father Michael
Father James

Musician/Vocalists

Maria C
Jo

Sunday

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
Choir
Eva & Youth Choir
Sally

14 th Sep	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	John Roberts					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	John Roberts	Sandra Skarsky	Dianne Kennaugh	Fabian Menolotto, Barbara Spiteri	Russell O'Brien, Heather Cox	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Brian				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Kathryn Hampton	Warren Johnson	Cheryl Carroll	Glenn Crawford	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Carol Ann Meiklejohn				
Sun 10.00am	John Marchand	Maria Caridi	Meaghan Marchand	Michael Reardon	Kylie Crnek- Georgeson	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Olivia Kosiak	Samantha Vergara	Joseph Hanson	Jacinta Abernethy	Simon Abernethy	Eugene Kosiak

Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st September ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year C

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father James	Belinda & Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday

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

For our Faithful Departed:

Michael Vaughan, Rosemary Lauricella, Domenico Luci, Luigi Zanatta, Pat O'Flynn, Don Aggar, John Pulis, Gerda Siutz, John Azzopardi, Kay McCormack, *who died recently*. Vincent Grech, Stjepan Perak, Frances Rouse, George Thurn, Tony Crnek, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Fr David Catterall, Lilian Grech, Cath Bourke, Joseph Camilleri, Joe & Kaleidon Mifsud and families, Nathan Giles, Therese Carroll, Joseph Tonna, Michael Tonna, Reno Borg, Nazareno Teuma, Lawrence Teuma, Joseph Spiteri, Deceased members of the Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, deceased members of the Ryan and Lewis families, David Lewis, Diane Thorns, Barbara Celan, Mirium Bertrand, Judy Waltisbuhl, deceased members of the Burns and Vaughan families, Theresa Borg, Fr John Whitty, Barry Myles, *Requiescant in Pace*.

We Pray for those who are unwell:

Helen Parragi, Julie Curry, Oliver Franklin, Joseph Picos, June McCullough, Dean Masciocchi, Abigail Chan, Kylieann Back, Kerri Haughton, Fr Rick McCann, Diana Lee, Noel Lowry, Betty Aquilina, Mary Murphy, David Schwarb, Marie Saba, Stephen Goonan, Ralph Sawyer, Tarnia Pisano, Michael O'Sullivan, Nell and Wal Glynn, Abbey Kohler, Brian Ovington, Bernardine Hagan, Les Lugowski, Alexia Nawaling, Margaret Roach, Anne Hyeronimus, Dianne Koens, Myra Dozzi, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Father Michael Williams