



## Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ YEAR A

Wednesday 3 December

Saint Francis Xavier ~ priest

Saint Francis Xavier (1506–1552) was a pioneering Jesuit missionary, co-founder of the Society of Jesus, and patron saint of foreign missions. Born in Navarre, Spain, he spread Christianity across India, Southeast Asia, and Japan, he became renowned for his zeal, compassion, and dedication to evangelisation he died in Jiangmen, China.

### CHANGES TO MASS TIMES AT CAMDEN & NARELLAN VALE

Father James will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne this coming week, and as a result there will be some changes to our regular Mass timetable in his absence. Father Michael will be the celebrant at Vigil Saturday 29 November, 8.00am, 10.00am and the 5.00pm Masses at Camden on Sunday 30 November.

Mass at Narellan Vale for the coming week will be Wednesday 3 December and Friday 5 December. Mass at Camden will be Tuesday 2 December and Thursday 4 December, with Communion Services on Wednesday 3 December and Friday 5 December.

<i>Camden</i>	Tuesday 2 and Thursday 4 December	Morning Mass
	Wednesday 3 and Friday 5 December	Communion Service
<i>Narellan Vale</i>	Wednesday 3 and Friday 5 December	Morning Mass

The Healing Mass for December has been deferred and will now be held on Tuesday morning 16 December, a reminder will be in the Weekly Message before this date.

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR 2025 ~ 2026

Families with children who are currently in year 2 and who will be in year 3 or higher in 2026 will be able to submit their children's names for the Sacrament of Penance programme 2026 at all Masses this weekend.

Names will be taken and timelines distributed. Families are asked to read the Mutual Obligations statement, which is on the back of the timeline, this statement clearly sets out what families can expect from the church and what is expected from families. Worshipping at Mass as a family on a regular basis demonstrates to the children the rhythm of the Mass, the benefits of being part of a loving Parish community and is an integral part of Saint Paul's Sacramental programmes. The programme will pause for the school holidays.

All paperwork and other requirements of the programme always happen within the church after Mass. Names cannot be taken at the Parish Office.

26 John Street (PO Box 7) Camden NSW 2570 (02) 4655 8797 [camden@dow.org.au](mailto:camden@dow.org.au)  
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5 /15 Merlin Street (PO Box 169) The Oaks NSW 2570 (ring Camden) [theoaks@dow.org.au](mailto:theoaks@dow.org.au)  
Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) [theoaks@dow.org.au](mailto:theoaks@dow.org.au)

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

## St Vincent de Paul ~ Christmas Appeal

Families everywhere are facing mounting costs-of-living. Rising housing costs, food prices, and energy bills are stretching household budgets. Many families within our Parish are struggling to meet their everyday needs, and at Christmas time this can mean families go without the little extras that we all look forward to. Advent is the time when we can share with others less fortunate than ourselves.

Our St Vincent de Paul volunteers will be holding leaving collections after all Masses over the weekend of 6 and 7 December. Funds collected will enable the Camden/Oran Park Conference to purchase food for hampers and gifts at a much lesser cost than individual parishioners could do, making any donation go much further and our generosity can assist more of those in need.

John Haran, the Conference President, on behalf of his members extends his most sincere thanks to everyone who can assist and wishes us all a blessed Christmas and a joyful, peaceful New Year.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

The parish office is asking for volunteers who are currently on the church rosters for acolytes, readers and special ministers, to advise if they are available to assist at the Christmas Masses. There is a purple folder on the magazine table in the chapel where volunteers can indicate which of the Masses they will be able to attend.

Over the Christmas period, visitors to the church increase. If you are able to help, early notice will greatly assist with the preparation of the Christmas roster.

### LADIES ADVENT PRAYER GROUP

The ladies of the Parish are holding an Advent Prayer Group each Thursday during Advent. The group met last Thursday for the first time and there were 10 attendees. The group is using the diocese Advent booklet "The Promise" and each week will be exploring the Sunday Gospel and the beautiful Reflections that are in "The Promise". The first week was very successful and all who were in attendance stayed to enjoy a cup of tea and cake and continue the fraternity after the meeting. It is not too late to join this group please just come along next Thursday at 10.00am to the Parish Meeting Room.

### PLEASE PRESERVE THE REVERENCE OF THE CHURCH

Saint Paul's is a welcoming community but to preserve the reverence of the church you are asked to refrain from eating and drinking within the church. Lollies and chewing gum are included in our request. If necessary, water is allowed but fizzy drinks, tea and coffee should all be consumed before entering. Our electronic sign asks this of everyone who enters the church and with the new programme starting we would ask that everyone looks at the sign and takes note of these requirements.

### 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 ahead 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. Parishioners may have noticed that the Air Dryers have been installed, and we hope that this will end the plumbing problems that have been occurring because of paper towels being flushed into the sewer system.

## Diocesan News

For 2025, there's a very strong emphasis on Year of Jubilee.

Good idea to visit the diocesan website

[www.jubilee.dow.org.au](http://www.jubilee.dow.org.au)



### Safeguarding commitment statement

The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is unwavering in its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all persons in the diocese, in particular children, young people and vulnerable persons. This is at the heart of everything we do.

Every person has the right to be informed, heard, respected, empowered and to feel safe.

As a diocese, and as individuals, we commit to being safe people in the lives of all persons in the diocese, in particular children, young people and vulnerable persons, and to work together with them to create cultures that honour dignity, enrich wellbeing, and keep them safe.

## Saturday/Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> November ~ First Sunday of Advent

### Saturday

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

### Sunday

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

30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Nada Simich					
Sat Vigil 5.00pm	John Roberts	Joseph Hanson	Kerry Todd	Trish O'Flynn, Fabian Menolotto	Diane Kennaugh, Barbara Spiteri	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Jo				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Anthony McElhone	Toni Sillis	Cheryl Carroll	Simon Huntly	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Leslie Meiklejohn				
Sun 10.00am	John Marchand	Nada Simich	Leonie Gray	Michael Reardon	Meaghan Marchand	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Peter Grizelj	Samantha Vergara	Joseph Hanson	Jody Musso	Margaret Thornton	Lo Cascio family

## Saturday/Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> December November ~ Second Sunday of Advent

### Saturday

		<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>Musician/Vocalists</b>
Camden	5:00 PM	Father James	Belinda & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

### Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father James	Steve & Damian
Camden	10:00 AM	Father James	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jenny & Tasha

*We Pray for those who are unwell:*

Frank Duck, Jan & Terry Chanter, 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, 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, Dianne Koens, Myra Dozzi, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Ilona Somoracz.

**Kind Regards**

**Father Michael Williams**