



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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany of the Lord celebrates the revelation of Jesus as the light for all nations. Marked by the visit of the Magi, it highlights God's self-manifestation beyond Israel and the recognition of Christ's divine identity. The feast invites reflection on guidance, revelation, and the universal reach of God's love.

The weekdays of Christmas Time in the coming week, continue the celebration of Christ's birth. These days highlight our Saviour's light, joy, and God's nearness, deepening the season's spirit of gratitude and hope, after the Baptism of the Lord the Church will enter Ordinary Time for Year A bringing an end to the Christmas celebrations.

CLERGY MOVEMENTS

Many of our parishioners would be aware that last December, three men were ordained to the priesthood. They have been assigned to parishes around the diocese although, so far, there's been no official announcements from the Office of Bishop as to their parishes of appointment.

However, it can be reported that after almost two years at Camden, Father James will be moving to Nowra which includes another five station churches – Berry, Vincentia, Bomaderry, Culburra and Kangaroo Valley.

Indeed, the last three assisting priests at Camden have all moved on to Nowra parish – Father Pothenparampil (2021), Father Vincent (2024) and now Father James (2026).

Father James officially departs Camden on Monday 12 January 2026. Because large numbers of parishioners will be away on holidays, Father has been invited to return to celebrate the Sunday evening Mass at 5:00 PM on 1 February, to be followed by an informal gathering of the many parishioners who would like to attend. There'll be more details in coming weeks.

Another priest has been appointed to Camden to succeed Father James but the exact details are still to be confirmed. Hopefully, this appointment will begin soon after Father James' departure.

In the meantime, Father Victor is returning. But instead of residing at Camden, Father Victor will take up residence at The Oaks from 12 January. There certainly won't be any need for Father Victor to have an orientation tour as he has a strong familiarity with both parishes from his appointment to Camden from 2021 to 2024. Camden and The Oaks will remain an informal partnership and the three priests will have ministries in both parishes.

THE OAKS PARISH OFFICE

After a protracted period of over 15 months, the parish office has relocated from the presbytery to the cottage. It's been a much more complex process than originally envisaged. Consider the following about the cottage (1) the floor was uneven and needed lifting and replacing, (2) the timber beams were rotting and needed replacing (3) the ancient brick piers were tilting because of the age and needed replacing (4) the walls had bubbled and needed to be treated professionally (5) the fire place needed to be closed-in so as to provide a seal from chimney ash and dirt, pests and wildlife, (6) security door and screens were added, also requiring preparatory work (7) electrical wiring needed replacing (8) underground NBN connection completed (9) second round of painting with heritage colours (10) new carpeting supplied (11) furnished appropriately (12) transfer completed.

There remain a few other details requiring attention such as temperature control and more security. But the cottage is now the parish office and fully operational. The cottage will be open to parishioners for inspection for 30 minutes this Sunday 4 January after the 9:00 AM Mass.

THE HERITAGE HALL

The Heritage Hall is one of the treasures of our parish. It's a shared building for the parish and the school. To preserve it's condition, the HH is not available for any other reason such as wakes or 21st birthday parties.

In recent years, it's become increasingly apparent that the brick work – now over 100 years old – has required attention. And so a heritage specialist has been working on this project since before Christmas. It's anticipated that the work will be completed reasonably soon and the HH will once again be in very good condition. However, as with any building of great age, maintenance will be required occasionally. But it's a great investment towards preserving the rich history of both the parish and the Camden township.

WITH GRATITUDE

On behalf of Father James and myself, gratitude is extended to the many parishioners who have extended heartfelt Christmas greetings and – in many cases – gifts since the Christmas Vigil. There can be isolated occasions when being a priest can be a little testing. However, it's at Christmas time, especially, when parishioners are so extraordinarily affirming to the priests. Just wanted all our parishioners to know that your presence is greatly appreciated.

MONTHLY HEALING MASS ~ TUESDAY 6 JANUARY

Our monthly Healing Mass will be celebrated this coming Tuesday 6 January at our normal 9.00am morning Mass. If you, a family member or friend are unwell, waiting for a diagnosis or awaiting surgery please come and receive the anointing and extra blessings available at this Mass. A cup of tea or coffee is able to be enjoyed in the Parish Meeting room after Mass.

ROSARY ~ ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, OAKDALE

This Saturday evening, the first of the month, the Parishioners of Saint Joseph the Worker Oakdale will pray the Rosary after the conclusion of the 5.00pm Mass. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to stay for these most beautiful prayers.

NO MONTHLY MORNING TEA ~ ST ALOYSIUS, THE OAKS

Because many parishioners of Saint Aloysius The Oaks are on holidays or away visiting family there will be no morning tea this Sunday. Our monthly morning tea will resume in February on the first Sunday of the month after the 9.00am Mass as normal.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PROGRAMME 2025 ~ 2026

Our Sacrament of Penance programme is paused for the school holidays; families are encouraged to continue to bring the children to Mass where they are a part of our worshipping community. Our dedicated musicians will be continuing to provide the sounds of Christmas for the next few weeks. A wonderful gift for the children to enjoy.

PLEASE PRESERVE THE REVERENCE OF THE CHURCH

Over the Christmas celebrations, we are sure many parishioners will have observed our request for no eating or drinking within the Church, to preserve the reverence of the church, broken many times. All who enter are asked to please refrain bringing fizzy drinks, lollies and treats, especially chewing gum into the church. Our church is cleaned to a very high standard, and sweets and spills left by those who attend early Masses leave those who attend at later times unable to enjoy the same cleanliness.

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.

Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th January ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father James	Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday

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

4 th Jan	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Nada Simich					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Mark Coleman	Arthur Samcam	Diane Kennaugh	Fabian Menolotto	Mary Bartolo	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Brian				
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Cheryl Carroll	Rebecca Ward	Kathryn Hampton	Maryann Ace	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Jeanette Reid				
Sun 10.00am	Michael Toweel	Leonie Gray	Nada Simich	Lisa Alvaro	Michael Reardon	Che
Sun 5.00pm	Olivia Kosiak	Maria Kosiak	Samantha Vergara	Therese Easter	Joseph Hanson	Eugene Kosiak

Saturday/Sunday 10th/11th January ~ The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria B & Maria C
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	Eva & Youth Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Tony

For our Faithful Departed:

Patricia Mulholland, Janet New, Mary Murphy, Wal Glynn, Peter Teale, Lydia Palma, Bruce Denison, Lourdes Adams, Joshua Giannatii, *who died recently*. Peter Cannon, Barbara Sawyer, Dorothy Dunn, Margaret Thurn, Ros Dunn, Peter Cox, Dayne Mackie, Tom 'Red' McElligott, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Sammy Fenech, Nazareno Teuma, Carmela Teuma, Rino & Assunta Zanatta, Luigi Zanatta, Pasquale Zanatta, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Barry Miles, Cath Bourke, Brian & Patricia Treacey, Edwin & Janet Manno, Hira & Monty Savage, Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, Pat O'Flynn, Fr David Catterall, Fr John Whitty, *Requiescat in Pace*.

We Pray for those who are unwell:

George Raby, Patricia Stubbs, Frank Duck, Jan & Terry Chanter, Helen Parragi, Oliver Franklin, 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 Glynn, Abbey Kohler, Brian Ovington, Bernardine Hagan, Les Lugowski, Alexia Nawaling, Bob & Margaret Roach, Dianne Koens, Myra Dozzi, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards

Father Michael Williams PP