



ST. PAUL'S
CATHOLIC PARISH
CAMDEN

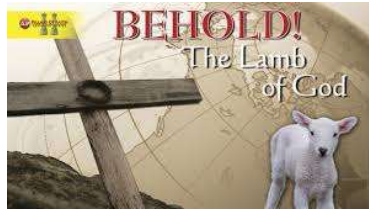
ST. ALOYSIUS
CATHOLIC PARISH
THE OAKS

ST CLARE'S
CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
NARELLAN

ST JOSEPH
THE WORKER
CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
OAKDALE

Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A ~ 17/18 January 2026



In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist recognises Jesus as the Lamb of God. This most sacred title acknowledges Jesus's life as a living sacrifice until, finally, his sacrificial death on the cross for the redemption of sinful humanity.

Wednesday 21 January ~ Saint Agnes, virgin, martyr

Saint Agnes was born around 291 AD in Rome, she is honoured as a young Christian martyr celebrated for her unwavering faith and commitment to chastity. Executed at about age 12 or 13 during Roman persecution, she became a symbol of purity and courage. She is the Patron Saint of girls, virgins, and survivors of abuse.

Father James Farewell

Only a few weeks ago, Father James received official notice from Bishop Brian of a new appointment from Monday 12 January 2026 at St Michael's, Nowra. Father James will be exercising his ministry with Father Damien Ellis who has also been at Camden, many years ago, in 2008.

To many of our parishioners, the news came as a huge disappointment because Father's ministry during his two years at Camden had been greatly appreciated.

The idea of having a Farewell Mass on 11 January was considered too soon, especially since a large number of our parishioners were enjoying a much-deserved annual holiday away from the Camden LGA.

So the date of Sunday evening 1 February was chosen as the most preferred option.

Accordingly, Father James will be the celebrant for the 5:00 PM Mass on 1 February, and parishioners are invited to a sausage sizzle immediately afterwards, in and around the Heritage Hall. Seating will be available within the HH.

A few formalities with a presentation are planned for 6:30 PM. These are not expected to take too long because of great interest in the Men's Final of the Australian Open.

So far, the exact time of the Men's Final seems to be unknown – or possibly a secret – as the organizers and TV networks appear to be 'playing ducks and drakes'. There's nothing new in TV networks treating sporting fans like mugs. But if it's of any help, the coverage for last year's final began at 7:30 PM.

At Masses next weekend, there'll be a 'Leaving Appeal' for those who would like to offer Father James a few dollars as a small gift. Thanks.

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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

Parish Finance Meeting ~ Thursday 22 January

Next Thursday evening the Parish Finance committee members are asked to attend a meeting to discuss the Parish Finances and costs of the New Saint Clare's church. The meeting will be held in the Parish Meeting room commencing at 7.00pm. All members of the committee are asked to attend if possible.

Australia Day Community Prayer Service

There will be a Community Prayer Service being held on 26 January, Australia Day, from 9.00am until approximately 9.45am. The prayer service is within the Camden Civic Centre in the Ferguson Art Gallery on the upper level. The service is timed to allow those attending to join in the Australia Day parade which will be commencing at 10.00am on Argyle Street, Camden.

This is a community initiative to show unity across the Camden/Macarthur Area of local Christian churches to pray for Australia on Australia Day.

Reserve the Date ~ 23 May 2026

Although it only seems a very short time since we celebrated the beginning of Advent with our annual Advent Event, our thoughts now need to move to our next Parish Event which is being planned for the 23 May 2026. This date is the Saturday of the Pentecost weekend, and the event will be a catered two course meal held in our beautiful Heritage Hall after the Vigil Pentecost Mass. Our Parish events are always a sell out, so early notice is given of the date for interested Parishioners to save into their diaries.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PROGRAMME 2025 ~ 2026

Our Sacrament of Penance programme is paused for the school holidays and will be restarting in two weeks' time over the weekend of 31 January / 1 February. Holy cards will be distributed and books prepared for distribution; this means that no further enrolments can be accepted into this programme after next weekend 24/25 January. If families are still considering enrolling their child contact should be made with the Parish Office sooner rather than later during normal office hours on 4655 8797.

PLEASE PRESERVE THE REVERENCE OF THE CHURCH

All who enter our Church are asked to please refrain bringing in fizzy drinks, coffee, lollies and treats, especially chewing gum. 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. Our electronic sign has this request on it at all times.

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 17th/18th January ~ 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo
 Sunday			
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Cheryl
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Craig

18 th Jan	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Peter Grizelj	Danielle Caruana	Sandra Skarsky	Ann Stomber	Richard Stomber	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Traci				
Sun 8.00am	John Charadia	Kathryn Hampton	Anthony McElhone	Cristina Macri	Lorraine Phillips	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Robyn Bielaczek				
Sun 10.00am	James McFarlane	Helen Lanyon	Oscar Marimbe	Meaghan Marchand	Maria Debrincat	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Damien Quinnell	Judith Madsen	Ann Madsen	Jacinta Abernethy	Simon Abernethy	Craig

Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th January ~ 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria B & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo
 Sunday			
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Michael	Trent, Betty & Maureen
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Craig

For our Faithful Departed:

Edward Rixon, Frank Duck, Patricia Mulholland, Janet New, Mary Murphy, Wal Glynn, Peter Teale, Lydia Palma, Bruce Denison, Lourdes Adams, Joshua Giannatii, *who died recently*. Valtin Thurn, Jack Dunn, Tom Dunn, Peter Cannon, Barbara Sawyer, Dorothy Dunn, Margaret Thurn, Ros Dunn, Peter Cox, Dayne Mackie, Tom 'Red' McElligott, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Cath Bourke, Sammy Fenech, Nazareno Teuma, Carmela Teuma, Rino & Assunta Zanatta, Luigi Zanatta, Pasquale Zanatta, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Barry Myles, 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:

Domenico Gulli, George Raby, Patricia Stubbs, 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, 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