

Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ YEAR A ~ 21/22 FEBRUARY 2026

During Lent we are encouraged to examine ourselves by Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Lent invites reflection, discipline, and renewal. It's a season to pause, examine habits, and choose growth over comfort. Many people fast or give something up, not for deprivation but for clarity. Lent becomes a journey inward, helping us reconnect with purpose, compassion, and deeper values. A thoughtful confession is also encouraged as a way of fulfilling our Lenten requirements.

ST CLARE'S CHURCH

Construction on the new church is expected to begin mid-year or possibly even a little earlier.

Pricing has been progressing reasonably well with just a few issues still outstanding. One issue is the final cost for air-conditioning and another is for the audio visuals. Almost all other aspects relating to the building of the church have been competitively priced.

On that basis, the job of establishing a contract price is almost completed.

However, a loan will be required because over the past few years, the various costs for building materials have powered northwards like a skyrocket. Aspiring homeowners would, no doubt, have a few insights into the rising cost of housing.

So the sequence of short-term developments will be as follows:

1. Obtain pricing for a/c and a/v.
2. In collaboration with the project Manager and Builder, establish a price for the contract.
3. Submit application to the CDF for a loan
4. If loan approved, submit request to Bishop Brian for permission to build.
5. Prepare contract for signing between the builder and the Bishop.
6. Commence construction.

More updates will be communicated according to developments.

PARISH CENSUS 28 FEBRUARY/1 MARCH AND 7/8 MARCH

About every four to five years, our parish has conducted a census for the purpose of trying to keep our records as accurate as possible. At times, parishioners move away from the parish, and others move into the parish. And usually because of having reached a venerable old age, many of our parishioners transition from the temporal to the eternal and, we pray, to their eternal reward. And even within our own parish, parishioners can simply move from one address to another.

So over the two weekends of 28 February/1 March and 7/8 March, census cards and pencils will be placed in the pews prior to each Mass. Cards can be completed and placed in the collection bags or taken home to be returned the following week or hand-delivered to the parish office.



**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**

WEEKLY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross, trace Jesus' journey to Calvary, inviting us to walk with him in sorrow, courage, and compassion. Each Friday morning during Lent following our 9.00am Morning Mass, and in place of the Rosary, the fourteen-step devotion which is very special and an important part of our Easter preparation will be commemorated. All parishioners are encouraged to attend at least once during the Lenten period.

PRAYING OF THE ROSARY DURING LENT

The Rosary is usually prayed in our church after the 9.00am Morning Mass each Friday. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be commemorated at that time and so that Parishioners, who would like to still pray the Rosary each week, it is temporarily moved to Wednesdays after the 9.00am Mass. After Easter the Rosary will resume being said each Friday after the morning Mass.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA ~ PROJECT COMPASSION

Envelopes and money boxes for Lenten offerings to the Caritas Australia Project Compassion are still available from around the church and within the Chapel. "Unite Against Poverty" is the theme this year. Our donations will assist communities around the world struggling for food and water. Almsgiving is one of the tenets of our preparation for Easter and support of the Project Compassion is a wonderful way of fulfilling this obligation.

YOUNG ADULTS LENTEN GROUP

Each Thursday evening during Lent a group of young adults, are meeting in the Parish Meeting room from 7.00pm until 8.00pm to further examine "Compassio" the Diocese Lenten booklet. Last Thursday evening was the first meeting of the group, it is not too late to join, if you are aged 18 to 35 please be encouraged to come along and join with like-minded parishioners who have already started attending. Father Michael, Father Victor and Father Hung, on his arrival, will all be facilitators during the programme.



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR 2025-2026

Families with children in the Sacrament of Penance programme need to record their child's attendance at Mass and collect the third week's assistance sheet. The assistance sheets are for the parents/carers or siblings who are supervising the weekly workshops, they are not intended to be given to the children who are told, "here are the answers". Not all answers are given, and the sheets are meant only as a guide.

Children will be asked to come to the front of the church, as they did last weekend at all Masses and discuss with Father their ideas of fasting for Lent. Parents are encouraged to discuss fasting with the children, so they are aware of what this means.

There are still a very few workshop books that have not been picked up, if uncollected books remain after this weekend's Masses the children concerned will be assumed to have withdrawn from the programme.

SATURDAY ROAD CLOSURE OF JOHN STREET

Camden Council has advised that John Street from Mitchell to Argyle Street will be closed this Saturday 21 February for a music festival. The road closure should only effect parishioners attending Morning Mass, who will need to park in Mitchell Street and those arriving early for Vigil Mass who may also need to park in Mitchell Street or wait for John Street parking to reopen. The Council has assured the Parish Office that John Street will be reopened no later than 4.00pm and earlier if possible.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop Brian Mascord warmly invites you to attend the upcoming ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of, **John Mortimer (Albion Park), Stuart Lake (Varroville) and Ryan Soares (Rosemeadow).**

The ordinations will be held at Saint John Vianney Co-Cathedral on Saturday 28 February at 10.00 am.

All are warmly invited to share in this joyful celebration, praying for and supporting these three men and their families as they are ordained to serve our diocesan community.

SATURDAY 21ST/SUNDAY 22ND FEB ~ 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ YEAR A

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Maria B & Maria C
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 & Damian
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Craig

22 nd Feb	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Mark Coleman					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Olivia Kosiak	Sandra Skarsky	Maria Kosiak	John Roberts, Barbara Spiteri	Peter Grizelj, Angelina Vecchio	Eugene Kosiak
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Traci				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Kathryn Hampton	Toni Sillis	Cheryl Carroll	Glenn Crawford	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Colleen Collins				
Sun 10.00am	Mark Coleman	Michael Toweel	Leonie Gray	Maria Debrincat	Julie Puckrin	Che
Sun 5.00pm	Andrew Watson	Ann Madsen	Judith Madsen	Grace Quinnell	Samantha Vergara	Craig

SATURDAY 28TH FEB/SUNDAY 1ST MAR ~ 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT ~ YEAR A

Saturday

Camden 5:00 PM
Oakdale 5:00 PM

Celebrant

Father Victor
Father Michael

Musician/Vocalists

Belinda & Sarah
Jo

Sunday

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

Father Michael
Father Victor
Father Victor
Father Michael

Nicole
Steve & Damian
Choir
Jenny & Tasha

For our Faithful Departed:

Jennifer Breen, Lee Casuscelli, Maureen Crosland, Anne Ciantar, Maria Muscat, Anthony Sammut, Maureen Callaghan, Kenneth Long, Patrick Larkin, Jennifer Camilleri, Domenico Gulli, Walter Clissold, Vincent Mullan, George Raby, Concetta Minasi, Lisebie Du Buisson Perrine, Edward Rixon, Frank Duck, *who died recently*. Tess Vinoya, John Spora, Irene Pretor, Sime Frkic, Janelle Clifton, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. John Anthony Quinn, Zakar and Stopic families, Marie Dunn, Sylvia Sutton, Valtin Thurn, Jack Dunn, Tom Dunn, Fr Allan Hartcher, Lilian Grech, Olga Garufi, Bruno Feltre, Cath Bourke, Sammy Fenech, Nazareno Teuma, Carmela Teuma, Rino & Assunta Zanatta, Luigi Zanatta, Pasquale Zanatta, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Barry Myles, Brian & Patricia Treacey, Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, Pat O'Flynn, Fr David Catterall, Fr John Whitty, *Requiescat in Pace*.

We Pray for those who are unwell:

Ladislaus Parragi, Ray Cusack, Kevin Daley, Mason Bayliss, 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