

Dear Parishioners at Camden and The Oaks

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ~ 2026

Enrolments for the sacrament of Confirmation can be submitted at all Masses this weekend.

Children who are in year six or higher and who have made their sacrament of Penance can collect a small form to complete with their name and indicate the church they will be attending for the length of the programme. The church you will be attending can be changed from week to week but to enable receipt of all paperwork and books, notification to the Parish office by Thursday lunchtime will assist with a smooth transition.

Completed small forms should then be exchanged for a Programme Timeline, which clearly sets out the weekly requirements for all candidates. Attendance at Mass is an integral part of all Saint Paul's programmes, a worshipping presence as a family is where the children's memories of this special time will form and nothing else can match this priceless opportunity.

The mutual obligation of both families and the Parish are on the reverse of the Timeline and Father Michael requests that all families read the obligations outlined. If your family cannot meet the requirements or have booked a holiday which means you will miss a considerable number of weeks of the programme, consideration should be given to delaying participation in the Sacrament until 2027.

BREAKING NEWS ~ ST CLARE'S CHURCH

On Tuesday 14 April 2026, the contract for St Clare's new church was signed by the builder and by – on behalf of Bishop Brian - the Vicar General, the Very Reverend Bernard Gordon. The fencing for the project has been scheduled for mid-May.

Planning for the church has been in motion for almost 20 years and, somewhat frustratingly, has been confronted with major setbacks such as the case with the Global Financial Crisis and the Covid lockdowns.

Even now, the commencement time had come under serious review because of extra costs resulting from the war in the Middle East. However, in recent months momentum has been expanding to just get the job done and trust parishioners – collectively – to provide whatever support is required.

Support for the project has come from Bishop Brian, The Diocesan Finance Council, the Catholic Development Fund, the Council of Priests, the College of Consultors, numerous priests who have exercised ministry in the parish over the past 25 years and from an exceptionally large number of faithful parishioners.

In particular – and even across generations – the St Clare's school community has continuously expressed support with much anticipation. The St Clare's P&F will need to produce, yet again, even more entrepreneurial talents in the organisation of the annual fete. Absolutely sure, however, that the P&F will be up to the task.



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

Somewhat providentially – and for the first time in four years – a renewal programme is to take place over three weekends 25/26 April 2/3 May and 9/10 May. The timing coincides perfectly with the building commencement of St Clare's Church.

Each weekend promises to be of great interest and details will be released on a weekly basis.

However, at all the Camden Masses on the weekend of 25/26 April, four of our most committed parishioners will give brief five-minute testimonies as to why the parish has for so many years been such an invaluable part of family life. Indeed, a huge number of people could have been invited to this form of sharing. It wasn't easy narrowing down the selection to just four people.

Names will be supplied in our next edition of the Weekly Message. But collectively, these four people have expertise and lengthy experience in business, accounting, auditing, marketing, education and property management. Truthfully, it would be good to be able to listen to all four, but only one will speak for five minutes at each Mass.

Camden parish was established in 1859. There have been some truly pivotal moments in the history of the parish, especially, over the last 60 years. For example:

1. The building of a church at St Mary's Leppington in 1971, blessed and opened in 1972, and still used today
2. The establishing of St Clare's community in 1984 with Mass, for a period of 25 years, being celebrated at Smeaton Grange in the reconfigured former bowling club
3. The establishing of St Clare's school in 1994
4. The establishing of Magdalene Catholic College in 1999
5. The establishing of St Justins Oran Park in 2013, but having first been operational for a few years on the site of St Paul's Camden
6. The establishing of St Benedict's Oran Park in 2013 but beginning from 2011 at Mount Carmel Varroville.
7. From out of Camden parish, the establishing of St Mary Mackillop Parish, Oran Park in 2015
8. The belltower at St Paul's was built as part of the church, blessed and opened in 1987. However, in 2015, seven new bells replaced the one singular bell which now sits outside the Heritage Hall and visible from John Street. These seven bells were all given a name – Mary, Paul, Clare, Magdalene, Justin, Benedict and Mater Dei.

And now, another wonderful project is to finally begin. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to embrace parish renewal as a way of supporting this most praiseworthy venture.

PENTECOST EVENT ~ SATURDAY 23 MAY

Bookings have opened for the next Parish Event to be held in the Heritage Hall following the Vigil Mass Saturday evening 23 May, Pentecost weekend. Tickets are being snapped up, so early advice to the Parish office is encouraged. As always only 90 tickets will be sold as this is the number that can be seated most comfortably in our Heritage Hall. Tickets are a bargain at \$20.00 per head for a delicious two-course meal and beverages.

Please contact the Parish Office during normal hours to make your booking, couples and singles can be accommodated within a table of like-minded parishioners. These Parish events are always very enjoyable and bring fraternity to all attendees.

EASTER CANDLES AND HOLY WATER VIALS

The Easter Candle is also known as the Paschal Candle. It is a sign of the Light of Christ, always burning brightly in our world. Our 2026 candle will burn for the Easter season then be lit for every Baptism and Funeral within the church for the next year until Easter 2027.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to Michelle Roffe and family of Michelle Roffe Funerals who has again donated the big Easter Candle for all three of our churches, Saint Paul's, Saint Joseph the Worker and Saint Aloysius as well as all the small candles which were alight at the beginning of our Easter Vigil ceremony. Gratitude is also extended to Ms Debbie Huxley one of our parishioners and a schoolteacher at St Paul's, who added the outstanding decorative artwork to our 2026 candle. We also offer our sincere thanks to Mario Coco of Camden Focus Pharmacy who has also again supplied the small plastic vials which enable so many of our families to take home some of the very special Easter Holy Water. The expressions of gratitude the office receives from families with older relatives who can no longer come to the very busy Easter Masses when they receive some of this blessed water is truly humbling.

PROJECT COMPASSION FOR 2026

Gratitude is extended to all those Parishioners who took home Project Compassion envelopes or money boxes at the beginning of Lent as part of their Almsgiving over the six weeks of the Lenten period. We have transferred \$5,041.00 to Caritas Australia for their "Unite against Poverty" campaign. The generosity of our Parishioners is wonderful.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND APPEAL

On Good Friday there is only one collection which is for the preservation of the Holy Land sites. The sale of the Easter candles at the Easter Sunday Vigil Mass was also donated to this appeal. The Parish office has transferred \$3,320.00 to the Holy Land Franciscans of Australia. Preservation of these wonderful sites is so important and without Christians worldwide helping we run the risk of losing these irreplaceable structures.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 18TH/19TH APRIL~ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday

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

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Cheryl
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Hung	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Quiet Mass

19 th Apr	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Peter Grizelj	Danielle Caruana	John Roberts	Trish O'Flynn, Diane Kennaugh	Ann & Richard Stomber	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Clare				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Cheryl Carroll	Anthony McElhone	Lucy Aquilina	Lorraine Phillips	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Warren Jones				
Sun 10.00am	James McFarlane	Maureen Grisdale	Helen Lanyon	Joseph Hanson, Maria Debrincat	Lily Crnek, Kylie Crnek-Georgeson	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	John Marchand	Judith Madsen	Ann Madsen	Clare Power	Dianne Garland	Eugene Kosiak

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 25TH/26TH APRIL ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Maria B & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Hung	Nicole
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Michael	Choir
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Trent & Damian
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Sally, Brian, Colin

For our Faithful Departed:

Margaret Britton, Joyce Lawler, Elaine Belleville, Alice Thew, Jennifer Johnson, Angela-Maria Arcuri, Mauricio Garcia, *who died recently*. Lilian Grech, Raymond Noel King, Jessica King, Matthew Dunn, Elizabeth Thurn, Faye Humphries, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Thurn family, Dunn family, Sutton family Msgr Pastor Bolivar Virgenia, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Cath Bourke, Sammy Fenech, Barry Myles, Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, Pat O'Flynn, Fr Allan Hartcher, Fr David Catterall, Fr John Whitty, *Requiescat in Pace*.

We Pray for those who are unwell:

Ladislaus Parragi, 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, 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