



**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

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A ~ 25/26 JULY 2026

Wednesday 29 July

~

Saints Mary, Martha and Lazarus

The joint feast day for Saints Mary, Martha and Lazarus is celebrated annually on July 29, Pope Francis established this in 2021, honouring the three siblings from Bethany, who were close friends of Jesus. Mary symbolises deep, contemplative prayer while Martha represents active, hospitable service, Lazarus, famously raised from the dead, embodies Christ's power over mortality. Together, their shared household models, complete Christian discipleship, balancing faith, action, and devotion.

THE PASSING OF FATHER RICK McCANN

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Father Rick McCann.

Father Rick has been living in Aged Care since early this year; he was 82 years old.

Father Rick worked at many different jobs until he was ordained on 14 August 1982. He served as assistant priest in Dapto, Warilla, Corrimal and Campbelltown Parishes until his appointment to Saint Aloysius, The Oaks as Parish Priest, a position he held for nearly three decades. On 24 December 2016 because Father Rick was approaching retirement age Bishop Ingham decided to retire him from full time duties. Parishioners will recall Father Rick assisting us here at Camden on many occasions, particularly after the Covid Lockdowns when Father Michael was trying to celebrate as many small Masses as we were allowed under the Lockdown rules, and also his willingness to help out during our normal clergy annual leave absences.

Father Rick's Funeral Mass will be held at Saint Paul's commencing at 11.00am on Saturday 1st August followed by a burial at Saint Aloysius, The Oaks cemetery. All Parishioners who knew Father Rick are encouraged to come along to show our gratitude for his many years of service.

GRANDPARENTS DAY ~ 26 JULY 2026

July 26 is the Feast Day of Saint Anne and Saint Joachim, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the earthly grandparents of Jesus. It is celebrated along with the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Diocese has sent us some very beautiful Prayer cards with a prayer on the reverse for all those who would like to take one and pray for our senior parishioners, there are also bookmarks that our children are encouraged to take to colour in and give as a gift to their grandparents or an older relative.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE

The Spring edition of the Australian Catholics magazine has arrived and has been placed on the magazine tables around the church. The magazine is produced four times a year once during each season and always contains very interesting articles and news from around Australia. Well worth taking a copy home to read.

BACK-UP PENANCE PROGRAMME ~ CAMDEN ONLY

This weekend at all Camden Masses, for candidates in our Backup Penance Programme the second week's Assistance sheets will be distributed. The Assistance sheets are available from our attendants who will also be recording your candidate's Mass attendance. The Assistance sheets will cover the second workshop from page 10 to page 15; the title of the workshop is "Belonging" and every question and puzzle must be answered.

A reminder is offered to all families that the Prayer Assessment evening is this coming Tuesday 28 July from 5.00pm. Our children should all be very familiar now with the three prayers that will be tested. If your family has a compelling reason that makes you unable to attend, please contact the Parish office during normal hours and a mutually convenient time will be arranged. All children must know the prayers before they can proceed to the next step in the programme. Holy cards are always available on request.

Please contact the Parish office if you are still to collect your child's Workshop book these can only be obtained now by prior arrangement.

OCIA ~ ADULTS INTO THE CHURCH 2026

Last Wednesday evening, 20 of our parishioners who have registered for the Adults into the Church programme for 2026 attended the scheduled workshop. Father Michael was the facilitator. The next scheduled meeting is 12 August with Father Hung and Father Victor the facilitators. The meeting will commence as always at 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting room.

BAPTISMS AT THE OLD ST THOMAS CHAPEL, NARELLAN

In the past our Weekly Message has advised parents baptising their children that the Ecumenical Catholic Church that is advertising their services from the Old Saint Thomas Chapel is not affiliated with the Catholic Church and ceremonies performed by them are not recognised by our church.

When the time comes for children to be enrolled at school or to make their sacraments families are often shocked to find out that their child is not recognised as having been baptised and this causes great concern and problems for both our priests and the family. Baptism can only happen once, and the ceremony that has been performed by an unknown group will not be recognised, and our priests cannot know what ceremony has been performed. Please be warned as we are having more families being placed in this predicament.

FATHER MICHAEL'S ANNUAL LEAVE

Father Michael will be taking annual leave commencing Monday 27 July until his very welcome return on Tuesday 1 September. During his absence the presbytery at Narellan Vale will be closed and there will be no weekday Mass celebrated there. In Father Michael's absence parishioners are asked to come to Camden to join with our normal 9.00am weekday Masses. All enquiries during Father Michael's time away should be directed to the Parish Office during normal hours.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FROM FATHER VICTOR

~ *The Greatest Treasure* ~

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 13:44–52), Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a hidden treasure and a pearl of great price. In both parables, the people who discover the treasure are filled with such joy that they willingly sell everything they own to possess it. They do not see their sacrifice as a loss but as a joyful exchange for something infinitely more valuable.

These parables invite us to ask a simple but profound question: *What is the greatest treasure in my life?* For a Christian, the answer is not a possession, a career, or even success. Our greatest treasure is a living relationship with Jesus Christ. When we discover His love, everything else finds its proper place. Time spent in prayer, faithful participation in Sunday Mass, acts of charity, and living according to the Gospel are no longer burdens but joyful responses to the One who has given us everything.

Jesus also reminds us that, like the fishermen sorting their catch, there will come a day when each of us will stand before God. This is not meant to fill us with fear but to encourage us to live with purpose. Every decision we make either draws us closer to the Kingdom or further away from it. Today is the day to choose what truly lasts. Finally, Jesus speaks of the disciple who brings out “what is new and what is old.” Our Catholic faith treasures the rich wisdom handed down through Scripture and Tradition while continually finding fresh ways to proclaim the timeless Gospel in today's world. We are called to cherish the faith we have received and to share it with joy, courage, and hope.

May we never settle for lesser treasures. Instead, may we seek Christ above all else, for in Him we discover the treasure that satisfies every longing of the human heart and leads us to eternal life.

PLEASE PRESERVE THE REVERENCE OF THE CHURCH

All who enter our Church are asked to please refrain from bringing in fizzy drinks, coffee, lollies and treats, especially chewing gum. The consuming of drinks and sweets shows disregard for the reverence of the church, fellow parishioners and our clergy. Our electronic sign has this request on it at all times.

ACCESS TO 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

2026 Significant Marriage Anniversaries Mass

If you are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or over 60 years of marriage this year, you are warmly invited to the Significant Marriage Anniversaries, celebrated with Bishop Brian Mascord on Sunday 6 September 2026 at 2pm at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

Registration is essential and must be completed online at dow.sh/ma26 by no later than Monday, 17 August 2026. Any enquiries please email Helen Bennett helen.bennett@dow.org.au.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 25TH/26TH JULY ~ 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday

Camden 5:00 PM
Oakdale 5:00 PM

Celebrant

Father Hung
Father Victor

Musician/Vocalists

Maria B
Jo

Sunday

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

Father Michael
Father Victor
Father Hung
Father Victor

Choir
Nicole
Damian
Craig

26 th Jul	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Mark Coleman					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Olivia Kosiak	Sandra Skarsky	Diane Kennaugh	Angelina Vecchio, Heather Cox	Trish O'Flynn, Barbara Spiteri	Eugene Kosiak
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Jo				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Anthony McElhone	Kayla Ryan	Glenn Crawford	Lily Crnek	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Carol Ann Meiklejohn				
Sun 10.00am	Mark Coleman	Joseph Hanson	Kristen King	Lisa Alvaro, Michael Reardon	Mary Velardi, Meaghan Marchand	Cheryl
Sun 5.00pm	Andrew Watson	Margaret Thornton	Stephen Barrett	Samantha Vergara	Annemarie Lauricella	Craig

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 1ST/2ND AUGUST ~ 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday

Camden 5:00 PM
Oakdale 5:00 PM

Celebrant

Father Hung
Father Victor

Musician/Vocalists

Belinda & Sarah
Jo

Sunday

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

Father Hung
Father Victor
Father Hung
Father Victor

Steve & Damian
Nicole
Choir
Jenny & Tasha

For our Faithful Departed:

Fr Rick McCann, Juliana De Los Santos, Anthony Minasi, Amelia Breaden, Maria Kelemenic, Kenneth Barrett, Shamie Glavey (Ireland), Rico Aquilina, Nino Grizelj, Lynda Rankin, Suzanne Walter *who died recently*. Patrick O'Reilly, Pato Arlegui, Janice Louise Davis, Ena Lang, Mary Thurn, Joe and Peter Scholte, David Lewis, Anthony Mifsud, Anthony Paul, Joe Scholte, Peter Scholte, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Lillian Grech, Tony Barr, deceased members of the Lewis & Ryan families, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Cath Bourke, Barry Myles, Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, Pat O'Flynn, Fr Allan Hartcher, Fr David Catterall, Fr John Whitty.

We Pray for those who are unwell:

Sarah Oaten, Evelyn Duck, Ladislaus Parragi, Mason Bayliss, Patricia Stubbs, Jan & Terry Chanter, Helen Parragi, Oliver Franklin, June McCullough, Dean Masciocchi, Abigail Chan, Kylieann Back, Kerri Haughton, Diana Lee, 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