



**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

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A ~ 1/2 AUGUST 2026

Saturday 8 August

~

Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop

Mary Helen Mackillop later Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop was born on the 15 January 1842 and passed to Eternal life 8 August 1909. Saint Mary was an Australian religious sister who was born in Melbourne but is best known for her work in South Australia. Together with Father Julian Tenison-Woods, she founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites), a congregation of religious sisters who established schools and welfare institutions throughout Australia with an emphasis on education for the poor.

Saint Mary was beatified in January 1995 by Pope John Paul II. Pope Benedict XVI prayed at her tomb during his visit to Sydney for World Youth Day 2008 and in December 2009 approved the Catholic Church's recognition of a second miracle attributed to her intercession. She was canonised on 17 October 2010, during a public ceremony in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican. She is Australia's first saint and is the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Brisbane and of Australia.

REQUIEM MASS FOR FATHER RICK McCANN

Parishioners are reminded that on Saturday morning 1 August at 11.00am a Requiem Mass is being held at Saint Paul's to pray for the repose of Father Rick, past Parish priest of Saint Aloysius, The Oaks. All who knew him or those who wish to show their thanks for his many years of dedicated service are encouraged to attend.

BACK-UP PENANCE PROGRAMME ~ CAMDEN ONLY

This weekend at all Camden Masses, for candidates in our Backup Penance Programme the third 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 third workshop from page 15 to page 22; the title of the workshop is "Making Choices" and every question and puzzle must be answered.

Congratulations are offered to all the children who attended last Tuesday evening to have their knowledge of the three prayers assessed. There are still around six children who have yet to be assessed and parents are asked to contact the Parish office during normal hours to arrange for the assessments to take place.

Most of our candidates have a sound knowledge of the prayers and were able to clearly say them, there are just a few children who appeared to be uncertain of one or more of the prayers. Parents are encouraged to continue the saying of the prayers on a daily basis; an integral part of all Saint Paul's Sacramental programmes is a prayer assessment evening and the children in the Back-up programme will be tested again, if they are a part of the First Holy Communion programme, which commences very soon.

Holy cards are always available on request.

MONTHLY ROSARY AT SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER, OAKDALE

With Saturday being the 1st of August the Rosary will be prayed at Saint Joseph Worker at Oakdale following the 5.00pm Vigil Mass. Everyone is encouraged to stay to join with fellow parishioners to pray these most beautiful prayers.

NO MORNING TEA AT SAINT ALOYSIUS, THE OAKS

This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month and, as a usual practice, the parishioners of Saint Aloysius, The Oaks would be holding their monthly gathering, to share fraternity, a cup of tea and a cake. Due to the Requiem Mass for Father Rick on Saturday, the organisers of the morning teas have decided to cancel for this month only. They are encouraging those who would normally attend the morning tea to instead come to Saint Paul's on Saturday for the Requiem Mass for Father Rick to pray for him and to give thanks for his years of dedication. The next monthly morning tea at The Oaks will be Sunday 6 September.

PARISH MEN'S GROUP ~ NEXT MEETING 5 AUGUST

Next Wednesday evening 5 August, from 6.30pm in the Parish Meeting room the Parish Men's Group will be holding their August meeting. Father Victor and Father Hung will both be the facilitators. Numbers for the meetings have been in decline so if you have been a past attendee or wish to join in the prayer, scripture reading and very interesting topics that make up these evenings please come along on Wednesday evening. The meetings usually last about one hour and all gentlemen of the parish are very welcome. Pizza and refreshments provided by the Parish are offered at the end of the meeting for all those in attendance.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FROM FATHER VICTOR

~ God Multiplies What We Are Willing to Share ~

A little boy once attended a charity fundraiser with his mother. He had been saving his pocket money for months to buy a toy he desperately wanted. As volunteers walked around collecting donations, he quietly took out his small envelope and placed it in the basket. Looking at the amount, he whispered to his mother, "It's not much. It won't make a difference." She smiled and replied, "Perhaps not by itself. But imagine if everyone thought the same way." That simple moment captures the message of this Sunday's Gospel.

The disciples looked at the enormous crowd and saw only scarcity: five loaves, two fish, and thousands of hungry people. Jesus, however, saw possibility. He simply said, "Bring them here to me." What seemed hopeless in human eyes became more than enough in the hands of God.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is not only about bread; it is about trust. Jesus asks us to offer what we have, not what we wish we had. Our kindness may seem small. Our time may be limited. Our talents may appear ordinary. Yet when these are placed in Christ's hands, He multiplies them in ways we cannot foresee.

The Gospel begins with another beautiful lesson. Jesus had just learned of the death of John the Baptist. Seeking solitude, He was met instead by a crowd of people in need. Rather than turning them away, He was moved with compassion. Even in His own grief, He continued to love and serve. Compassion always finds room for another.

Every Eucharist reminds us of this miracle. Jesus still takes, blesses, breaks, and gives. He feeds us with His own Body so that we may become nourishment for others through our words, our actions, and our love.

As we leave Mass this Sunday, let us ask ourselves: What are my five loaves and two fish? They may be no more than a smile, a phone call, a prayer, an act of forgiveness, or an hour spent helping someone in need. Offered to Christ, these simple gifts can become blessings beyond our imagination.

Remember this truth throughout the week: God is not looking for how much we have; He is looking for how much we are willing to place in His hands.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new year for Planned Giving commences from this weekend 1 August. Thanks are expressed to all parishioners who give to the financial support of the Parish. Those Parishioners who give by the envelope system will have been aware that the last 2025 – 2026 envelope was to be used last weekend. The new envelopes for 2026 – 2027 are on a table at the back of the church, under the window, near the side door on the presbytery side. Parishioners are requested to pick up their envelopes at Mass or by arrangement with the Parish Office.

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

Invitation to Celebrate the Assumption with the Indian Community

The Indian Community is inviting all parishioners who may wish to attend a Mass that they will be celebrating for the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday August 15 from 12.00 noon at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 193 Saint Andrews Road, Varroville. Father Sunny Abraham, the Chaplain to the Indian Community, will be the celebrant and guest priests have been invited. An afternoon tea is being held at the conclusion of Mass and attendees are asked to bring a plate of finger food to share.

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

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Belinda & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo
Sunday			
Camden	8:00 AM	Father Hung	Steve & Damian
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Victor	Nicole
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Hung	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jenny & Tasha

2 nd Aug	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Mark Coleman	Danielle Caruana	Arthur Samcam	Mary Bartolo, Heather Cox	Peter Grizelj, Angelina Vecchio	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Traci				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Cheryl Carroll	Morgan White	Lily Crnek	Sandra Proietti	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Melissa Duck				
Sun 10.00am	Michael Toweel	Maria Caridi	Nada Simich	Kylie Crnek-Georgeson, Michael Reardon	Gemma Sremchevich, Mary Velardi	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Olivia Kosiak	Maria Kosiak	Stephen Barrett	Jacinta Abernethy	Simon Abernethy	Eugene Kosiak

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 8TH/9TH AUGUST ~ 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Maria B & Maria C
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Jo

Sunday

Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Choir
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Hung	Nicole
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Victor	Eva & Youth Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Tony

For our Faithful Departed:

Fr Rick McCann, Tibor Zurmuhl, Juliana De Los Santos, Anthony Minasi, Amelia Breden, Maria Kelemenic, Kenneth Barrett, Shamie Glavey (Ireland), Rico Aquilina, Nino Grizelj, Lynda Rankin, Suzanne Walter *who died recently*. Elaine Williams, John Lock, John Azzopardi, Marika Zakar, Vincent Dwyer, 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. *Requiescat in Pace*.

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, Saint Paul's Parish Office