



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

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A ~ 8/9 AUGUST 2026

Tuesday 11 August

~

Saint Clare of Assisi, virgin

Saint Clare was an Italian nun who lived from 1194 to 1253. She was a devoted follower of Jesus. Saint Clare came from a life of wealth and privilege, but she longed for a life of simplicity, prayer and service to others. Inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Clare started the religious group called the Order of Poor Ladies now called the Poor Clares.

MASS OF HOLY OBLIGATION ~ FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

On Saturday morning 15 August our normal 9.00am Parish Mass has been cancelled to allow for a special Mass at 11.00am to celebrate the feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The choir will be in attendance to provide sacred music for this special Mass.

Due to our priests having commitments on Friday 14 there will be **NO VIGIL MASS** for the feast, and the Saturday evening Vigil will **NOT** count as the Mass for the day of Holy Obligation. Parishioners are advised that the 11.00am Mass on Saturday 15th is the only Mass being held at Saint Paul's which allows us to fulfil this obligation.

For Saturday 15th only, due to the cancellation of the 9.00am Mass, Confessions will be held from 9.00am to allow those parishioners who wish to come to reconciliation to be able to do so before the Mass of the Assumption.

BACK-UP PENANCE PROGRAMME ~ CAMDEN ONLY

This weekend at all Camden Masses, for candidates in our Backup Penance Programme the Fourth week's Assistance sheets will be distributed. The Assistance sheets are available from our attendants who will also be distributing a leaflet. The Assistance sheets will cover the fourth workshop from page 24 to page 30; the title of the workshop is "The Sacrament of Penance".

This is the last chapter of the Workshops, and the books will need to be returned next weekend at Mass. Parents/Carers are asked to please check over the children's work before the books are returned. Every puzzle and question must be answered and books that are not satisfactorily completed will need to be reworked before the children are able to complete the Sacrament.

The Attendants will also be distributing a leaflet which will allow families the choice of a ceremony time. Please do not take the form home, please complete it at Mass and hand back to the attendants, pens will be available.

A reminder is offered to all families that it is advisable for the children to continue the learning of the three required prayers; they will be tested on the prayers again during the First Holy Communion programme. Holy cards are always available on request.

ST CLARE'S NEW CHURCH ~ EARLY AUGUST 2026 UPDATE

Considerable work has been already undertaken, mainly below ground level but some above.

Because of long-established buildings already on the site, there have been various utility connections across the front of the site that were, somewhat unfortunately, largely unmapped.

So great care has needed to be taken to ensure that power cables, NBN, water, sewage, piping for fire hydrants are not disturbed.

Trenching has been somewhat forensic so as to avoid any disasters. Extra care, for example, needed to be taken to avoid rupturing one of the pipes servicing the fire hydrant. One little mistake and water starts shooting 25 metres into the air. Might look pretty and good for photos but definitely not funny.

In addition, whenever there's construction, noise and dust are unavoidable especially in the early stages of the project with so much excavation and movement of earth. The school fraternity have been remarkably composed with these new challenges.

Across the site, there are now numerous piers to be filled with concrete in coming weeks. And when totally settled, the concrete slab will be poured towards the end of August. From that time onwards, work on the church will be almost totally above ground level.

Meanwhile, there has also been one major change above ground level. For almost 20 years there's been the big orange electrical boxes at the front of the school and in proximity to the presbytery. These boxes are called the MSB (Main Switch Board).



This MSB had serviced the school and presbytery up until a few weeks ago. It was – until its demolition – quite old and dated. And it would have become increasingly inadequate to service (a) a large school that continues to grow, (b) a presbytery and (c) the new church.

So a sparkling new orange MSB has been built just beyond the back of the presbytery and in close proximity to the car park that services the shops. This was an expensive little exercise because a huge volume of new electrical cabling needed to be rolled out from the green substation on Holdsworth Drive to the new site of the MSB. The expense for this new, larger and more modern MSB is being shared by the church and the school.

Also, the church will have its own new pedestrian entrance from Holdsworth Drive. This work is now being undertaken.

So in coming weeks – possibly towards the end of August – there's unlikely to be much of a visible change. But very soon afterwards, the building will begin to rise up above ground level in a way that's very noticeable.

Finally, sincere gratitude is extended to the many hundreds of parishioners who support our parish financially and who are financing the building of the new church. If there are people who would like to sign up and pledge their financial support for this heavenly project, please contact the parish office on 4655 8797. With thanks, Fr Michael.

RENEWED AND SENT ~ DIVINE RENOVATION

There are cards from the Diocese with information about the summit being held at Saint Gregory's College Campbelltown from 1 October until 3 October, on the magazine tables around the church. The summit is called "Renewed & Sent" it is a gathering of Catholics from around Australia and includes keynote teaching, workshops, Mass, Eucharistic adoration and general conversation about pathways for Parish Renewal. For further information and to register please go to renewedandsent.com.au.

Bishop Brian has endorsed the summit.

OCIA SESSION ~ WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

A reminder is offered to all those parishioners participating in our Adults into the Church programme for 2026 that the next scheduled session is Wednesday evening 12 August from 7.00pm. The session will be held in the Parish meeting with both Father Victor and Father Hung in attendance. The topics for this session are "Mary", "the Saints", "The last four things", and "Earthly Pilgrimage, Purgatory (a process), Heaven".

EARLY NOTICE OF COMMUNION SERVICES ~ 18 TO 21 AUGUST

Because Father Michael is on annual leave and both Father Hung and Father Victor will be attending a Retreat from Sunday 16 August until Friday 21 August there will be no 9.00am morning Mass in the Parish during their time away. In the priest's absence there will be communion services held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Thanks are extended to Enzeigh Thomas and John Roberts who will be assisting in Father Hung's and Father Victor's absence.

CURSILLO ~ DIOCESAN WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER

Cursillo is a life changing experience which offers support on our faith journey. The 2026 gathering will be held from 10th to 13th September at Carmel House at 345 St Andrews Road Varroville. Enquires should be made to Shirley Parker 0431 513109. The Diocese has sent us a small number of brochures which are in the Chapel or dow.sh/cursillo will have further information.

BE THE WITNESS ~ MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

There will be a number of performances of the musical "Be the Witness", the story of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Saint Peter and the disciples brought to the stage by Jimmy and Carol Owens. The performances are from Thursday 10 September until Sunday 13 September at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta. Parishioners who may be interested in attending one of the performances can obtain further information and make bookings at bethewitness.com.au.

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

Catholic Care Counselling

CatholicCare is providing Family and Relationship counselling in the Camden area each fortnight on a Monday. They will be attending the Hub, our Saint Vincent de Paul Cottage in Elizabeth Street to assist with:

- Grief and Loss
- Family Relationship Breakdown
- Parenting Challenges
- Conflict in Relationships
- Difficulty coping with life challenges.

Appointments can be made by calling 1800 967 894 and follow the prompts for Counselling Services, or book through the CatholicCare website at catholiccare.dow.org.au.

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.

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church

The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney has an office in the Diocese of Wollongong. The Tribunal offers a service to people who are civilly divorced and who are wishing to remarry, want their current marriage recognised by the Church or clarification of their standing within the Church. Any divorced person, divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong office of the Tribunal Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays by calling 4222 2409 or by contacting tribunal@dow.org.au further information is available on their website www.tribunal.dow.org.au

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

Saturday

Camden 5:00 PM
Oakdale 5:00 PM

Celebrant

Father Victor
Father Hung

Musician/Vocalists

Maria B & Maria C
Jo

Sunday

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

Father Victor
Father Hung
Father Victor
Father Hung

Choir
Nicole
Eva & Youth Choir
Tony

9 th Aug	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	John Roberts					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	John Roberts	Jim Gallagher	Diane Kennaugh	Ray Cusack, Barbara Spiteri	Russell O'Brien, Fabian Menolotto	Elizabeth
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Clare				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Glenn Crawford	Rebecca Ward	Lucy Aquilina	Cheryl Carroll	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Warren Jones				
Sun 10.00am	John Marchand	Michael Toweel	Meaghan Marchand	Lily Crnek, Gemma Sremchevich	Kristen King, Michael Reardon	Che
Sun 5.00pm	Peter Grizelj	Joseph Hanson	Samantha Vergara	Melissa Scavo	Dianne Garland	Lo Cascio family

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 15TH/16TH AUGUST ~ 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Belinda & Tasha
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Jo

Sunday

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

For our Faithful Departed:

Fr Rick McCann, Dushy David, Mark Summers, Tibor Zurmuhl, Juliana De Los Santos, Anthony Minasi, *who died recently*. Pat O'Flynn, Vincent Grech, Angelo Grech, John Azzopardi, Pauline Attard, 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, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Patricia Treacey, Brian Treacey Snr, Amelia Breden, Lillian Grech, Tony Barr, deceased members of the Lewis & Ryan families, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Cath Bourke, Barry Myles, Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, 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 Koen, Myra Dozzi, Robyn Shearer, Betty Thomas, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards, Saint Paul's Parish Office