



**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

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A ~ 15/16 AUGUST 2026

Thursday 20 August

~

Saint Bernard, abbot, doctor

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, was an abbot, who was co-founder of the Knights Templar, a military order of the early Catholic Church. In 1128, Bernard attended the Council of Troyes, at which he traced the plan of the Rule of the Knights Templar, this became an outline of Christian nobility. Bernard advocated crusades in general and convinced many to participate in the unsuccessful Second Crusade, notably through a famous sermon at Vézelay in 1146.

Saint Bernard was canonized twenty-one years after his death by Pope Alexander III. In 1830 Pope Pius VIII declared him a Doctor of the Church.

COMMUNION SERVICES THIS COMING WEEK ~ 18 TO 21 AUGUST

Commencing Tuesday of this week, 18 August until Friday 21 August, there will be no 9.00am morning Mass in our Parish. Father Michael is on annual leave and both Father Hung and Father Victor will be attending a Clergy Retreat from Sunday 16 August until Friday 21 August. As a result there will be communion services held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning. Our very willing volunteers, Enzeigh Thomas and John Roberts will be conducting the services in the Priests absence, and we are all very grateful to both Enzeigh and John.

BACK-UP PENANCE PROGRAMME ~ CAMDEN ONLY

Completed workshop books should be returned at all Masses at Camden this weekend. There will be a tub for the books to be placed into near the musician's area. Parents/carers are asked to please run their eye over the books to ensure that every question and puzzle has been completed, books that are not marked as satisfactory will need to be returned for further work.

The attendants will also distribute a leaflet showing the ceremony to which candidates have been assigned. A listing for parents/carers to discuss with the children of some childlike ways to examine their consciences is also included on the leaflet.

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact either Father Hung or Father Victor if further assistance is needed.

WRAP-UP OF OCIA SESSION ~ 12 AUGUST

Fifteen of our candidates for the Adults into the Church programme for 2026, along with some of their supporters attended our fifth session of the course last Wednesday evening, Father Victor was the facilitator. The next scheduled session is Wednesday 26 August, the subject will be "Liturgy and the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation".

EARLY NOTIFICATION FOR THE 2026 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Names of children who have been baptised and who have made their sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) and whose family would like them to be a part of the Saint Paul's Sacrament of First Holy Communion 2026 are advised that names can be submitted over the weekend of 29 and 30 August.

Names will be taken and timelines distributed at all Masses over that weekend at Camden as well as at Saint Joseph the Worker Oakdale and Saint Aloysius The Oaks. As with all Saint Paul's programmes all distribution and supply of forms can only take place within the churches at the conclusion of Mass. Names and details cannot be given to the Parish Office or to our Priests. General information can be obtained by calling the Parish Office during normal hours on 4655 8797 but families should wait until they have received the timeline before calling.

REFLECTION FROM FATHER VICTOR

~ Great Faith That Never Gives Up (Matthew 15:21-28) ~

The Canaanite woman in today's Gospel teaches us something beautiful about faith: **real faith does not give up easily.**

She comes to Jesus because her daughter is suffering. She cries out, "Lord, help me!" At first, Jesus seems silent. Even the disciples want her to go away. Yet she remains. She continues to trust, to ask and to believe.

Finally, Jesus says, "Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted." Her daughter is healed.

There is a wonderful lesson here. Sometimes we pray and it seems that God is silent. Sometimes we ask, but nothing appears to change. We may even wonder, "Does God hear me?" The Canaanite woman reminds us: **silence is not absence, and delay is not rejection.**

A little boy once prayed every night for a bicycle. After several weeks, his mother asked, "Why do you keep praying when you know we cannot afford one?" He smiled and said, "Mum, I'm not telling God how to give it to me. I'm just reminding Him that I still want it!"

The Canaanite woman had that kind of persistent faith. She did not tell Jesus how He must act. She simply trusted Him and refused to walk away.

Perhaps today we are praying for a child, a marriage, a family member, healing, or a difficult situation. Let us learn from her. **Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep bringing your needs to Jesus.**

Faith is not believing that God will always give us exactly what we ask for. Faith is believing that **God hears us, loves us, and will never abandon us.**

May our prayer today be simple: "**Lord, help me.**" And may we have the courage to keep praying until we can say, "Lord, I trust you."

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.

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.

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

Saturday		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
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

16 th Aug	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 11.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Peter Grizelj	Kerry Todd	Heather Cox	Diane Kennaugh, Arthur Samcam	John Roberts, Mary Bartolo	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billet	Brian				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Deanna David	Peter Vincent	Lorraine Phillips	Kathryn Hampton	Cheryl
The Oaks 9.00am		Jeanette Reid				
Sun 10.00am	Michael Toweel	Maureen Grisdale	Oscar Marimbe	Nada Simich, Lisa Alvaro	Michael Reardon, Julie Puckrin	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Mark Coleman	Grace Quinnell	Margaret Thornton	Therese Easter	Clare Power	Craig

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 22ND/23RD AUGUST ~ 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday

Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Maria B & Sarah
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	Damian
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Craig

For our Faithful Departed:

Bob Roach, Gerard Gooden, Rosa Zappavigna, Fr Rick McCann, Dushy David, Mark Summers, Tibor Zurmuhl, Juliana De Los Santos, Anthony Minasi, *who died recently*. Luigi Zanatta, Feletio Bacalso, Paulina Bacalso, 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, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Deceased members of the Burns and Vaughan families, Patricia Treacey, Brian Treacey Snr, Amelia Breaden, 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. *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, 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