



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

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A ~ 5/6 SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday 8 September

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The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated as a liturgical feast on 8 September. The Gospel of Saint James, written in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and that he and his wife Anne had been childless. There was a Marian Basilica erected in Jerusalem on the spot known as the Shepherd's Pool and this is thought to have been the home of Mary's parents and where she was born, this is now the church of Saint Anne.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

This Sunday 6 September the 2026 Mass for Wedding Anniversaries of Significance will be held at Saint Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Harbour Street Wollongong with Bishop Brian the celebrant. Six couples from our own parish will be among the many who have registered to be a part of this wonderful occasion.

Ross and Cheryl Carroll	21/10/1966	60 years
Michael and Catharina Gallaty	12/06/1976	50 years
Emil and Gemma Sremchevich	23/02/1986	40 years
Kevin and Maree Durrington	22/11/1986	40 years
Michael and Vaia Toweel	27/01/1996	30 years
Trent and Analisa Sinclair	31/03/2001	25 years

The Parish congratulates each of our couples celebrating such wonderful milestones and wish them happiness in the years to come.

NEXT OCIA SESSION ~ 9 SEPTEMBER

A reminder is offered to all those parishioners who are currently participating in our 2026 OCIA Programme that the next scheduled session is Wednesday evening 9 September from 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room. The topics for this session are "The Eucharist" and "Praying the Mass". Father Victor and Father Hung will be the facilitators for this session.

WRAP UP ~ SEPTEMBER MEN'S GROUP

Our Parish Men's Group met last Wednesday evening in the Parish meeting room. The number of attendees has dropped again. The topic was "Saint Paul, an inspiring model for Christian Men" those who were in attendance found the discussion to be very interesting and engaging. The Parish supplied Pizzas and refreshments to the attendees at the conclusion of the meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 7 October, and all men of the Parish are asked to save this date and be encouraged to come along to join in.

2026 SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Names of children who are in Year three or higher, have been baptised and have made their sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) were submitted last weekend at all Masses at each of our churches, Saint Paul's Camden, Saint Joseph the Worker Oakdale and Saint Aloysius The Oaks. These children, whose names **have already been submitted** need to have their attendance at Mass recorded and to collect an enrolment form to take home to complete and return next weekend along with \$25.00 Programme fee.

If you were away last weekend or were unable to attend Mass and want to submit your child's name for our 2026 First Holy Communion programme it is not too late. These families need to collect a small form to fill in with their child's full correct name and then exchange this for a timeline as well as the enrolment form which is to be returned next weekend along with the \$25.00 fee.

As with all Saint Paul's Sacramental programmes Mass attendance is an integral part of each programme and all requirements are carried out within the churches at the conclusion of Mass.

Assistance can be requested from the Parish Office but no enrolment or other requirements of the programme can be offered anywhere other than within the churches.

REFLECTION FROM FATHER VICTOR

Is Being Right More Important Than Being Reconciled?

A man once said to his friend, "I haven't spoken to my brother for ten years." His friend asked, "Why?" He replied, "Because I was right, and he was wrong." The friend paused and asked, "After ten years, are you still enjoying being right?"

That question captures something very human in all of us. Sometimes we would rather **prove that we are right than restore a relationship.**

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a very different way of dealing with conflict. He says, **"If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone."** Notice that Jesus does not say, "Tell everyone what he has done." He says, go to him personally. This is not always easy. It takes courage to speak honestly, humility to listen, and love to seek reconciliation. The purpose is not to defeat the other person, but, as Jesus says, **"you have won back your brother."**

How often do our families and communities suffer because of words that were never spoken, misunderstandings that were never clarified, or hurts that were never forgiven? Sometimes a simple conversation could heal what years of silence have allowed to grow. Jesus also warns us indirectly against gossip. When we have a problem with someone, speaking to everyone except the person involved rarely brings healing. Gossip spreads wounds; honest conversation can begin to heal them.

And then Jesus gives us one of the most beautiful promises in the Gospel: **"Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."** Christ is especially present when we come together in love, prayer and reconciliation.

This Sunday, perhaps we can ask ourselves: **Is there someone I need to speak to? Is there a relationship I need to repair? Is my pride preventing me from taking the first step?**

Let us remember: being right may win an argument, but love wins a brother or sister. **May we have the courage to take the first step, the humility to listen, and the grace to forgive.**

For wherever reconciliation takes place, *Christ is there.*

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.

AROUND THE DIOCESAN ~ NEWS

Mention My Name ~ Suicide Memorial Mass

On **Saturday, 12 September 2026**, we will come together for the **Mention My Name Memorial Mass** at St Thomas More Catholic Church, Ruse.

This Mass is a beautiful opportunity to pause, remember and honour those whose lives have been lost through suicide. It is also a time to surround the families, friends, caregivers and first responders affected by suicide with prayer, compassion and the reminder that they are not alone.

Mention My Name Memorial Mass
Saturday, 12 September 2026 | 10:00am
St Thomas More Catholic Church, Ruse

For further information please contact the Grief Care Team on 9646 6908 or email team@griefcare.com.au.

Journeying Together ~ In Faith and Mission

Volume one, periodical number three of the "Journeying Together" publication has been received from the Diocese. The Magazine has very interesting items from around the Diocese and opens with a letter to us all from Bishop Brian. Copies have been placed around the church on the magazine tables, and all parishioners are encouraged to take a copy home and look over the events that are planned over the next few months within the Diocese.

Foster Carers Urgently Needed

Commencing this Saturday 5 September CatholicCare Wollongong will be a part of the ***NSW Foster and Kinship Carer Week***. There are prayer cards on the tables around the church, and all parishioners are encouraged to take one home. Bishop Brian requests that we all consider if we are in a position to help by becoming a foster family or even to have a conversation about the requirements of being a Foster Carer. Enquires should be directed to CatholicCare on 1800 967894 or catholiccare.dow.au/services/foster-care. The information is also available on the prayer cards.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 5TH/6TH SEPTEMBER ~ 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR A

Saturday

		Celebrant	Musician/Vocalists
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Victor	Belinda & Sarah
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael	Jo

Sunday

Camden	8:00 AM	Father Victor	Steve & Damian
The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Nicole
Camden	10:00 AM	Father Hung	Choir
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Hung	Tasha

6 th Sep	Acolyte	Lector	Lector	Special Minister	Special Minister	PC
Sat 9.00am	Enzeigh Thomas					
Sat Vigil 5.00 pm	Peter Grizelj	Kerry Todd	Danielle Caruana	John Roberts, Angelina Vecchio	Trish O'Flynn, Ray Cusack	Kerry
Oakdale Vigil 5pm	Chris Billett	Traci				
Sun 8.00am	Enzeigh Thomas	Rebecca Ward	Morgan White	Maryann Ace	Sandra Proietti	Kimberley
The Oaks 9.00am		Nicole Comerford				
Sun 10.00am	Michael Toweel	Maria Caridi	Nada Simich	Kylie Crnek Georgeson, Meaghan Marchand	Lisa Alvaro, Mary Velardi	Brad
Sun 5.00pm	Olivia Kosiak	Stephen Barrett	Maria Kosiak	Therese Easter	Dianne Garland	Eugene Kosiak

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 12TH/13TH SEPTEMBER ~ 24TH 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 Hung
Father Victor
Father Michael
Father Michael

Choir
Nicole
Eva & Youth Choir
Tony

For our Faithful Departed:

Barry Dunn, Kevin Pulham, Betty Thomas, Mary Dardis, Aida Goertz, John Norris, John Borg, Annette Claypole, Bob Roach, Gerard Gooden, Rosa Zappavigna, Dushy David, Mark Summers, *who died recently*. Michael Antalfy, Concetta Bartolo, Rosemary Lauricella, Luigi Zanatta, Feletio Bacalso, Paulina Bacalso, Pat O'Flynn, Vincent Grech, Angelo Grech, John Azzopardi, Pauline Attard, *whose anniversaries are remembered at this time*. Fr Rick McCann, Joseph Tonna, Nazareno Teuma, Lawrence Teuma, Joseph Spiteri, Thurn, Dunn and Sutton families, Burns and Vaughan families, Patricia Treacey, Brian Treacey Snr, Lillian Grech, Tony Barr, deceased members of the Lewis & Ryan families, Therese Carroll, Nathan Giles, Cath Bourke, Barry Myles, Fr Allan Hartcher, Fr David Catterall, Fr John Whitty. *Requiescat in Pace.*

We Pray for those who are unwell:

Kevin Pulham, Stana Simich, Sarah Oaten, Evelyn Duck, Ladislaus Parragi, 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, Olivia Toole, Sue Johnson, Nancy Calarco, Ilona Somoracz.

Kind Regards, Father Michael Williams.