

Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 30/1 NOVEMBER

Weekend Masses

The Mass timetable during November chops about with Confirmations this weekend and First Holy Communion on 21/22 November.

Now here is a big challenge for our parishioners. On the weekend of FHC, it won't be possible to offer as many Masses as usual to our dedicated parishioners. Apologies in advance. But for those who are resourceful and are interested in the idea of having a monastic start to the day, there will be a one-off 6:00 AM Mass on Sunday the 22nd November.

What a great way to start the day? And if enough people are sufficiently interested, we could have Adoration from 5:30 AM. Please keep in mind the beautiful words of the Sunday hymn so often sung so beautifully in pre-pandemic times by our choir:

'O day of light, and life, and grace, from earthly toil a resting place'.

Wonderful spiritual medicine for the soul. And who doesn't need that kind of medicine?

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**Confirmation Programme**

Almost 120 young parishioners will celebrate their Confirmation this weekend in rather unique circumstances. For the only time this century in our own parish (and perhaps even never before), the Sacrament has been linked to the Great Feast of All Saints. So for a variety of reasons, our celebrations this year will be extra special and very memorable.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, large numbers of people who would travel for work each day in an office have been working from home.

In the case of our families for Confirmation, the preparation has been two-dimensional – (a) working at home through the Confirmation books by parents with their children and (b) having a presence over the weekend at our parish Masses. So:

A survey form will be prepared for distribution after Masses next week, 7/8 November. Parents are invited to complete the form and return it to the parish office within a week. Ideally, we would like at least 30 parents to participate in the survey. The information will be very useful in discerning how to best administer the sacramental programmes for children from the beginning of next year. With thanks.

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Spiritual Insight

This week 1st November is the **Solemnity of All Saints**. St Bernard of the 11th and 12th centuries – who was a deeply spiritual man and who became Abbot of the Monastery of Clairvaux – had this to say about the feast:

Our songs of praise do not avail them nor do they need our honours. Surely, we are the ones to benefit when we venerate their memory. I confess that at the thought of them I am consumed by a loving desire to be with them.

So our old mate Bernard has two wishes: **The first** is to eventually be at home in the assembly of the apostles and in the numerous hosts of the martyrs, welcome in the college of confessors and the choirs of virgins – in a word to be united in the communion of all the saints.

The second wish when we commemorate the saints, according to St Bernard, is that Christ who is our life may manifest himself as powerfully to us as he did to them.

Bernard adds that in aspiring to a life of blessedness we should petition the saints in prayer so that what we cannot attain by our own efforts may be granted to us through their intercession.

Question for families over the evening meal – which saints would you like to meet when you enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

PS: If you're wanting to know a little more about Saint Bernard then go to the google search engine.

But don't get side-tracked by reading about the dog breed. Apparently, they have a lovely temperament *Lively, Friendly, Watchful, Gentle, Calm*. Maybe we could learn as much from the dog as we could from the saint (just joking, ok)?

Questions: Do you know anyone who has a St Bernard? And what's the name of the dog?

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## All Souls ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Father Joseph will celebrate Mass this coming Monday at Camden at 9:00 AM

**Mass Offerings for the Faithful Departed:** Parishioners can leave their Envelope in the basket for the Second Collection or delivered to the parish office during business hours. Names are prepared and added to those in the lovely picture frames that are kept before the altar. During November, the celebrants offers all Masses for the repose of the souls of the deceased family and friends of parishioners from Camden and The Oaks.

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First Holy Communion Programme

Just need to provide a little help for the workbooks:

Page 19	Example of Mysteries How people fall in love! How to find a vaccine for the virus (this one might be solved)! How Jesus rose from the dead! How Father Michael became a priest!
Page 21	Miracle of Loaves and Fishes can be googled
Page 23	Right hand side from top to bottom – Offertory, Prayers at Preparation, Holy Holy, Eucharistic Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, Sign of Peace, Lamb of God, Receiving Communion, Thanksgiving.
Page 32	Why do you think Jesus is called 'Lamb of God?' 1. Unblemished 2. Gentle 3. Innocent 4. Jesus was sacrificed Accompanying exercise (from top to bottom) T F F T F F T
Page 33	Food Water Exercise Fresh Air Sleep
Page 33	What do we need for our soul? Prayer, Sacrifice, Fasting, Alms Giving, Humility

Children are asked to return their books this weekend. They will be exchanged for a leaflet containing the times for the FHC Masses on the weekend of Christ the King, 21/22 November. The leaflet can be completed before leaving church and handed back to the celebrant. Times for FHC Masses and rehearsals are:

FHC Mass

Saturday 21st November

11:00 AM
1:00 PM
3:00 PM
5:00 PM

Sunday 22nd November

10:30 AM
12:30 PM
2:30 PM
4:30 PM

Rehearsal

Tuesday 17 th	4:00 PM
Tuesday 17 th	5:00 PM
Tuesday 17 th	6:00 PM
Tuesday 17 th	7:00 PM

Wednesday 18 th	4:00 PM
Wednesday 18 th	5:00 PM
Thursday 19 th	4:00 PM
Thursday 19 th	5:00 PM

The rehearsals include seat allocation. There will be 19 families assigned to each Mass, with each family able to have 7 people including first communicants. The church is still limited to 136 people.

Upcoming Special Collections

More will be provided in next week's Weekly Newsletter. However we're required to have the following the collections

Weekend 7/8 November	Catholic Mission
Weekend 14/15 November	Holy Land

There will be different ways of giving available to our parishioners who might like to contribute.

The first is to take an envelope from below the altar and either (a) place an offering in the envelope and leave in the basket for the Second Collection, or (b) take the envelope home and make a donation on-line according to the details printed on the outside.

The second is to use a plastic card with chip with the newly acquired Donation Device near the entry to the Church. All donations to this new Donation Device are pre-set at \$10 and will be dedicated to the respective appeals. More next week. Thanks.

Celebrants for Weekend Masses

		31/1 November	7/8 November
Saturday			
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Joseph	Father Joseph
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Joseph	Father Joseph
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Anthony	Father Anthony
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Anthony	Father Anthony

Please note that Confirmation Ceremonies are on at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Sunday

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael	Father Joseph
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Joseph	Father Joseph
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Anthony	Father Anthony
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Joseph	Father Michael
Camden	12:00 noon	Father Michael (Conf)	Father Michael
Camden	2:00 PM	Father Michael (Conf)	<i>discontinued</i>
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Anthony	Father Michael

Please note that Confirmation Masses are on at 12:00 Noon and 2:00 PM

Kind Regards

Father Michael Williams PP