

Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 7/8 NOVEMBER

Weekend Masses

The scheduled Masses this week (7/8 November) and next week (14/15 November) are normal according to our Covid Mass Timetable.

On the weekend of 21/22 November, however, there will need to be a few variations because of First Holy Communions. Full details next week.

~~~~~

**Spiritual Insight**

This coming Wednesday is 11 November. Two reasons to be mindful of this date:

At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

The 11<sup>th</sup> November is also the Feast day of Martin of Tours. He was born of pagan parents about 316. He received baptism and gave up his career as a soldier and founded a monastery in France where he lived the religious life. He was ordained as bishop of Tours, giving example of a good shepherd, establishing new monasteries, instructing the clergy and preaching the Gospel. He had a special devotion to the poor.

When he was dying there were priests gathered round his bed. The room was heavy with emotion. At one time, the priests wished to turn him over to ease his poor body but he stopped them 'Brothers, let me go on looking at heaven, not at the earth; my soul will be pointing to God when its moment of departure comes'.

He then had a vision of the devil standing near and cried out: 'Blood-stained beast, what are you doing here? You will find nothing of yours in me, you living death. I go to the arms of Abraham'.

These were his last words. Then he surrendered his soul to God. Martin, who was poor and humble, goes into heaven a wealthy man.

~~~~~

Confirmation Programme

Congratulations are extended to the many families whose sons and daughters celebrated their Confirmation last weekend. All the planning progressed wonderfully well except for the electrical blackout at the 2:00 PM Mass. The lights and PA system shut down during the First Reading and automatically returned at the Offertory. Can only hope that our families were still able to hear Father Joseph's homily. The fault was in the local grid and not the Church. In all other respects, the ceremonies were very prayerful and sacred. Thanks to all who participated.

Families are invited and encouraged to attend Mass this weekend to collect a survey form. It can be completed after Mass or taken home and returned to the parish office. Feedback from parents is exceptionally important in discerning the possibilities for next year's programmes. Please come towards the baptism font after Mass.

~~~~~

## **First Holy Communion Programme**

Thanks to the children who completed their books. Big majority of books were completed extra well. There were a few that required more time and support from parents. After Masses this week, the following applies:

- ✓ Leaflets – containing information that assigns children to the FHC Masses – can be collected near the organ.
- ✓ Having been blessed, the children can collect their FHC medals.
- ✓ And because of the temporary discontinuation of Masses earlier in the year, many mementos for the First Penance were not collected before Easter. These are also available for collection.
- ✓ Books Returned
- ✓ Form available for providing list of attendees for the FHC Masses.

~~~~~

Upcoming Special Collections ~ Catholic Mission (CM)

Masses will feature the following this weekend:

4.5 Minute film clip about the apostolate of CM

To support the work of CM this week, the following will be available

- All plastic card offering to the Donation Device this week will be dedicated to CM
- Envelopes at the altar can be collected after Mass. Options are to (a) insert a few dollars and leave them in the collection basket or (b) take them home and contribute on-line.

Please try to be supportive. So many people, families and communities have suffered from the pandemic.

~~~~~

## **Celebrants for Weekend Masses**

|                 |            | <b>7/8 November</b> | <b>14/15 November</b> |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b> |            |                     |                       |
| Camden          | 9:00 AM    | Father Joseph       | Father Anthony        |
| Oakdale         | 5:00 PM    | Father Joseph       | Father Michael        |
| Camden          | 4:30 PM    | Father Anthony      | Father Joseph         |
| Camden          | 6:00 PM    | Father Anthony      | Father Joseph         |
| <b>Sunday</b>   |            |                     |                       |
| The Oaks        | 9:00 AM    | Father Joseph       | Father Michael        |
| Camden          | 7:30 AM    | Father Joseph       | Father Michael        |
| Camden          | 9:00 AM    | Father Anthony      | Father Joseph         |
| Camden          | 10:30 AM   | Father Michael      | Father Anthony        |
| Camden          | 12:00 noon | Father Michael      | Father Anthony        |
| Camden          | 5:00 PM    | Father Michael      | Father Anthony        |

Kind Regards

Father Michael Williams PP