



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*

**RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 13/14 MARCH 2021**

**Spiritual Insight**

From Pope Francis

Jesus keeps knocking on our doors, the doors of our lives. He doesn't do this by magic, with special effects, with flashing lights and fireworks. Jesus keeps knocking on our door in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbours, in the faces of those at our side.



**Covid-19 and Registrations for Mass**

<b>Weekend Masses Timetable</b> (Covid-19 capacity of 236 for each Mass at Camden)			
<b>Saturday 13 March</b>		<b>Sunday 14 March</b>	
9:00 AM	Parish Mass	7:30 AM	Parish Mass
		9:00 AM	Parish Mass
		10:30 AM	Parish Mass
4:30 PM	Parish Vigil Mass	5:00 PM	Parish Mass
6:00 PM	Parish Vigil Mass		
<b>Oakdale</b> – Saturday 5:00 PM (72)		<b>The Oaks</b> – Sunday 9:00 AM (36)	

Registrations through parish website.  
Or if having difficulty, ring the parish office before Midday Friday 4655 8797.



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5 /15 Merlin Street (PO Box 169) The Oaks NSW 2570 (ring Camden) [theoaks@dow.org.au](mailto:theoaks@dow.org.au)  
Blattman Ave, Oakdale NSW 2570 Oakdale (ring Camden) [theoaks@dow.org.au](mailto:theoaks@dow.org.au)

## Church Wardens and Collections

After an absence of about 12 months, the resumption of passing around the collection bags at Masses last weekend was most successful. Many thanks to all who contributed. Even in years when works for maintenance are comparatively minimal, the costs of operating a large parish are still very substantial.

If asked to assist as a warden, please try to be supportive. The celebration of Masses every week requires attention to numerous details. The vitality of our parishes is directly related to the extent to which our parishioners bear personal sacrifice and are prepared to be involved.



## Catechists

It's with mixed feelings that it's become necessary to advise that the ministry of catechists no longer applies in our parishes of The Oaks and Camden. For many decades, adults have visited the local government schools and provided religious education to Catholic children.

In recent years, however, because of a shortage of catechists it had become impossible to provide for all the governments schools. And with the aging of the adults in this ministry, and their susceptibility to the virus, many of our dedicated catechists decided that the time had arrived to retire.

Additionally, the seemingly endless needs for compliance have resulted in this ministry becoming more and more of a challenge.

In its place, expressions of interest will be invited from families with children in the government and other non-Catholic schools to participate in a Parish School of Religion (PSR). If there is sufficient interest, a PSR will offer the opportunity for these children to attend lessons for 40 minutes in the Heritage Hall after school.

It's envisaged there could be a four-week block each term according to the following arrangement:

Monday	4:00 PM	Kindergarten	5:00 PM	Year 4
Tuesday	4:00 PM	Year 1	5:00 PM	Year 5
Wednesday	4:00 PM	Year 2	5:00 PM	Year 6
Thursday	4:00 PM	Year 3		

More news will be provided about the PSR according to developments. In the meantime, our deepest gratitude is extended to all of our catechists and past catechists who have laboured so faithfully over the years in this ministry. And it is hoped that possibly sometime this year, there may well be an opportunity to gather together for a parish meal in the Heritage Hall to properly acknowledge the wonderful efforts of these parishioners.



## Sacrament of Penance Programme

Workbooks will be returned this week. And it's please to be able to report that with just a small number of exceptions, the books have been completed most satisfactorily. Indeed, some were completed with distinction – a great tribute to the parents/carers and children involved.

A leaflet will be distributed this week providing the names of children who have been assessed as ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. Each family has been assigned to a ceremony and will need to be registered upon entering the church.

If the name of a boy or girl has not been included on the leaflet, it means that the book was not submitted last week and it will not be possible to celebrate First Confession this coming week. Instead, books from these families will need to be submitted this week. If they've been completed satisfactorily, a time will then be made available for First Confession the following week.

From among 180 families in the programme, 174 books were returned. Only a couple needed remedial work.

At Masses on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> March, mementos will be distributed to all the children.

Parents/carers are reminded that they need to assist their children examine their consciences before they come to the priest.

- ✓ Start firstly, in their relationship to God in terms of attendance at Mass, daily prayer and surrender to God's will;
- ✓ Then assist them in matters of personal responsibility and conduct.

The Act of Contrition should be known perfectly.

With thanks.



## Holy Week Ceremonies

A full outline will be provided next week, including the times when registrations will be open. But here's a sneak preview.

With a maximum of 236 permitted in Camden church, there will be Easter Vigil Masses at The Oaks (32) and Camden, both at 6:00 PM.

On Easter Sunday morning there will be Mass at Oakdale at 9:00 PM (72).

At Camden, there will be Masses at 6:00 AM, 7.30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10.30 AM and 12 noon, as well as 5:00 PM. Although still aspirational, there are plans to have sacred music at all the Masses although congregational singing is still not permitted.

The 6:00 AM Mass could be a winner. Day-light saving comes to an end on early Easter Sunday morning, giving us all an extra hour in the cot (as my dear old dad use to say).

Kind Regards

Father Michael

Please Pray for the sick in our Parish

*We pray for those who are unwell, especially Janelle Clifton, Barry Myles, John Giles, Cath Bourke,  
Alma McCourt, France Zamoudio  
and all our unwell family and friends*

## **Celebrants for Weekend Parish Masses**

### **13/14 March**

#### **Saturday**

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Michael
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Michael
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Joseph

#### **Sunday**

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Michael
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Joseph

### **20/21 March**

#### **Saturday**

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	4:30 PM	Father Joseph
Camden	6:00 PM	Father Joseph
Oakdale	5:00 PM	Father Michael

#### **Sunday**

The Oaks	9:00 AM	Father Michael
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