



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 20/21 MARCH 2021**

**Spiritual Insight**

In 2014, Pope Francis authored a book entitled “The Church of Mercy”. This is part of what he wrote:

“Over the centuries the Church conserves this precious treasure, which is Sacred Scripture, doctrine, the sacraments, the ministry of pastors, so that we can be faithful to Christ and share his very life.

It is like a river coursing through history, developing, irrigating but running water always comes from a source, and the source is Christ himself: he is the Risen One, he is the Living One, and his words never pass away, for he does not pass, he is alive, he is among us today, he hears us and we speak to him and he listens, he is in our hearts (p.45)”.



**Covid-19 and Registrations for Mass**

<b>Weekend Masses Timetable</b> (Covid-19 capacity of 236 for each Mass at Camden)			
<b>Saturday 20 March</b>		<b>Sunday 21 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.



26 John Street (PO Box 7) Camden NSW 2570 (02) 4655 8797 [camden@dow.org.au](mailto:camden@dow.org.au)  
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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)

## Stations of the Cross

The Stations will be prayed each Friday during Lent at 9:30 AM in the parish church. All welcome.

## Palms

For quite a few years now, palms have been provided by some of our very dedicated parishioners. If able to assist this year, please notify our parish office as soon as possible. It's very important to coordinate this appeal so as to avoid excess and wastage. So grateful!



## Church Wardens

Thanks to the men and women who have participated as church wardens in recent weeks. The past 12 months have been noticeably low-key because of the numerous restrictions imposed by the NSW Department of Health to counter the virus.

Indeed, the church is still limited to less than half its capacity. And restrictions can still be either imposed or relaxed at a moment's notice. But nonetheless, there is now much more optimism than in 2020 especially with the vaccination rollout.

In terms of parish revitalisation, various initiatives are now being undertaken. More details will be reported in coming weeks.

Parish finances were not immune from the various shutdowns, lockdowns and clampdowns. And income was down quite considerably. But there has been a noticeable improvement since we've returned to the normal manner of collections. Thanks to our wardens who have been helping, and to our many faithful parishioners who consistently reveal love for our parish by offering something of your own financial resources.



## Father Joseph

At the end of this Weekly Message, Father Joseph has provided a very lovely reflection in anticipation of his own departure from our parish. More will be said about Father Joseph in coming weeks.

Please note, however, that as a parting gift the proceeds from the 'tap and go' device near the presbytery entrance to the church over the weekend of Palm Sunday will be the basis of a gift for Father Joseph. More details next week.



## Second Rite of Reconciliation

The Second Rite has been scheduled for **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> in Camden at 7:00 PM**. Renewal in the life of a parish is 100% dependent upon the renewal that takes place in the lives of our parishioners. Part of this process has been, of course, the embracing of some form of discipline during the penitential season of Lent. And as the sacred time of Holy Week is drawing near, a sincere sacramental confession is strongly recommended to all people of the Catholic faith.



## Easter Triduum Ceremonies ~ Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday

Registrations for all our solemn ceremonies will be available from **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9:00 AM**  
The Covid restrictions still apply.

Please note the following:

Palm Sunday:	All ceremonies are to be within the parish church.
Holy Thursday	Washing of the feet is to be omitted. The final procession from the church at the end of Mass is also omitted. The Blessed Sacrament will be retained in the tabernacle in the church; parishioners may remain in prayer until 9:00 PM.
Good Friday	The adoration of the cross by kissing shall be limited solely to the celebrant. The faithful may approach the cross and bow but are not permitted to touch it.
Easter Vigil	The Vigil is to be celebrated only in the cathedral and parish churches. The sprinkling rite is omitted.



### Sacrament of Penance Programme

After an enriching time of preparation, almost 200 children celebrated the Sacrament of Penance over the past week. Parents and carers should now resolve to continue bringing their children to Mass as the best possible way to begin preparation for the First Holy Communion programme which commences in early September.

And a special thanks is extended to the many parents and carers who, themselves, celebrated the Sacrament of Penance. Excellent example for the children and most important for the penitent. Please be mindful that if parents and carers would like to have their children celebrate the Sacrament of Penance in a more conversive way, then please come to the chapel on Saturday mornings from 9:30 AM to 10 AM. Could be a good idea for the adult to speak to the priest for a brief moment before hand.

The manner of confession would be for the little son or daughter to sit opposite the priest. The confessional door would remain open and the child would remain at all times in a line of sight to the parent/carer.



### Sacrament of Penance Programme ~ Catch Up Programme

Families who missed the major penance programme for the year can enrol in a catch up programme after Easter. Timelines for this programme will be available for collection on the Second Sunday of Easter 10/11 April at all Masses. Children must have been baptised and in at least Year 3 at school.

Kind Regards

Father Michael

## **Celebrants for Weekend Parish Masses**

### **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
Camden	7:30 AM	Father Michael
Camden	9:00 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	10:30 AM	Father Joseph
Camden	5:00 PM	Father Michael

### **Palm Sunday 27/28 March**

#### **Saturday**

Camden	9:00 AM	Father Michael
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

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.*

## AU REVOIR, MERCI BEAUCOUP

After working in regional/rural Victoria for a long time, I decided to move to a city diocese. Here at Camden, with busy public places and a large congregation, which I was looking forward to and to enjoy, brought back nostalgic memories of my busy Mumbai life in India.

The terrifying bush fires followed by the pandemic kept all of us distant for quite some time but we could slowly start reconnecting through online Masses and limited number of people coming to Church.

We survived those miserable days all together as a Team, thanks to Father Michael adding more Masses to accommodate everyone and reaching out to the maximum through weekly messages and online Masses. We also managed to have 330 baptisms and many weddings, even consoling bereaved families in their most difficult times.

I had the privilege to witness and was also motivated by the Team Spirit of the parish communities at Saint Paul's Camden, Saint Clare Narellan, Saint Aloysius The Oaks and Saint Joseph Oakdale.

It's hard to believe it is almost time to say my 'goodbyes' and 'thank yous' to these beloved communities and move to Nowra

Words aren't enough to thank Father Michael for his fraternal guidance, support, respect and care which enabled a smooth transition into a new place and parish. A big thanks to Elizabeth and Cheryl, who have spoiled me with their support and care, Father Anthony for putting up with me and my spices. The hard work and accomplishments of various volunteers and leaders of the parish groups are praiseworthy. Special thanks to the principals, staff, children and parents of Saint Paul's, Saint Clare's, Mater Dei and Magdalene for your welcome and support.

I'm glad to say that in my last 30 years of Priestly life, my time in Saint Paul's has been one of the best and most satisfying. We were just getting to know each other but my 482 days here have been filled with happiness due to your warm welcome, acceptance, love and concern for which I will always be grateful and will stay with me wherever I go.

Easter Sunday would be my last weekend here and I leave by Easter Monday.

It's hard to say goodbye and I will miss you all but let's keep our smiles as we learnt last year through testing times, hoping for the best in God's plans.

As I promise my prayers, I humbly request your valuable prayers that keep me persevering in my vocation ***"to love and serve the Lord, our God (and His Church faithfully) with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength."*** (Mark 12:30)

God bless you all always. Saint Joseph, pray for us

Love

Father Joseph  
19 March 2021  
St Joseph Day