



Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 3/4 APRIL 2021

Spiritual Insight

On one hand, many people try to escape from others and take refuge in the comfort of their privacy or in a small circle of close friends, renouncing the realism of the social aspect of the Gospel.

On the other hand, there are people who come together with their families and fellow parishioners to celebrate Easter. What better way to celebrate than to spend a few hours at church going on the journey of Christ's life?

One of the reasons we go to church is to pray, but we go there too for the same reason we go to the family table every evening. It's good to be there with others, no matter what!

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### Celebrants and Musicians for Easter Triduum

**Covid Capacity: Camden 250, The Oaks 32, Oakdale 72**

**The Oaks / Oakdale:** Please note one correction from last week. The Mass for Holy Thursday will definitely be at Oakdale and the Stations will definitely be at The Oaks. Apologies for any inconvenience.

|                       | Camden            |               |              | The Oaks/Oakdale    |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                       | Priest            | Musician      | Vocalist     | Church              | Priest             |
| <b>Holy Thu. 7 pm</b> | <b>Fr Joseph</b>  | <b>Choir</b>  |              | <b>Oakdale</b>      | <b>Fr Michael</b>  |
|                       |                   |               |              |                     |                    |
| <b>Good Friday</b>    |                   |               |              |                     |                    |
| <b>Stations 10 am</b> | <b>Fr Michael</b> | <b>Iiona</b>  | <b>Tasha</b> | <b>The Oaks</b>     | <b>Fr Joseph</b>   |
| <b>Passion 3 pm</b>   | <b>Fr Joseph</b>  | <b>Choir</b>  |              | <b>Oakdale</b>      | <b>Fr. Michael</b> |
|                       |                   |               |              |                     |                    |
| <b>Easter Vigil</b>   | <b>Fr Michael</b> | <b>Choir</b>  | <b>Darko</b> | <b>The Oaks</b>     | <b>Fr Joseph</b>   |
| <b>Camden 6 PM</b>    |                   |               |              | <b>6:00 PM</b>      |                    |
|                       |                   |               |              |                     |                    |
| <b>Easter Sunday</b>  |                   |               |              |                     |                    |
| <b>6:00 AM</b>        | Fr. Joseph        |               |              |                     |                    |
| <b>7:30 AM</b>        | Fr Michael        | Cheryl        | Maria C.     |                     |                    |
| <b>9:00 AM</b>        | Fr. Joseph        | Maria B.      | Sarah        | <b>Oakdale 9 am</b> | <b>Fr Michael</b>  |
| <b>10:30 AM</b>       | Fr Michael        | Jenny         | Tasha        |                     |                    |
| <b>12 Noon</b>        | Fr. Joseph        | Craig / Mates | Craig        |                     |                    |
| <b>5:00 PM</b>        | Fr Joseph         | Tony /Family  | Family       |                     |                    |
|                       |                   |               |              |                     |                    |

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## **Good Friday ~ Passion ~ Holy Land Appeal**

The Holy Land Commissariat coordinates the international appeal each year throughout the universal church to raise funds for the Shrines in Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus.

Under the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, the Friars also offer pastoral care in parishes, provide vital educational and charitable works and maintain constant upkeep of the Holy Places of Christianity.

In terms of income, 2020 was a year like no other. The cessation of pilgrimages, especially, resulted in a catastrophic loss of income. The offerings that pilgrims leave allow the Franciscan Friars and local church to carry out their mission.

Please be supportive of this appeal on Good Friday. And just to extend the generosity of the parish, all contributions to the 'tap and go' device at Camden this weekend will be dedicated to this appeal.

This will allow all our parishioners who have a presence at Mass on Easter Sunday to also make a contribution. This is a most worthy appeal. It is a universal appeal in the Catholic Church. The Holy Land is a great treasure of our faith.



### **Father Joseph**

It's with a heavy heart that we farewell Father Joseph this weekend after little more than 15 months in our parishes. It became quite apparent very early on that Father Joseph was a very capable and dedicated priest who was highly reliable and exceedingly helpful, particularly during the early months of the coronavirus when the parish was under so much pressure.

Father Joseph's ministry was noticeably prayerful and pastoral, and he attended to midweek Mass and the aged-care apostolate with love and devotion. He was available 24/7 to meet the liturgical, sacramental and pastoral needs of Camden and The Oaks.

And Father Joseph had one extra special quality that was possessed by few others – he was able to anticipate my own ministerial needs and would often volunteer to take on extra commitments to make life a little easier for others, and especially myself.

Our best wishes go with Father Joseph for his new assignment in Nowra. And as a result of the 'tap and go' contributions from our parishioners last weekend, we'll be able to help him make the transition with a gift of \$1,200.



### **Second Rite of Reconciliation**

The evening was quite well attended with about 80 parishioners and five priests. The Second Rite is celebrated twice a year with the next scheduled during Advent. Well worth keeping in mind and coming along.

## Sacrament of Penance Programme ~ Catch Up Programme

Opportunity to enrol will only be on the weekend of the Third Sunday of Easter 17/18 April.  
Registrations to attend weekend Mass are available online from the Tuesday prior each week.



## Needed ~ Computer Operators and Monitors

Well the response from last weekend's Weekly Message was not quite as strong as it could have been. And so there's still plenty of scope for our parishioners to be involved. Assistance is always available. Please see one of the clergy or contact the parish office if able to assist. Really quite important.

*Fortis Mane*

Stay Strong



## Second Sunday of Easter 10/11 April 2021

### Saturday

|         |         |                |
|---------|---------|----------------|
| Camden  | 9:00 AM | Father Victor  |
| Camden  | 4:30 PM | Father Michael |
| Camden  | 6:00 PM | Father Michael |
| Oakdale | 5:00 PM | Father Victor  |

### Sunday

|          |          |                |
|----------|----------|----------------|
| Camden   | 7:30 AM  | Father Victor  |
| The Oaks | 9:00 AM  | Father Victor  |
| Camden   | 9:00 AM  | Father Michael |
| Camden   | 10:30 AM | Father Michael |
| Camden   | 5:00 PM  | Father Victor  |

Kind Regards

Father Michael

## 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