



## Dear Parishioners at The Oaks and Camden

RE: WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR WEEKEND 18/19 SEPTEMBER 2021

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Extract from Brave New Church by Father William Bausch

Father Bausch has been a priest in America for over sixty years. In his book, **Brave New Church**, he focuses on some of the most serious challenges facing the Church today. He writes:

“It is among the intelligentsia, the university people and the trend-setting sophisticates that anti-Catholicism takes on its most subtle and damaging form.

The reason for such hostility is basic: the Catholic Church teaches values that are viewed as hostile to a libertine culture that celebrates abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, condoms, uncommitted sex, free love with multiple partners and relativism.”

As an *obiter dictum*, relativism, roughly put, is the view that truth and falsity, right and wrong, standards of reasoning, and procedures of justification are all contextual. So for example, if a person believes that euthanasia is right, then it’s right. If another thinks that euthanasia is wrong, then it’s wrong.

Relativism is at serious variance to the Church’s moral code as founded upon the Ten Commandments.

“The Church’s teaching on the sanctity of human life, on marriage and on social justice are irritating signs of contradiction..... Its traditional emphasis on community is seen as a threat to the individualism that reigns in our society.....

The point here is that this steady, unrelenting stream of ridicule and hatred of all things Catholic affects the TV addicted youth of today. It creates an undertone of cynicism and embarrassment and shapes an image of the Catholic Church to which no thinking person would admit they belong. The constant trafficking of anti-Catholic stereotypes.....the intellectual disdain for Catholicism in the universities are likely to make it harder for impressionable adolescents or young adults to claim their beliefs or maintain them (pages 76-77).”



### Recorded Mass from our Parishes ~ from 5:00 PM Saturday

Pleased to be able to advise that Father Victor is our celebrant for Mass this week with outstanding sacred music. Please tune-in in a prayerful and reflective way so as to fulfil the Sunday obligation.



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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

## Sacraments for Children

### Confirmation

Who could forget how on the weekend of 26/27 June this year, there were three ceremonies scheduled for the Saturday and two for the Sunday? But on the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> June, NSW Health advised that a lockdown would be imposed from 6:00 PM that same evening. The result was that the two Sunday ceremonies were delayed indefinitely.

Well after a lengthy delay, these two ceremonies have now been scheduled for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 10 AM and 12 Noon. These will be Confirmation ceremonies, not Masses.

- Those who had been assigned to the Sunday 10:00 AM Mass on 27<sup>th</sup> June will be the same families for the 10:00 AM Ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- The same arrangement will apply to the other families as well – that those who had been scheduled for the 12:30 Mass on 27<sup>th</sup> June will now be assigned to the 12 Noon Ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The seating allocation will remain the same. The numbers also remain the same – 4 people including candidate and sponsor.

There will be another two rehearsals to which families are obliged to attend. These won't take so long as the seating allocation has already taken place. The rehearsals have been scheduled for 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Tuesday 16 November.



### First Holy Communion

If the roadmap – to which the Premier of NSW now refers – unfolds according to plan, then FHC will be celebrated in the parishes of Camden and The Oaks on the weekend of 20/21 November.

At this stage, the plan for FHC is that on the first available weekend after weary citizens in NSW have been granted new freedoms, the timelines and enrolment forms – which will be available beforehand from the parish website – will need to be returned with \$20. Books will be distributed the following weekend. This weekend will be advised as soon as possible but it's likely to be the 24<sup>th</sup> or the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

With all the “unknowns” the question invariably arises as to whether this preliminary planning and abbreviated programme can possibly be successful within such a short timeframe.

The answer is “Who could possibly know?” Let's be honest. It could all collapse into unprecedented chaos, a disaster, a king-size mess, total pandemonium.

However, if parents/carers set aside a month for total dedication to the programme, it could all be an outstanding success. Sacrifice and a proper ordering of priorities are the foundations upon which everyone will have a sacred and beautiful experience. If having made arrangements to be away from our parishes for any weekends during this 4-5 week period leading up to the weekend of 20/21 November, please defer until 2022.



## Penance

In the absence of a sudden surge of covid cases that could cause another clampdown, the Sacrament of Penance Programme for our parishioners at Camden and The Oaks will begin on the First Sunday of Advent 27/28 November. The organisational parts of the programme will be undertaken this year so that the children's formation with the workbooks can appropriately take place during the penitential season of Lent next year. Presence at Mass during all parts of the programme is essential.

From earlier this year, there were about a dozen families whose children had completed the preparation but yet to celebrate their first reconciliation. Please contact the parish office and register. A new time will be organised in the first half of November. A little assistance and guidance will need to be provided beforehand.



Kind Regards

Father Michael

## *From The Diocese.....*

### Marriage Anniversaries Mass

Marriage Anniversaries Mass: Livestreamed Sunday 19 September – 12.30pm This celebration for those marking 25, 40, 50, 60, or over 60 years of marriage in 2020-21, will be livestreamed this Sunday. All those who have registered have been invited to be part of the online Mass with Bishop Brian, who will celebrate Mass from the Cathedral, offering a blessing for each of the 47 couples who have registered. Each registered couple has been sent a commemoration certificate, prayer cards, Mass booklet and a letter from Bishop Brian. The link to Lumen Christi Livestream <https://www.youtube.com/c/LumenChristiCatholicParishes/videos>. The Parish extends its best wishes to three couples from our own parish they are, Ken and Dianne Garland 42 years, Robert and Margaret Roach 62 years and Walter and Ellen Glynn 66 years.



### Bishop's Sacramental Program Parental Survey

A discussion paper to assist in the development of a Sacraments of Initiation policy for the Diocese is being developed and Bishop Brian is seeking feedback from parents and, via parishes, is reaching out especially to parents with children in state schools who have presented their sons daughters for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If that is you, we would love to hear from you! You can access the Survey by simply clicking here: <https://dow.sh/SacramentsSurvey> and we would be most grateful for your feedback



## The Bishop's Annual Appeal

To support the retirement and health of clergy and local parish ministries. To find out more, view the special appeal video and to make a donation, please visit [www.dow.org.au/giving](http://www.dow.org.au/giving) or call (02) 4222 2446 to make a donation over the phone. "Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Your donation to this appeal will enable me to provide a dignified retirement for our diocesan clergy and ensure that our parish communities stay connected during this time of pandemic. While I acknowledge the pressure that some households are facing at this time, if you are in a financial position to give, I would be very grateful if you would consider giving generously to this appeal."  
Bishop Brian Mascord



## Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. A simple way of staying informed and connected is to subscribe at <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> to receive regular stay connected updates or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly



## Youth Ministry Online

Have you seen Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong's (CYMW) online version of LIVE yet? Click on the link below for some great worship and challenges as you explore faith with some very awesome leaders!  
Enjoy! [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTphLF5OdSt8V\\_yo7ZLrVgg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTphLF5OdSt8V_yo7ZLrVgg)



## Online Holy Hour for Young Adults

CYMW & NET are hosting online Adoration every Thursday from 4-5pm. Join our Holy Hour through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/> or watch via Instagram @net.wollongong – everyone is welcome!



## Online Young Adult Bible Study!

Are you missing your community? CYMW are hosting an online Bible Study for all young adults aged 17-35 throughout the Wollongong Diocese. Bring your bible and your favourite snack as we journey through scripture together... over zoom! Every Tuesday night. 7PM-8PM. Check out @cymdow on Instagram or Facebook for more information or email [youth@dow.org.au](mailto:youth@dow.org.au)



## Divine Renovation Australasia Virtual Conference 2021 Called to Discipleship Saturday 20 November 2021 | 9:00am-12:30pm

Join us for a spirit-filled time of prayer, live keynotes, inspiring panel sessions. The virtual conference will aim to support priests, parish teams and individuals in their journey of parish renewal, while encouraging and equipping you in your Catholic faith. For more and information and registration: <https://www.d>



## The Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis on 8 December 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. You are encouraged to visit the ACBC year of St Joseph page at <https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>



## Wollongong Diocesan Resource Centre

The Diocesan Resource Centre is in transition to its new premises. Resources are still available to borrow during this transitional period. For more information or request for resources, please contact Anne Russell on 0427 072 363. Resources can be collected and returned at the Catholic Education Office, 86-88 Market Street, Wollongong. For Catechist in the Macarthur and Southern Highlands – Contact Cindy on 4640 8550 or [cindy.oliver@dow.org.au](mailto:cindy.oliver@dow.org.au) for more information.



## Alone with Christ Alone ~ A Women's Retreat

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for an online retreat into silence, 24-26 September. You will provide the silent times and spaces over the course of the weekend. The sisters will provide common times for Mass, communal and private prayer, and talks that delve deeper into the theme of silence. For more information or to register:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BTYGD>

[Click to download flyer](#)