



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 NOVEMBER 2021

### 34th Sunday ~ Feast of Christ the King

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### Pastoral Reflection ~ November, month of the Holy Souls

Some of our parishioners may have watched the big fight a few nights ago with the main bout contested between our local Aussie boxer Tim Tszyu and the Japanese fighter, Takeshi Inoue. The telecast had an international audience. Tim won a convincing and unanimous points decision among the three judges. He looked the stronger and better fighter across the whole 12 rounds.

A little earlier in the evening, there was another fight between Dennis Hogan and Tommy Browne.

Hogan comes from Ireland and is now living in Brisbane. He entered the ring with green trunks, green gloves and rosary beads around his neck. In the various interviews before the fight, he was gentlemanly and respectful, and without any of the indulgent trash talking that so often comes from big-time boxers.

Tommy Browne was introduced as coming from Camden, NSW, Australia. Up until the present, Tommy had 51 fights for 42 wins and 2 draws. His dad was near bye once again. The fight was won by Hogan in a fair contest but Browne proved to be a worthy and formidable opponent.

After the fight, and at the age of 38, Browne brought down the curtain on his career. He announced publicly that this was his last fight. And as he stepped out of the ring, he was greeted by a loving wife.

Tommy had a brother, Davey, who was also an accomplished boxer. Just over six years ago, Davey Browne died as a result of a fight in the ring at Ingleburn RSL at only 28 years of age. After being knocked out just before the end of the final round, he died three days later. The boxing fraternity across Sydney and across the nation was in mourning. Browne had been a highly successful boxer, losing only one fight up until that time.

The funeral was conducted in our own parish church, St Pauls. It was filled to capacity. Towards the end of the service, there were three deeply moving eulogies. Davey's dad spoke for just a few moments, and then his brother, also for just a few minutes. They were all about a dad's love for his son, and a big brother's love for his little brother.

Third and finally, Amy, wife of Davey spoke in a soft voice with a tenderness and gentleness that touched the soul of every person who was at that funeral. Like her husband, Amy was committed to physical fitness. She had the face of an angel. And as the feelings of her broken heart became so very apparent, everyone who was present began to understand a little more about the depth of love and affection that had been shared between her and her husband.

There were some tough men in church that day, but during that eulogy every person either had a few tears in their eyes or were doing their very best to hold them back.

Life, of course, goes on. The grief remains forever but the responsibilities of life invariably demand that we find a way to readjust. For those who lose loved ones in tragedy, that readjustment process will take at least a few years before it even begins to start. But somehow, after a few years of being consumed in grief, we invariably find an inner strength to move into a new stage of life. But the sorrow remains and always will. It is the cost of love.

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During such times, the Sacred Scriptures and our Catholic Spirituality are so extraordinarily helpful. In the Gospel of Matthew (11:28) Jesus teaches:

*“Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, for my yoke is easy and my burden light”*

Jesus here, is offering an invitation to all who are broken hearted to allow Our Lord’s healing grace to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. The Church refers to this particular text as ‘The gentle mastery of Christ’.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September each year the Church gives to the world the most holy and solemn commemoration of Our Lady of Sorrows in which our hearts and minds are turned towards Mary’s presence at the foot of the cross.

As her Son hung dying, Mary’s love and sorrow were so completely and so totally united; indeed, in a manner that had never before happened in the history of humankind. Mary, powerless at that moment with a heart filled with sorrow, loved the dying Jesus as her Son and as her God. This was Mary’s spiritual martyrdom.

Whenever grief is suffered so deeply, the Church invites us to turn to the Lord and to a loving community for prayerful support. We are assisted in holding onto the hope that at a time known only to our Heavenly Father we will be reunited in God’s Kingdom of truth, beauty, life and love where every tear will be wiped away. We will enjoy forever a perpetual blessedness.

Our hearts reach out to all the families in our beautiful parishes of Camden and The Oaks who are experiencing sorrow over the loss of deeply cherished family and friends. And prayerful best wishes are again extended to members of the Browne family. Also wishing Tommy all the best in life after the ring.

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## **The Oaks and Oakdale**

Important meeting scheduled for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6:00 PM. All invited.

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## **Christmas Cards**

Gratitude is extended to all the parishioners who purchased Christmas cards last week. Always important to be supportive of such appeals. Proceeds used to support the Church’s missionary work in India among people who can benefit so considerably. Many thanks.

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## **“No Shows”**

The problem persists with a small number of parishioners making a booking earlier in the week but not arriving for Mass. Please be considerate of your fellow parishioners who might be excluded from a particular Mass that has been fully booked only to be later informed that they could have attended because of the “no shows”.

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## Schedule this Weekend ~ 20/21<sup>st</sup> November ~ for the Sacred Ceremonies

|                                     |            |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November: | 9:00 AM    | Mass has been <b>cancelled</b> because of Confirmations. Apologies to our regulars |
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November: | 10 AM      | <b>Confirmation</b> Ceremony with Bishop Brian                                     |
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November: | 12:00 Noon | <b>Confirmation</b> Ceremony with Bishop Brian                                     |
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November: | 2:00 PM    | <b>FHC</b> with Bishop Brian and concelebrants.                                    |
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November: | 4:00 PM    | <b>FHC</b> with Father Michael                                                     |
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November: | 6:00 PM    | <b>FHC</b> with Father Michael                                                     |
| Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November: | 5:00 PM    | <b>Parish Mass</b> at Oakdale with Camden parishioners welcome (Father Victor)     |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 7:30 AM    | <b>Parish Mass</b> at Camden (Father Victor)                                       |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 9:00 AM    | <b>Parish Mass</b> at Camden (Father Michael)                                      |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 9:00 AM    | <b>Parish Mass</b> at The Oaks (Father Victor)<br>With one First Holy Communicant  |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 10:30 AM   | <b>FHC</b> with Father Michael                                                     |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 12:30 PM   | <b>FHC</b> with Father Michael                                                     |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 2:30 PM    | <b>FHC</b> with Father Michael                                                     |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November    | 5:00 PM    | <b>Parish Mass</b> at Camden (Father Victor)                                       |



### Little anecdote about a FHC reception

Got a true story from about 10 days ago. The manager of a local restaurant rings the parish office and asks the parish to notify all the families of the days and times of the FHC Masses as soon as possible. Turned out that the manager of the restaurant had just discovered that one mum in the FHC programme had made a double booking to hedge against the various possibilities. Manager wasn't altogether happy and not receiving too much cooperation. She didn't reveal the name of the family so that will forever remain a mystery.

### Patronal Feast this Week

**22 November:**                      **Cecelia, Virgin and Martyr, Memoria**

The veneration of Saint Cecilia in whose honour a basilica was erected at Rome in the fifth century, has extended far and wide because of the Passion of St Cecilia which presented her as a perfect example of Christian womanhood who preserved her virginity and suffered martyrdom for the love of Christ. She is honoured as the patroness of ecclesiastical music.

**24 November: Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and companions, martyrs**

Andrew Dung-Lac, a Catholic convert ordained to the priesthood, was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam **between 1820 and 1862**. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951



**Sacrament of Penance Programme for Children 2021/2022**

Families with children who have been baptised and who are in Year 2 at school or higher are welcome to collect a timeline next week after any of the Masses. Enrolment into the programme requires motivation, commitment, and belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church. A humility of heart and an openness to personal conversion are highly desirable.

Parents and carers are very much required to bring their children to Mass for the duration of the programme, acknowledging that this is an essential element in the process of preparation. This commitment might require sacrifice but it won't cause any suffering.

Over the years it has been observable that the value of the penance programme to the candidates is somewhat diminished whenever parents and carers have been self-righteous and self-absorbed. Please only enrol children if open to learning, willing to make personal sacrifice and keen to embrace a positive attitude. Spiritual laziness and negativity are seriously harmful.

Highly accomplished clinical psychologist, Scott Peck, contends that the very antithesis of love is not hate but laziness.

The penance programme will offer to families a wonderful opportunity for adults and children to share the faith. Besides the books, 'Help Pages' are provided to the parents and carers to empower them for this special time. The experience of personal confession and possible conversion should, therefore, be overwhelmingly positive.

The programme begins next week ~ the First Sunday of Advent ~ 27/28 November at weekend Masses. All are welcome but not on their own terms. The programme contains serious requirements. Parents and carers should be trusting of the clergy who, as in the case of Father Michael, has had over three decades of practical experience. Thanks in anticipation.



## First Sunday of Advent 27/28 November

Please note that because of the easing of social distancing requirements, it's now possible for our churches to have present many more people during the sacred ceremonies. Accordingly, the traditional Mass timetable will return. Demand could be greater than the permitted number of 280 for the evening Saturday Vigil at Camden but, otherwise, the Covid capacity should be large enough to accommodate demand at all other Masses. The situation will be assessed on a weekly basis. To preserve good order, bookings are still required.

### Saturday

### Celebrant

### Musician/Vocalists

|         |         |                |     |
|---------|---------|----------------|-----|
| Camden  | 9:00 AM | Father Victor  | TBA |
| Camden  | 5:00 PM | Father Michael | TBA |
| Oakdale | 5:00 PM | Father Victor  | TBA |

### Sunday

|          |          |                |     |
|----------|----------|----------------|-----|
| The Oaks | 9:00 AM  | Father Victor  | TBA |
| Camden   | 8:00 AM  | Father Michael | TBA |
| Camden   | 10:00 AM | Father Michael | TBA |
| Camden   | 5:00 PM  | Father Victor  | TBA |

### Kind Regards

Father Michael

## *From The Diocese ~ Get Connected*

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 to stay informed and connected is to invite the faithful 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.