

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

Rev. Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

Mrs Nicky Rodrigues and Mrs. Nancy Miletic, Parish Secretaries (Wed, Thurs, & Fri.)

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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. Phone 9580 6588

29th November, 2020 – First Sunday of Advent

THE CHRIST OF HISTORY: Christ did not speak to his audiences merely in abstractions. He illustrated his teaching in concrete pictures. He has left us unforgettable imagery taken from the lives and setting of the people amongst whom he lived. They are dramatic representations of actual events or scenes, and since he lived in an agricultural society, they took on a pastoral character. He wanted to show that the pageant of nature has an under shadow of reality, that is a pointer to an unseen presence and power. Christ ransacked nature for illustrations of this unseen world. He called it the kingdom of Heaven; a kingdom which in one sense people would be able to see, but in another would be hidden, since the force within it would neither be seen nor felt. It would be a kingdom which would be seen in all its glory by the faithful after death and at the second coming of Christ. Today's Gospel urges us to keep watching because we do not know the day or the hour when these will happen.

Christ's first coming among us was a prelude to a second coming when the history of Christ and humanity will come to an end with his appearance in glory. In Advent particularly the Church thinks of this evolutionary world process culminating in an epiphany of glory. Then Christ's conquest will be complete; then he will *subject all things under his feet*. Advent for us is a time of renewal – to taking stock of our lives; of looking forward, not only to the coming of Christ at Christmas with his blessings, but also to that coming in our own lives after death and at the last day when he will appear to us in visible splendour. The last chapter of world history will be for the friends of Christ a moment of tremendous happiness. They will see how the purpose of history has been fulfilled in Christ and will also see the part they have played in furthering this purpose.

Masses and Prayers: Roger McCunnie, recently deceased: All the Holy Souls we have in remembrance during the Month of November.

November is the Month of the Holy Souls: During November, I am offering all my Masses for your deceased relatives and friends.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Congratulations to the children of the Parish who were confirmed this weekend. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers. Special thanks to Mrs. Sandra Green, our Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator and her helpers.

Sacrament Program for 2021: Please visit the Parish website:
www.stjosephschurch.com.au

Parish Visitation: Bishop Terry Brady will be visiting the Parish on the weekend 4th, 5th, and 6th December. He will celebrate all the weekend Masses on the 5th and 6th December and meet the parishioners.

Peakhurst Men's Walk and Talk

With a belief that its members should "never walk alone", Peakhurst's Men's Walk and Talk group is an opportunity for men, aged 15 and over, to take an hour for themselves to walk with the company of other blokes. Focussed on improving physical and mental health and providing a great opportunity to meet new people, this is a weekly, no-cost event.

Starting on Thursday 26 November from Our Lady of Fatima Church (corner of Forest Road and Isaac Street Peakhurst), the walk will take place around the newly refurbished lower Gannons Park with final laps around the sports fields.

Just turn up between 5.30pm and 5.45pm for a 6.00pm start on Thursdays. Come alone or bring a friend. This is a dog-free activity so please leave Rover at home. Parking is available in the church carpark. Check out the Facebook page Peakhurst Men's Walk and Talk for more information.

Parish 2020 – A Call for Renewal On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12th December, 2020, Archbishop Anthony Fisher will launch our new Archdiocesan Mission Plan *Go Make Disciples* which, with the assistance of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, seeks to inspire and support the renewal of our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ for the faithful and beyond.

In the weeks and months ahead we will all join together in prayer, calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God's love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Imposition of restrictions concerning Churches. From Friday, 23rd October, restrictions on Church attendance have been eased. There is now a limit of 300 people who can attend Mass, provided the 4 square metre per person rule is adhered to. However, our Church will hold at least forty persons according to this regulation, any overflow would have to be accommodated in the Marion Hall. There is still the requirement of taking names and contact details of attendees.

The Government has recommended the wearing of face masks when people are in crowded places, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, public transport, and *places of worship*. This is not mandatory, but strongly recommended given the length of time people are together at Mass.

Parishioners who elect to attend Mass during the pandemic should consider the safety of other parishioners by staying away if they are unwell, and if so, getting tested and self-isolating while awaiting the results. It is also advisable that parishioners only attend Mass in their own parish and not move from parish to parish.

Please note, with the social distancing rule, only a maximum of fifty persons can be accommodated in the Church.

Confessions are now available before the 5 pm Vigil Mass (4 pm to 4.45 pm).



CCareline: helping Sydney families with relationships, parenting, ageing services, disability, addictions and mental health concerns.
connect@catholiccare.org

PLANNED GIVING: Your contribution to the 2nd collection goes towards the running and upkeep of our parish, and 30% of what you donate is eligible for a tax deduction.

TAX RECEIPTS for 2019-2020 are now available, if you wish to receive a tax receipt please email: oatleycc@bigpond.net.au

New Contributors: Please refer to the planned giving form, which can be accessed on the website under **DONATIONS**, if you wish to become part of our regularly giving programme at St Joseph's Parish Oatley. Upon completion of the form please email to oatleycc@bigpond.net.au

Alternatively, if you wish to donate on an ad hoc basis to the Church Account (Second Collection), there is a Bpoint facility below on this website under "Donations" on the menu. Please follow the links.

Envelope packs are available in the Church foyer to be picked up after Mass if you have not done so yet.

Thank you for your contributing to St. Joseph's Parish. I am very appreciative of your ongoing generosity and commitment to support our Parish in achieving its Pastoral Mission and meeting ongoing expenses. Fr. Paul.

Sunday Mass

29th November 2020 – First Sunday of Advent

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Let us pray.

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (Refer to your Sunday Missal or Liturgy Sheet)

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us call upon the name of God,
who faithfully acts on behalf of those who wait in hope.*

1. That the Church may be fully engaged in the task Christ has entrusted to her and be found awake and alert for the coming of the Lord. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That the leaders of nations may turn their hands from violence and iniquity and embrace instead the ways of righteousness and peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That hardened hearts may be softened, and straying steps guided home by the touch of God's hand and the love of Christians. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. For our brothers and sisters confirmed today, that the Spirit of right judgement and courage may strengthen them in the years ahead. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That as we begin the new Liturgical year cycle, may the future bring a new awakening in our parish, and a new thrust of evangelization in the Archdiocese. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That we might live in peaceful times, be delivered from all disease, affliction, anger, danger, and distress. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That the departed may rejoice as they are called into fellowship with Christ by the God who is faithful. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
8. That the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the faithful handmaid of the Lord, may give us confidence to joyfully ponder God's power and goodness. **HAIL MARY.**

Hear our prayers, loving Father, as we prepare for the return of your Son, by hearing his word, casting away the works of darkness to put on the armour of light, and to offer his sacrifice. We ask this, through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you. Health of the sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, our Salvation, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the Joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Our Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be etc.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May he let his face shine upon us
and show his mercy towards us.

May he turn his countenance towards us
and give us his peace