

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

Rev. Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

Mrs. Nancy Miletic – Operations Manager (Tues & Wed)

‘Phone 9580 1864, Email: oatleycc@bigpond.net.au

Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. ‘Phone 9580 6588

St. Joseph's Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm **Sunday:** 8 am and 10 am

Weekday Masses: at 8 am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

Thursday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction from 11 am and
Mass at 12 md

Public Holidays: 9 am only

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

WELCOME BACK

St Joseph's Church is opened from 7 am to 6 pm daily, and the usual Mass timetable as above apply. Will look forward to seeing everyone at Mass.

12th December 2021 – Third Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Deceased: Michael Milgate, Emilia Kolesnyk, Corinne Spruce, Immacolata Tesoriero, Lucia Tesoriero, Max Rowley, Judith Sinclair, Father William Clair Malone, anniversaries.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2021 AT ST JOSEPH'S AT OATLEY: Christmas Eve Friday 24th December: 5pm, 7pm (Children's Mass, but all welcome, carols from 6.30 pm) in the Church, 9.30pm Mass (carols at 9.00pm). **NO MIDNIGHT MASS.** **Christmas Day, Saturday 25th December:** 7 am 10 am. **Sunday (Feast of the Holy Family):** 8am and 10 am. **Monday (St. John the Evangelist):** 9 am only. **Tuesday (Feast of the Holy Innocents):** 9 am only.

WHAT MUST WE DO? We live in a very complex society very different from that in which John the Baptist lived. It is very easy for a person, if one is not very careful, to lose their spiritual way amid the dark jungle of opinions and teaching with which one is constantly assailed. The mass-media can both enlighten and darken the human mind. John told those who asked him *What must we do?* That they must not injure others for personal gain and that

they must go out of their way to help others even though this involves self-sacrifice. They must be, in other words, people of principle and charitable. He told them that they must follow their profession whether it be tax-gatherer, soldier, etc., with integrity, and live, not as isolated units, but as members of a community, conscious of its needs.

These simple principles hold today just as much as they held two thousand years ago. It is indeed true that all kinds of views about life come from the television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media, etc., many of them dangerous to one's spiritual health. But if one keeps in mind the two simple principles that John gave in today's Gospel, they will help towards keeping one's mind clear on the true reason for existence and hence the way one should live. But we cannot do this completely on our own. John tells us where to look for help. To the one *who is mightier than I*. He is the one who said of himself *I am the Way*; those who follow him do not walk in darkness. He is the one who has baptised us, not as John did, with water alone, but with water and *with the Holy Spirit and with fire*. The Gospel tells us that John *with many exhortations preached the good news to the people*. The joy of expectation which his listeners must have experienced is ours also. For Christ, though he is in our midst, still comes to us in many ways, he comes in the Eucharist and will come with his special graces at Christmas.

THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA

This begins on the 17th December. At this point the Advent proclamation of the coming of the kingdom by the Prophets and John the Baptist gives way to the Christmas story in which the impending birth of Saviour and the Blessed Virgin Mary take centre stage. These days serve to prepare us more directly for Our Lord's birth. During this time it is customary to erect the Christmas crib, to decorate the tree and to sing Christmas Carols.

THE O ANTIPHONS

These are also known as the greater Antiphons. In the Roman rite they are sung with the Alleluia as the verse before the Gospel on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas (17th December to 23rd). Each antiphon begins with the interjection "O". During the season of Advent the Old Testament readings announce the coming of the Messiah, and the closer the feast of Christmas approaches, the more the liturgy accentuates the call of the Saviour with the cry "Come".

The seven antiphons: O Sapientia (Wisdom), O Adonai (the Lawgiver), O Radix Jesse (tree of Jesse), O Clavis David (Key of David), O Oriens Splendor (Dayspring from on high), O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations), O Emmanuel (God with us); in verse order form an acrostic from the initials of each invocation "ERO CRAS" (tomorrow I shall be there). This

is the Lord's response to those who have faithfully prepared for His coming during the season of Advent through prayer and penitence.

A metrical version of the "O" antiphons is the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY: Next Sunday there will be collection for the Charitable Works Fund. Please take a Charitable Works Envelope home with you and return it with your donation next Sunday. Envelopes are available on the table in the foyer.

The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses: You can access this on YouTube by following this link:

bit.ly/stjoatley OR



Mass will also be streamed on Thursdays at 12 md for the teachers and children of St. Joseph's School.

The Children's liturgy of the word for this Sunday can be access by clicking on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ECt75jwdNDUv6iH3XOThKCMUfFLbsSuBUr4E7A8zYsc/present?slide=id.gee6f26b3d6_0_58

Revised Sacrament Program 2021/2022 for St Joseph's Parish Oatley

Dear Parents and Carers, unfortunately, our Sacramental Program will be suspended for the remainder of 2021. Specific dates for the 2022 Program will be finalised shortly; however, the proposed program for next year is as follows:

- **Reconciliation 2021 Catchup:** Term 1, 2022
- **Confirmation 2021 Catchup & Confirmation 2022:** Term 2, 2022. Our parish will combine the preparation for both groups from 2021 and 2022. It is with great pleasure I advise; Bishop Anthony Fisher has announced that our region will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral in June 2022.
- **First Holy Communion 2022:** Term 3, 2022
- **Reconciliation 2022:** Term 4, 2022

The Parish is also looking for parishioner(s) who are interested in running our Sacramental Program from 2023 onwards. If you have any questions about the program or getting involved in this very special and rewarding ministry, please reach out to our current coordinator Sandra Green at sandragreen@optusnet.com.au. Training will be provided.
Fr Paul

Sacramental Program for 2021/22: Please visit the Parish website:
www.stjosephschurch.com.au

SRE classes in public schools are postponed for the rest of the year. However, SRE Learning from Home lessons are available.

Catholic SRE Learning from Home materials can be accessed by clicking on the following link:
<https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>

New Learning from Home lessons have been uploaded and are available for parents to access across NSW. These include user-friendly Click & Learn PowerPoints and home activity sheets.

The NSW Department of Education will also advise schools to inform families of the availability of these resources.

CHURCH RE-OPENING

So it is with great excitement that we can let you know that our church is open for weekday Masses and Sunday Masses at 5pm (Saturday Vigil), 8am and 10am, Sundays. We look forward to warmly welcoming everyone back to Mass.

Currently the two- square metre rule applies, except for members of the same household and face masks are still mandatory as well as registering your attendance. There is a maximum limit of 60 people in the church for each Mass. To help with numbers, we will also be opening Marion Hall for the Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sunday Mass. People there will be able to view the livestreamed Mass and receive Holy Communion. This venue is limited to 30 people.

When you arrive for Mass at the Church or the Hall, you will also need to use the QR code OR use the 'pen and paper' system for official registration. This is the NSW Government compliance requirement.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Mass and we will be doing all that is reasonably possible to keep everyone safe who attends Mass. There will be mask-wearing, good ventilation, hand sanitiser available, the enforcing of social distancing and cleaning of the church between Masses. For regular updates on the current restrictions in the Church please refer to: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions>

Live streaming

The Vigil Mass will continue to be live streamed on YouTube, and if you are unable to attend Mass physically, you are encouraged to connect prayerfully to this medium. The streaming will begin at 5pm on Saturday and can be accessed at any time after the Mass has concluded via [bit. /stjoatley](https://bit.ly/stjoatley) Or



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.

New Contributors: If you wish to become part of our regularly giving programme at St Joseph's Parish Oatley, please fill in the planned giving form, which can be accessed by opening the attached hyperlink <https://www.stjosephschurch.com.au/donations>.

Click on the button planned giving program to access and fill out form. Otherwise, you may obtain the form from the church foyer or contact the parish office for the application.

Please email the form to oatleycc@bigpond.net.au or drop it in to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can post it to: St Joseph's Parish, 21C Frederick St, Oatley NSW 2223.

If you wish to donate to the Church Account (Second Collection) please scan the encryption below, with your mobile phone. This automatically directs you to the parish's Bpoint facility. Please follow the links. If you do not wish to make an internet or online payment, please email the office oatleycc@bigpond.net.au or contact 9580 1864.



TAX RECEIPTS for 2020-2021 are available. If you wish to receive an emailed tax receipt, please email the parish office. Once again, we would like to thank all who have kindly contributed to our parish at St Joseph's Oatley.

Thank you for 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.



The St. Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal will be on the 20th November. We are asking for vouchers for adults and children. Please take a tag off the Christmas tree and then place it on the plate at your designated time you come to Mass. Please put it in an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul. If you are not yet coming to Mass, you can also donate by clicking the GIVE NOW icon above.

 **CCareline 131819**
CatholicCare.org

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