

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223 Rev Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

Mrs Nicky Rodrigues – Parish Secretary (Thurs & Fridays)

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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au **Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley**

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal Phone: 9580 6588

Schedule of Masses		Baptisms	By appointment (usually Sunday, 11am)
Saturday	5 pm (Vigil for Sunday)	Confessions	Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Sunday	8 am, 10 am		
Monday	8 am (Rosary 7.45)		
Tuesday	8 am (Rosary 7.45)		
Wednesday	8 am (Rosary 7.45)		
Thursday	12 Noon (Rosary 11.45)		
Friday	8am (Rosary 7.45)		
Saturday	8am (Rosary 7.45)		

26th January, 2020 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Australia day

Masses and Prayers : Brian McCudden (rec. dec), Daniel Andreallo (rec dec) Isabella Convento (rec dec), John McHart (ann.29/1), Ellen Munro (ann.31/1) Mary Stephenson (ann.28/1), Betty Chapman (ann.31/1), Marjorie Saunders (27/1), Theresa Washington (ann.26/1), Joseph Gatt (ann.), Maxwell Charles Hobbs (ann.25/1), **dec members of CWL and those who are sick especially Courtney Leiba.**

THE GREAT LIGHT. All the phenomena of nature, besides having their inherent value, are also pointers to deeper unseen realities. Light and darkness are examples of this. Today's Gospel, quoting the words of Isaiah, speaks of Christ as a great light. The word light here can stand for either truth of goodness. The word darkness - for evil, ignorance or lack of understanding. Isaiah says "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light". Christ's coming dispelled so much of men's ignorance of God and his ways. He came to show that in this world guile and force are not the only keys to the beatitude of success. He made clear the machination of evil powers and spread the radiance of his goodness among men.

People throughout the ages have been fascinated by the Light of Christ, the experience of innumerable converts to Christianity are a proof of it. Christ began his preaching by making converts. In the Gospel we see an example of the way in which Light stole into people's lives and transformed them. Christ came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and revealed not only his presence, but the power of his personality to those fishing there. His light shining on them gave a depth of meaning to what they were doing so that their trade as fishermen took on a completely new significance. The fish became people, the fishing tackle the means of salvation and the sea became the world. Their very desire to catch fish was transformed into an enthusiasm to catch people. For Christ had so illumined their surroundings that they became entranced by his invitation and left their fishing to become fishers of humanity. Little did they realise at the time what this would mean for them, that they were take part in a gigantic exercise of remaking a world which had gone wrong. What this involved in pain, struggle, tribulation and agonising death would only be accepted once they realised the full power of Christ in their lives.

AUSTRALIA DAY: Today is Australia Day (26th January). All over Australia (and perhaps Australians overseas), we will celebrate our National Day. As Australians, we identify as a Nation and acknowledge the various cultures that make up the fabric of our society, including the contribution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who came and settled this

country first. There is no better way to celebrate our special day than our attendance at Mass to pray for this great Nation of ours, and to ask God's continual blessing on all its people. We are enriched by our diversity of backgrounds and cultures, but strengthened by our national identity and unity. **God bless Australia!** Our Special Australia Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 am this Sunday.

Collection at all Masses this weekend (Australia Day) for the St Vincent De Paul bushfire appeal. Our local St Vincent de Paul Society Conference will be coordinating the appeal and making envelopes available over the Australia Day weekend.

Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes: Mass and Blessing of the Sick will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, on Sunday the 9 February 2020 (behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Earlwood), entrance via St. James Avenue, Earlwood, commencing with recitation of the Rosary at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass and the Blessing of the Sick at 3:00 p.m. The Principal celebrant will be The Reverend Fr Brian Lucas. Parking is available in the nearby Council Car Park.

New Catechists Required in 2020: Up to 3 new Catechists are required for this year. Being a catechist is very rewarding. If you would like to join our friendly and committed team of catechists in bringing the "Good News" to Catholic students in the three local State primary schools and are available for a 30 minute class on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning, please contact Fr Paul (9580 1864) or Mike Cummins (0413 586870 or cummism@optusnet.com.au). Free training and resources are provided.

Collections & Rosters

1st \$755		2nd: \$392		Envelopes \$1564	
Money Counters Roster		Tues 28 Jan George and Kathy Novak			
		Tues 4 Feb Brian & Marcia Smith			
Masses	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens	
Sat 25 Jan 5pm	Glenn McLachlan	Brian and Marcia Smith	Luca Lachlan H	Rafe Kowron	
Sun 26 Jan 8am	Rob Dimeo	Jean Devine	No Servers	Mario Cuenca	
Sun 26 10am	Joe Shakkal	Audrey & Sandra Green	Felicity & Alana G	Lewis Degabriele	
Sat 01 Feb 5pm	Danny Clark	Caroline Dimeo	TBA	Richard McMillan	
Sun 2 Feb 8am	George Lazar	Damian Callinan	TBA	Mark Shad	
Sun 2 Feb 10am	Glenn McLachlan	Francis D'Silva	TBA	David Lee	
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society		
Sun 26 Jan	School Holidays	Marcia Smith	Marcia Smith		
Sun 2 Feb	Angela Nadile	Lewis De Gabriele	Susan Canham Angela Nadile		