

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)

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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: 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

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

8th January 2023 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses for the Deceased: Amedeo Alvaro, Margaret Byrnes, recently deceased; Margaret Pell, Shirley Quinlan, Margaret Pullen, George Kent, Doris Attard, Marica Greguric, Brian McCudden, Father Kevin Muldoon, anniversaries.

Please take time to visit our Christmas Crib in the Church and reflect on the greatest gift we have received – God made man.

THE EPIPHANY: The coming of the wise men out of the East in all their Oriental splendour and their rich offerings has always excited Christian imagination. It is an incident full of mystery and mysticism, symbolic of the striving for truth that has been the mainspring of many human endeavours. It is the function of wisdom to seek after truth, and these wise scholars were endowed not only with human learning, but also with that supernatural insight which enabled them to recognise truth itself hidden away in a poor cottage in a distant land.

Scripture, speaking of wisdom, says *It is an infinite treasure to men and they that possess it become the friends of God.* And so it was with these Magi from the East. The shepherds were simple people accustomed to silence and the stars; but all were wise in that true sense of wisdom which is God's gift to humankind. To both were given the great privilege of



kneeling before the king who contained all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge. Against the blackness of the night the Magi saw a star. For them it was no ordinary phenomenon, it was a light illuminating the mystery of a dark past. It was the finger of God pointing out the direction they must take to find the Truth. That star was a new dawn from the Gentiles and when those men set out on their long and difficult journey all the hopes of the Gentiles rode with them. It was a journey across a desert but nothing, neither the perils on the way, nor the flattery a Herod deterred them from their purpose. Their faith was put to constant test, but it held firm to the end. Truth was disguised in poverty – royalty was hidden, yet they were not disillusioned. They bowed down and adored, and the glitter and fragrance of their gifts were the manifestation of the yearning in their hearts.



They saw the child with his mother and they bowed down and worshiped him (Matt 2: 1-12)

Father Paul's Message to the Parishioners of Oatley: As we reflect over the past two years, a time of anxiety and perhaps fear with a pandemic which we have not experience in our lifetime, and a time marked by restrictions on the freedoms which we normally take for granted, and the separation from family members and friends, this New

Year should be a time to strengthen our faith by returning to Mass, and to give us hope and confidence for the future.

2000 years ago, a babe was born in a stable in Bethlehem of Judah. That babe was the Saviour promised by the prophets long ago. Each Christmas we celebrate his birth with great joy as he brings Light, Truth, and hope to a troubled world. Keep safe during the holidays and I wish you the brightest joys that the Nativity of the Lord brings, and the many blessing that flow from his appearing. Fr. Paul.

Father Paul, short break away: I will be away from the parish from Thursday 5th January until Friday, 13th January. Father Hugh Thomas ccsr will be celebrating the Masses over the weekend 7th and 8th January. There will be no daily Masses on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings or from Monday 9th to Friday 13th. **Morning Masses will resume at 8 am on Saturday 14th January.**

MASS READERS : Volunteers are needed to read at the Masses on the weekend. Please contact the office 9580-1864 or email ootleycc@bigpond.net.au if you are able to assist on some weekends.

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**



Thank you to all who have kindly contributed to our parish. If you wish to support your Parish, St Joseph's Oatley, please click on the tab below.

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