

# St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley



PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

Rev. Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

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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.**

**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](https://bit.ly/stjoatley_OR)



# 27th November 2022 – First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

**Masses for the Deceased:** All the Holy Souls, especially the ones most forgotten.

**Holy Souls:** During the month of November (the month of the Holy Souls), I will be offering all my Masses for your deceased relatives and friends.

**The Season of Advent** begins today, 27<sup>th</sup> November, and the Church enters a new liturgical year. Advent basically is a time of preparation for the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, to celebrate Our Lord's first coming among us in the mystery of the Incarnation when He took flesh of the Blessed Virgin Mary and became man. Advent (which takes its name from the Latin *Advenio: to come to, to reach, to arrive at*) is both a spiritual preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas as well as a directing of the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming as he promised at the end of time. In short, the word *expectation* aptly summarizes Advent.

Over the years the Church has encouraged many practices which help us focus on the coming of Christ. In many of our parish Churches we see an Advent wreath with candles representing the four Sundays of Advent. The Children of our primary schools decorate a tree in the parish church with symbols of the antecedents of our Blessed Lord or his genealogy as taken from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. This is often referred to as the Jesse Tree and at Christmas it is decorated with lights and tinsel. Some parishes also encourage Advent home discussion groups for parishioners. The children prepare advent calendars to make down the dates leading up to the 25<sup>th</sup> of December.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> of December the Christmas novena begins and the focus shifts to the Christmas story. The Blessed Virgin Mary, as the expectant mother and model of the Church, exemplifies the desire of the ages, awaiting the coming of the Lord. During this time the Christmas Crib is usually set up in our Church.

Whilst the season of Advent is not specifically a penitential season like Lent, nevertheless, it is a time when we should take the opportunity to reflect on our lives. During the first two Sundays of Advent, we hear the voices of the Prophet Isaiah, and John the Baptist calling us to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. We need to remove the obstacles in our lives which would hinder a full reception of the Lord and to make ourselves ready to meet him. We can do this by a profitable examination of conscience and a worthy confession of our sins in the Sacrament of Penance.

## **THE ADVENT WREATH.**

### **Symbolism of the Wreath:**

**Circle:** Represents the eternity of God and the continuity of the first and second coming of Christ.

**Green foliage:** suggests growth, life and hope.

**Red apples, pomegranates, holly and berries:** suggests the first creation, the forbidden fruit – the fall of our first parents Adam and Eve that merited a Redeemer in Christ who suffered and died for us on the Cross.

**Snow-tipped pinecones:** The winter of our existence in Old Testament times before the coming of the Saviour.

**Pomegranate:** In the middle ages it was often thought that the forbidden fruit eaten by Adam and Eve was a pomegranate. A pomegranate is full a seed which will bring forth new life. On the wreath, this would symbolize death and the hope of resurrection.

**Candles:** God gradually revealing His plan for our salvation throughout human history up to the coming of Our Lord and Saviour. The three mauve candles represent the first, second and fourth Sundays and the pink or rose candle is for the third Sunday.

**The First Candle:** is for the Prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

**The Second Candle:** is for Bethlehem, the city of King David from whence would come forth the promised Messiah.

**The Third Candle:** is for the Shepherds and for all who seek the Lord in humility.

**The Fourth Candle:** is for the Angels who heralded Christ's birth and sang their hymn of joy.

**Confirmation Photos are available:** The photos of Confirmation celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 22 are now available at the Parish. Please contact the presbytery directly on 9580 1864 to arrange collecting of the photos.

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022** is being held this weekend. We are reaching out to our Parish Community to donate and give these families a Christmas that will be blessed with joy and happiness they deserve. There are Christmas items displayed in the foyer for you to purchase, alternatively you may wish to donate money in the Poor, Piety and Catholic Weekly Boxes which also will go towards the Christmas Appeal. The Christmas Tree has gift tags attached asking for vouchers for children, boys and girls of all ages, please put these on the plate at each Mass. Thank You for your support and let this be a Joyous and Blessed Christmas for all. *St Vincent de Paul Society Oatley Conference.*

**PARISH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA:** Please join us on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, at 10.30 am in the Marion Hall. All are welcome.

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

**SINGERS REQUIRED TO FORM A CHRISTMAS CHOIR:** As Christmas is nearly upon us (in four weeks' time), an appeal is made for singers to form a Choir for the 9pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Marion Binns, our Organist at the 10am Mass on Sunday, would like to hear from you if you can help in this regard.

*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.*

