

# 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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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.

# 3rd September 2023 – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Masses for the Deceased:** Gabriela Dzieciol, Paul Zuvic, Thomas Joseph (Tom) Ryan, Maria Beljo, Cliff Baxter, Patricia Johnson, Paul Aloysius Hemsley, Petar Vidović, recently deceased; Janice Scully, Bishop Henry Kennedy, Florence Lindsay, Siasoi (George) Semi, Rev. Eric Burton, Rev. Tom Berkery, Rev. John Lander, Rev. Kevin Starkey, Sadie Mir, anniversaries and Samuel Mir, George and Therese Mir, Norman Mir, and all their deceased family members.

**SUFFERING:** The existence of suffering in the world has puzzled and agonised many people’s minds. It runs like a dark thread through the colourful tapestry of life, and we tend to blame the master artist for weaving the thread into the pattern. Some even go as far as to say that the existence of suffering is a proof that God does not exist. But surely the very opposite is true. He alone can give meaning to suffering. Do away with him and what is one to say to the incurably sick, the old and the lonely, and to those in sorrow from the loss of someone loved? What can one say except “You’ve had it chums – you are unfortunate units in a blind evolutionary movement. You are the drop-outs from the revolving wheel of fortune.”

The sufferer, on the other hand, who accepts God may not be able to see the reason for the suffering but knows there is a good one. The sufferer also knows that good use can be made of the pain, and by prayer, transform it. One can often see this in the demeanour of the returning unmiracled sick from Lourdes, in their peace and fortitude. They have learned to make use of their suffering though they would have been glad if a miracle had delivered them from it. If any man would come after me, said our blessed Lord, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Those are the words of a perfect man who made his way to glory through a cross and death. For the cross is the answer to the mystery of suffering though the cross itself is a mystery. God embracing pain as an expression of infinite love is beyond our capacity for understanding.

But at least we can see that suffering can be a way of love and that love transfigures pain to make it both bearable and valuable. In this way the cross becomes a liberating and purifying force. If we suffer with Christ we shall also rise with him.



**FATHERS' DAY:** Today we honour all fathers, living and deceased. We are grateful for their example and special care for us. May all the fathers in our parish community be blessed on this, their special day.

**FATHER PAUL'S FAREWELL LUNCH-17th of September 2023:**

Thank you to the parishioners who have purchased tickets to Father Paul's farewell lunch. We have reached the attendance limit for the club's auditorium. What a fantastic response! Accordingly, we regret we are unable to sell any further tickets to the farewell. Thank you.



**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:**

Next Sunday, 10th September the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on the boys and girls of the parish who have completed their preparation for the Sacrament over the past three weeks.

**This will take place at two special Masses at 1 pm and 4 pm.** Please keep them in your prayers and encourage them to faithfully practice their faith.

**The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses: You can access this on YouTube by following this link: [bit.ly/stjoatley](https://bit.ly/stjoatley)**



**MORNING TEA INVITATION:** Please join us at our next parish morning tea on Monday the **4<sup>th</sup> of September, at 10.30am** in the Marion Hall. All are welcome.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** We are looking forward to our young parishioners joining in the Children's Liturgy group on Sunday's during the 10am Mass. We are very fortunate to have some volunteers to lead this work where the Children are led through prayer, songs, craft, and readings. Please encourage your children to join the group.

**The Priests' Retirement Foundation** of the Archdiocese of Sydney will be making the appeal at all the Masses next Sunday, 10th September. The Foundation was established to ensure all priests can receive the accommodation, health care and support they need in their retirement. It covers need such as: Convalescence care, Nursing home and hostel care for frail priest, assistance in transitioning to retirement, health insurance, medical and dental expenses, assistance with board and lodging expenses, minor repairs, and maintenance of accommodation. Envelopes are available on the tables in the foyer.

**CURRENT PLANNED GIVING:** Planned Giving Envelopes for the new financial year are now available in the foyer of the Church, please take your set of envelopes.

*Thank you to all who have kindly contributed to our parish. If you wish to support your Parish, St Joseph's Oatley, please pick up a copy of the application form in the Church Foyer and become one of our regular givers. Alternatively, you may wish to go to our website [www.stjosephschurch.com.au](http://www.stjosephschurch.com.au) for a copy, or if you are online click on the tab below.*



**DEFIBRILLATOR:** Please note a defibrillator is installed in the Parish Church Hall.