

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2021 AT ST JOSEPH'S AT OATLEY:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December: 5pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Mass (carols at 9.00pm).

NO MIDNIGHT MASS.

Christmas Day, Saturday 25th December: 8 am and 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.

25th December 2021 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

26th December 2021 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Masses for the Deceased: Margaret Pell, recently deceased; Shirley Quinlan, Margaret Pullen, George Kent, Margaret Corbett, Bishop Geoffrey James Robinson, Father Don Leivesley, Monsignor John Meaney, anniversaries.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB: During the last week of Advent and during the Christmas Season, a feature of our churches is the Christmas Crib. This custom reputedly goes back to St. Francis of Assisi, who is thought of have made the first model of the Crib at Greccio in 1223. The figure of the Child Jesus is placed in the manger during the first Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve, and the figures of the Magi are added on the Feast of The Epiphany (6th January).

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

FEAST OF CHRISTMAS: The feast of Christmas is the celebration of a new age in the history of the world. A child was given to us by whose coming the whole of creation was transformed. Human life took on a completely new dimension from the supernatural power with which the child was to endow it. Death would no longer be an end; it would become a doorway to a new divine adventure without end. For Christ came to give life, and give it abundantly.

Christ was the revelation of God to mankind. It was an astonishing moment in the history of human affairs when, what the Fathers of the Church called *The Abbreviated Word*, came into our world clothed in human flesh and having human powers. This was God expressing himself in a human body, in eyes and mouth and ears and hands and feet for *the same God who bade light shine out of darkness has kindled a light in our hearts whose shining is to make known his glory as he has revealed it in the features of Jesus Christ*. In the Christmas crib is both God and man. Omnipotence making itself weak, immortality being set on death, timelessness having a birthday.

All this is a great mystery. It stems from another mystery, that of love. For God is love. He so loved the world that he sent his own Son into it. Centuries before Isaiah had prophesied *And the glory of the Lord will be revealed*. Christ is that glory. He is the splendour of God's substance. His human love is the gateway to divine love. He said of himself that nobody goes to the Father except through him. God who in the beginning spoke to us through his creation and afterward through his prophets and his word in Scripture. Finally and most clearly he speaks to us through the Word made flesh – full of grace and truth.

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 Christmas should be a time to strengthen our faith 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 this Christmas and I

wish you the brightest joys that the Nativity of the Lord brings, and the many blessing that flow from his appearing for the coming new year. Fr. Paul.

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY: Last Sunday the collection for the Charitable Works Fund was taken up. If you missed out on the Collection, Envelopes and pens are still available on the table in the foyer.

Revised Sacrament Program 2022 for St Joseph's Parish Oatley

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 2022: Please visit the Parish website:
www.stjosephschurch.com.au

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



Church Open

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.

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 good ventilation, hand sanitiser available 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>

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.