

## St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

Rev. Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

Mrs Nicky Rodrigues and Mrs. Nancy Miletic, Parish Secretaries (Wed, Thurs, & Fri.)

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Parish website: [www.stjosephschurch.com.au](http://www.stjosephschurch.com.au)

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. ‘Phone 9580 6588

### 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

**During the Fridays in Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church at 7.30pm. This is a good way to observe our Lenten Journey by Journeying with Our Lord in his passion and cross.**

**GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD:** One of the amazing facts about the tremendous sufferings and death of Our Lord is that it has become for Christians the supreme revelation and proof of God's love. And yet on a human level one would expect the opposite. It would seem to be a complete denial of God's very existence, to say nothing of his love. After all what makes faith difficult are life's cruelties, hatreds, injustices, and all these are concentrated on Calvary. The concentration camps of Nazi Germany and the Gulags of Stalinist Russia filled people with horror and revulsion and yet here it is all on Calvary – the atrocious torture of a Jew with the noblest of personalities. Why then does the Christian not recoil from such happening? Why does he not turn away in disgust and horror and say “If there were a God he would not allow this?” The answer is given in today's Gospel – *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

It is love that draws the Christian to the cross because he knows that love embraced the cross. Christ said *If I be lifted up, I will draw all to myself.* The whole of Scripture is the story of God's communicating love. God spoke out of the darkness of history to his people binding them to himself in a covenant of love and in its pages, he expresses his love in language that is both beautiful and endearing. This shared covenant of love grew closer as history developed until it finally broke down the partition that divided his people from himself by the coming of his Son among them. Christ is the overwhelming proof then of God's love for us all. Christ was the incarnation of a love that was both infinite and eternal. His love went to such lengths that it set the world on fire and its sparks have enkindled flames that have warmed the hearts of all. His death was the supreme giving and sharing of love. Love was lifted up on a cross so that all might be united with that love.

**Masses for the Deceased:** Marcia June Elliott, John Dolan, recently deceased, Anselmo (Tony) Angelotti,

**Congratulations to all the Children of the parish who will made their first Communion last week, and to their parents. Through frequent reception of the Eucharist may their love grow deeper for Jesus, really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Special thanks are due to Ms. Sandra Green, our Sacramental Co-ordinator, and her helpers, who prepared the children for this important milestone in their journey of 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) or



**You can also access it by going to the Archdiocese of Sydney website where there is a list of Churches who stream their Masses each week. Just click on the link for St. Joseph's Parish, Oatley. I apologise that last Sunday's Mass was not able to be streamed due to some difficulty with the YouTube signal.**

**Sacramental Program for 2021:** Please visit the Parish website:

[www.stjosephschurch.com.au](http://www.stjosephschurch.com.au)

**Parish 2020 – A Call for Renewal** On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, Archbishop Anthony Fisher launched our new Archdiocesan Mission Plan *Go Make Disciples* which, with the assistance of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, seeks to inspire and support the renewal of our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ for the faithful and beyond.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will all join together in prayer, calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God's love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. A summary of the Mission Plan is available in the porch of the Church.

**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH:** This year has been designated by Pope Francis as the Year of St. Joseph. This is significant for the Parish as it is under the patronage of St. Joseph. St. Joseph's Feast Day will be celebrated on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and we pray that under his patronage and protection, our Parish will grow and prosper with a resurgence of faith and devotion to the Mass and Sacraments.

**Imposition of restrictions concerning Churches:** From Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, an unlimited number of people can attend Mass, provided that the one person per 2 metre square rule is observed. However, our Church will only hold at least eighty according to this regulation, any overflow would have to be accommodated in the Marion Hall where the Mass can be viewed on the TV monitor. Because of the easing of the restrictions, the Archbishop has lifted the dispensation from our Sunday Mass obligation. *Parishioners are once again obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation when this is reasonably possible.* Those of great age, have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risks of Covid19 are free to remain at home and find another way of keeping the Sabbath holy. There is still the requirement of taking names and contact details of attendees. The use of a QR code is recommended for those with iPhones or smart phones. The NSW Services app would need to be install on your phone to access the code. The first time you use the code, it will ask you to provide your name and contact number. It will then send you a code to enter with your details and the app will then be active. It is then used every time you attend Mass, or when and where you visit other venues that have a QR code registration system in place.

The wearing of masks is no longer mandatory, but strongly recommended where social distancing is not possible. They are, however, still mandatory when travelling on public transport.

Parishioners who elect to attend Mass during the pandemic should consider the safety of other parishioners by staying away if they are unwell, and if so, getting tested and self-isolating while awaiting the results. It is also advisable that parishioners only attend Mass in their own parish and not move from parish to parish.

Confessions are now available before the 5 pm Vigil Mass (4 pm to 4.45 pm).



**Palms Australia**  
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**The need is acute!**

Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They reject degrading dependence. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to [enquire now](#).

Visit [palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au) , call Palms on 02 9560 5333 or email [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)



CCareline: helping Sydney families with relationships, parenting, ageing services, disability, addictions and mental health concerns.  
connect@catholiccare.org

**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.**

**TAX RECEIPTS for 2019-2020** are now available, if you wish to receive a tax receipt please email: [oatleycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:oatleycc@bigpond.net.au)

**New Contributors:** Please refer to the planned giving form, which can be accessed on the website under **DONATIONS**, if you wish to become part of our regularly giving programme at St Joseph's Parish Oatley. Upon completion of the form please email to [oatleycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:oatleycc@bigpond.net.au)

Alternatively, if you wish to donate on an ad hoc basis to the Church Account (Second Collection), there is a Bpoint facility below on this website under "Donations" on the menu. Please follow the links.

Envelope packs are available in the Church foyer to be picked up after Mass if you have not done so yet.

***Thank you for your 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.***

## 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

### THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### Entrance Procession

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

#### Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
Amen.

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Collect**

Let us pray.

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,  
illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD** (Refer to your Sunday Missal or Liturgy Sheet)

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
(LAETARE).**

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us offer our intercessions  
to the God who is rich in mercy.*

1. That the Church, the house of God, may be built up by the challenge of prophetic voices and the fidelity of God's people. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That God, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, may banish deeds of darkness from our society by the light of truth. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That lands made desolate by war and refugees driven from their homes by conflict may come to a Sabbath of healing and a season of peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That the rights of the unborn child in our society will be preserved and championed by those who love and respect life and the dignity of the human person. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That we who are saved by faith may live as children of light, rich in good works, as our way of life in Christ Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That the dead may be raised up and seated with Christ in the glory of the heavenly places. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. For a greater and fervent devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate. **HAIL MARY.**

*Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time and with one  
voice to make our common supplications to you, and you have  
promised that when two or three are gathered together in your Name  
you will grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and  
petitions of your servants, as may be most expedient for them;  
granting us in this world knowledge of your Truth, and in the world  
to come, life everlasting. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
AMEN.*

## **Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you. Health of the sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, our Salvation, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the Joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

## **Our Spiritual Communion**

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be *etc.*

## **Communion Antiphon**

*Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.  
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
to praise the name of the Lord.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,  
illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **BLESSING**

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,  
and in your kindness grant your servants this grace:  
that, abiding in the love of you and our neighbour,  
we may fulfil the whole of your commands.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us all, in the name of the Father, and of Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Let us praise the Lord and glorify him in our lives.* Thanks be to God!

*If you wish to donate to the Church Account (Second Collection) there is a Bpoint facility on this website under “Donations” on the menu. Please follow the links. If you do not wish to make an internet or online payment, please email the Office [oadleycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:oadleycc@bigpond.net.au) or contact 9580 1864.*

