

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:

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

27th March 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Lent
Commonly called *Laetare* Sunday

Laetare Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Lent and is so named from the opening words of the Introit of today's Mass: *Laetare, Jerusalem: et conventum facite, omnes qui diligitis eam...Laetus sum in his, que dicta sunt mihi: in domun Domini ibimus.* (Rejoice, Jerusalem, and gather together all who love her....I was glad when they said to me: let us go to the house of the Lord).

In the Latin Church certain relaxations of the penitential observances of Lent are permitted, such as flowers on the Altar, playing of the Organ, the wearing of rose-coloured vestments instead of violet. Also known as "Refreshment Sunday" when the 40 days fast of lent is relaxed for this day.

In England, this Sunday is Mothering Sunday after the practice in the past of allowing servants an afternoon off to visit their mothers and provide them with a special cake (a fruitcake with layers of almond paste or marzipan –

traditionally called a simnel cake). In Australia, of course, we observe Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

Masses for the Deceased: Monica Hunt, Robyn Hession, Shirley Altham, Marge Graham (died in the floods) recently deceased; Gladys Phillips, James Anderson, Robert Toth, Bertram John Williamson, Pauline Elias, Buyung Elias, Christina Salim, Alexander Arifin, Agnes Arifin, Frederika Striff, Giovanni and Lucia Tesoriero Rosina and Salvatore Trimboli, Ante Cedra, Elias Francis, anniversaries and all the Holy Souls.

CHRISTIAN JOY: Christianity is the most joyful religion in the world. The Gospels are tiding of great joy. The New Testament begins and ends with this note of joy. It opens with the song of the angels when Christ is born in Bethlehem, and it ends with the picture of the multitude which no one can number, singing their song of praise and joy before the throne of God. This theme of joy runs through the whole of the New Testament. Algernon Charles Swinburne, the English poet, critic and playwright, imagines an ancient Roman saying of Christ "Thou hast conquered, O pale Galilean, the world has grown grey with thy breath." One has only to read the Gospel account of Christ to see what a false picture that is. Christ spread joy everywhere he went in his public life using his powers of healing and giving words of consolation.

Today's Gospel sees the Pharisees attacking Jesus saying: *This man receives sinners and eats with them.* Our Lord's reply in effect was that the work he is doing in finding lost men and women and bringing them back to their true life is a joyful work. He gave many instances of this – as joyful as the shepherd who has found a lost sheep or as the woman who has discovered a coin that she lost. And today he gives the most moving parable of all. Many an earthly father would wash his hands of a son who has been so ungrateful as, not only to spend all the money that he was given in riotous living but had lowered himself to living like an animal. Such a father might well have said: "It serves him right. I'm finished with him!" But not so with God the Father. Christ tells us that when such a son returns home in sorrow, not only is he given a warm welcome but there is with it a great joy. This surely is a joy that we all can share. We know that when we sin and perhaps for a while turn our backs on God that we will be received back with joy when we are repentant.

THE SEASON OF LENT: Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others (almsgiving). In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are

days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their *eighteenth* year, until the beginning of their *sixtieth* year. The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their *fourteenth* year. The rationale behind the Church's law is an invitation for us to join ourselves to Jesus in his forty days of self-denial in the desert. As we imitate our Saviour, we confront our own human weakness and remind ourselves of the brevity of life and our need for salvation which only comes through faith and imitation of Christ.

The Pascal precept binds all Catholics to receive Holy Communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. The faithful are also obliged to confess their grave (mortal) sins individually in the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

The practice of almsgiving during Lent is recommended by contribution to Project Compassion. Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are available this Sunday in the foyer of the Church

Stations of the Cross: This beautiful devotion apt for the season of Lent will be conducted in the Church each Friday during Lent at 7 pm. Come and walk the journey in memory of Christ crucified.

Last weekend the St. Vincent de Paul Conference took up a leaving collection after the weekend Masses for the relief fund for flood affected areas in the State. Sue Vit, our Conference President, advises that \$1600 was collected and gives sincere thanks for our generosity. This will help those who are struggling because of the disastrous floods in northern New South Wales.

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



The Children's liturgy of the word for this Sunday can be access by clicking on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PengpSsicAbAxzLrNQLjKNLRuZkZ3sgQIUXyaOY11v0/present?slide=id.gee6f26b3d6_0_58

Sacramental Program for 2022 has been recently updated, please visit the Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au and click on the tab *Sacrament Dates 2022* for further information.

Applications for the ***Sacrament of Confirmation 2021 & 2022*** are now open and will close Sunday 17 April 2022. Please visit the parish website www.stjosephschurch.com.au and click on the tab *Sacramental Dates 2022* for further details. The parent information evening is scheduled for 28 April @ 7.30pm via ZOOM[®]. All families registered will be sent the ZOOM[®] link by email from the sacramental coordinator after applications close

Please note that Parish Confirmations this year will be at St. Mary's Cathedral on the ***7th of August 2022 at 3.30pm*** (St. George's Deanery parishes).

St. Joseph's Primary School

Kindergarten 2023 online enrolments are now open. Access to the online system is via SCS and the school websites. Please lodge applications by 1 April.

[Link to the Enrolment System](#)

Please contact the school office on 9580 6588 or email

enrolments.01783@sydstu.catholic.edu.au if you have any enrolment questions.

Church Open

Our church is open each day for weekday Masses and Sunday Masses at 5pm (Saturday Vigil), 8am and 10am, Sundays. We look forward to seeing everyone at Mass.

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.



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.



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