

# St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley



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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](http://bit.ly/stjoatley) OR



# 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

**Masses for the Deceased:** Veronica Kellert, Paul Compton, Brent Egan, recently deceased; Karen Smith, Sadie and Samuel Mir, Marica Greguric, Doris Attard, anniversaries; George and Therese Mir, Norman Mir and deceased family members.

**Mary, the God Bearer (Theotokos):** It is the sign and measure of Mary's greatness that God should use her as the means by which he took on human flesh. It follows that there is nothing strange that afterwards mother and child should be united in an intimacy which is hard for us to grasp. One could go back to ancient history and see how this intimacy was prophesied. One can read there how a virgin would conceive and bring forth a child, that a flower would spring from the stump of Jesse – how the story of Ruth is a story of her ancestry. In the New Testament we can see how it was at Bethlehem and Nazareth that the union of mother and son was manifested. It was Nazareth that the angel came and told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her with the power of God and that the Holy One would be born of her. It was there too that she understood the obligations of motherhood with its joys and its worries.

As Our Lord grew up he united her with himself in his future work, in the sense that, not only had she given him, the redeemer, to the world but she made an offering of his redemptive work to God, although it involved her in great suffering. Love for him was the spur to all that she did. This love is impossible for us to know fully. If one considers how great a mother's love can be for her child and then think that she is the perfect mother with immeasurable depths of feeling and he the perfect Son who is love personified, we can only get a glimpse of the boundless depths love can go. Every manifestation of her Son's work, his words, he way of life, all were treasured up. St. Luke speaking of them says: *Mary kept all these things pondering them in her heart.* This feast is ours too. We are united with Christ because of his death

and resurrection and so his relationship with her becomes in some ways ours as well. She becomes our Mother.

**Father Paul, short break away:** I will be away from the parish from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January until Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January. Father Hugh Thomas ccsr will be celebrating the Masses over the weekend 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> January. There will be no daily Masses on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings or from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Morning Masses will resume at 8 am on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

This well beloved Christmas song may seem strange to many people but is, in fact, rich in Christian symbolism, and was in fact a metaphor for a bible story. The true twelve days of Christmas varies across some 50 religious denominations, but the Catholic version has the Christmas season starting on December 25 and concluding with the feast of the Epiphany.

Each day represents the celebration of a martyr, saint or a feast connected with Jesus' birth, and it is in memory of the visit of the Three Wise Men that we give presents to each other at Christmas.

During the penal times in England when Catholics were forbidden to practice their faith, the song was used as a secret catechism to teach their children knowledge of the saints and the doctrine of the faith in a secret code:

“On the **first day** of Christmas my true love (God) gave to me, a partridge (Jesus Christ) in a pear tree (perhaps representing the cross).

**Second day:** Two turtle doves (Old and the New Testaments).

**Third day:** Three French hens (gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity).

**Fourth day:** Four Calling birds (the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

**Fifth day:** Five golden rings (the five Books of Moses, the Pentateuch).

**Sixth day:** Six Geese a-laying (six days of creation).

**Seventh day:** Seven Swans a-swimming (seven gifts of the Holy Spirit).

**Eighth day:** Eight Maids a-milking (the eight beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount).

**Ninth day:** Nine Ladies dancing (the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as charity, peace, patience and kindness).

**Tenth day:** Ten Lords a-leaping (the Ten Commandments).

**Eleventh day:** Eleven pipers piping (the eleven apostles).

**Twelfth day:** Twelve drummers drumming (the twelve points of the Apostles Creed).

## The 12 days of Christmas

 <p><b>1 Partridge</b> Jesus Christ</p>	 <p><b>2 Turtle Doves</b> Old &amp; New Testaments</p>	 <p><b>3 French Hens</b> Faith, Hope &amp; Charly</p>	 <p><b>4 Calling Birds</b> The 4 Gospels</p>
 <p><b>5 Golden Rings</b> The Pentateuch</p>	 <p><b>6 geese a laying</b> Days of creation</p>	 <p><b>7 Swans A-swimming</b> 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit, 7 sacraments</p>	 <p><b>8 Maids A-milking</b> The 8 beatitudes</p>
 <p><b>9 Ladies Dancing</b> 9 Fruits of Holy Spirit</p>	 <p><b>10 Lords A-leaping</b> 10 commandments</p>	 <p><b>11 Pipers Piping</b> 11 faithful apostles</p>	 <p><b>12 Drummers Drumming</b> 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed</p>

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Let us give thanks to Almighty God for all the good gifts he has bestowed upon us, and in particular, the gift of our Catholic Faith, and the ability to practice it in freedom.

*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.*

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