

## St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

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Rev. Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

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

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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. ‘Phone 9580 6588

### 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**AUTHORITY:** An Arab proverb has it that a man dies his faults under his armpit, so that when he raises his arm to command, they fall, and are seen by everyone! This is certainly true of many who wield authority. Their commands are a revelation of personal pride or vanity, or even love of tyrannising. There is a good deal in Lord Acton's axiom that *power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely*. This has been proved in many a dictatorship. Christianity believes in the terms of the American Declaration of Independence that *All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*. Where life and liberty are crushed there is bound to be a Christian reaction.

Christ alone has complete authority over people's lives, but he does not act in a dictatorial way. He is no despot. He does, as today's Gospel shows, teach with authority but his teaching is always imbued with love. He did not exercise authority simply out of love for it. *All power is given to me in heaven and on earth*, he said. He had complete authority because of the divine within him. If those in authority would only understand that in the end it comes from God, they would use it with caution and moderation, and exercise it for the benefit of others and not for their own selfish ends. This is the way that parents, for example, should bring up their children. They must exercise an authority of love and justice and understanding. Power should be an instrument of the God of love, then, not only will it not corrupt, but it can be a means of furthering our welfare, prosperity, and happiness. Christ during his life submitted himself to lawful authority. This in itself was an example to us of how we should view authority when it is exercised lawfully.

**Masses for the Deceased:** Fr Isidore Anatharaj Neville Graham, Archbishop Phillip Wilson, Michael John Milgate, Emilia Kolesnyk, recently deceased; Marjorie Mary Saunders, Fr. Andrew Quinn, anniversaries, Ellen Munro (ann.31/1), Janice Anderson (ann.3/2), Marie McGuinness (ann.4/2), Betty Chapman (31/1), John Feely (ann4/2), Fr Stephen Barry Smith,

**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



**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.

**Imposition of restrictions concerning Churches.** From midnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the former restrictions on Church attendance have been re-imposed due to a spike in Covid infections in the Northern Peninsular and other areas in Greater Sydney. There is a limit of 100 people who can attend Mass, provided a 4 square metre per person rule is adhered to. However, our Church will only hold at least forty persons according to this regulation, any overflow would have to be accommodated in the Marion Hall. 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 you 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 Government has now mandated the wearing of face masks when people are in crowded places, such a shopping centres, supermarkets, public transport, and *places of worship*. Anyone not wearing a mask when required will be subject to a \$200 fine.

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).



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.*

## **31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

### **THE INTRODUCTORY RITES**

#### **Entrance Procession**

*Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.*

#### **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.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
Christ, have mercy.	<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>
Lord, have mercy.	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>

### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

## **Collect**

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord our God,  
that we may honour you with all our mind,  
and love everyone in truth of heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

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 ORDINARY  
TIME.**

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us intercede for our own needs  
and the needs of all in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Holy One of God.*

1. That the Church may teach the truth of God with an authority born of faithful witness and loving service. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That the Lord's teaching may rebuke the unclean spirits that torment our world: greed and violence, oppression and despair. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That unmarried people may find happiness in the gift of friendship and fulfillment in the kindness they extend to others. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That the catechists in public schools, and all in parish ministry may be strengthened by our support in their mission of evangelization. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That more of the faithful will respond to Christ's call to "be my faithful witnesses" in becoming catechists to our young people. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That we may heed the Lord who teaches us in this assembly and spread the Lord's name by the sincerity of our witness. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That, with every unclean spirit cast out, the faithful departed, especially those who worked in the catechist ministry, may be led into the presence of the Holy One of God. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
8. That all of us, and especially those engaged in the ministry of evangelization and instructing the young, may be assisted through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom. **HAIL MARY.**

*Loving God, you always remain faithful to your people. Through the power  
of your Spirit, help us to be faithful witnesses to your Word with those we  
encounter. Hear our prayers and grant our petitions. 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**

*Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that through this help to eternal salvation  
true faith may ever increase.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May he let his face shine upon us  
and show his mercy towards us.

May he turn his countenance towards us  
and give us his peace

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 [oaileycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:oaileycc@bigpond.net.au) or contact 9580 1864.*

