

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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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. ‘Phone 9580 6588

25th December 2020 – Christmas Day

GOD'S LOVE STORY: Christmas commemorates the greatest chapter in the story of God's love for humankind. He wrote his story as all love stories are written in gifts. It is an instinct in a lover to overwhelm the loved one with gifts. And this is what God has done. Not only has he filled the world with gifts for us, but his infinite love wanted to give the best gift that even he could give. And so, a child lay in a crib at Bethlehem – the greatest of all God's gifts to humankind. The child, truly God and truly man, lay in a cave amidst poverty in order that we might be enriched by his coming. So tiny he was that he could be encircled by his mother's arms and yet his might reached beyond the heavens. He took on a human heart that was filled with a love that showed itself in its supreme form on the cross on Calvary. Here was a love that he himself confessed that no one could give a greater. So much then was given. A dark world was lit up by his presence; hope dawned to drive away despair and disillusionment.

Christians are never tired of gazing at the scene of the child in the manger though it took place twenty centuries ago. For they know that there is a timelessness about it. That its power was not confined to a particular age; the whole of humankind past and present partook in a sense in what took place at Bethlehem. Its fascination lies in its mystery. We cannot but wonder that we are worth it. Why should God go to such length for us when he gets so little in return? The answer can only be given in terms of his love. After all he created us in his own likeness; that was the beginning of the story of his love and he did not want it to end in tragedy and misery. The child is in the crib because he has come to lead us to the Father; to show us the way through darkness to the eternal light; to give us a means of destroying in ourselves all that keeps us from the Father's kingdom.

Masses and Prayers: Dale Godfrey (dec)

Father Paul's Message to the Parishioners of Oatley: The Covid19 pandemic which has disrupted our lives in many ways during the year has forced us to understand that we are all vulnerable and subject to the whims of nature. Nevertheless, as we reflect on the many ups and downs we have experienced this year, we thank Almighty God for all the good things we have, particularly our health and safety, and for the strength he has given us in our struggles and sorrow. May our faith in the Word made flesh which we celebrate with faith at

Christmas strengthen our hope and bring us joy and peace. I wish all our families and parishioners the brightest joys of the Christmas season, and many blessing for the coming New Year. Fr. Paul

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB: During the last week of Advent and during the Christmas Season, a feature of our churches is the Christmas Crib. The custom reputedly goes back to St. Francis of Assisi, who is thought of having 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 (3rd January).

If you have a Christmas Crib at home, please take time to reflect on the greatest gift we have received – God made man.



Wishing you and your families the brightest joys of Christmas and many blessings for the coming new year.



The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses: You can access this on YouTube by follow this link: bit.ly/stjoatley

CHRISTMAS MASSES: 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve, and the 10 am Mass on Christmas Day will be live-streamed and can be accessed with the following link: bit.ly/stjoatley or



Sacramental Program for 2021: Please visit the Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au

Parish 2020 – A Call for Renewal On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12th 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 Monday 7th December, restrictions on Church attendance have been eased. There is no limit on the number of people who can attend Mass, provided a 2 square metre per person rule is adhered to. However, our Church will hold at least eighty 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 Government has recommended the wearing of face masks when people are in crowded places, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, public transport, and *places of worship*. This is not mandatory, but strongly recommended given the length of time people are together at Mass.

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 131819 CatholicCare.org	CCareline: helping Sydney families with relationships, parenting, ageing services, disability, addictions and mental health concerns. connect@catholiccare.org
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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

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

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.

25th December – Christmas Mass

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*The Lord said to me: You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.*

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.

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.

O God, who have made this most sacred night
radiant with the splendour of the true light,
grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth,
may also delight in his gladness in heaven.
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 CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we celebrate the birth that brings grace and salvation to all, let us place before God our needs and those of the whole world.

1. For the Church here and throughout the world, that our worship and praise may give glory to God, and our witness and ministry promote peace on earth. *Let us pray to the Lord*
2. For peoples of every race and nation, that the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace may encourage a new birth of righteousness and justice. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. For refugees and aliens, for homeless people and unwed mothers, that in them we may see the image of Mary and Joseph, and recognise the face of Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. For family and friends near and far, for the hospitalized and homebound, that the good news of Christmas may be for all who are dear to us the end of doubt and fear, and the dawn of light and joy. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. For this community gathered in faith, that by the grace of Christ's coming among us we may live upright and godly lives, and bear witness to our blessed hope for the Saviour's glorious return. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. For those who have died in Christ, that the Saviour whose appearing they longed for may gladden them with the vision of heaven's glory. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. For all of us gathered at this Christmas Mass, that, like Mary, we may ponder God's word in our hearts and bring forth Christ into the world. **HAIL MARY.**

Listen to our prayers, Almighty God, and grant that as we rejoice in celebrating these mysteries of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we may, by living worthy lives, deserve to attain fellowship with Him. We ask this through the same 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

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
that we, who are gladdened by participation
in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity,
may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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!

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