

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: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction from 11 am and
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 opened from 7 am to 6 pm daily, and the usual Mass timetable as above apply. Will look forward to seeing everyone at Mass.

23rd January 2022 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Deceased: Ron Needs, Father Barry Swift, Carmelo (Charlie) Algozzino, Audrey English, Marjorie Saunders, George Nelson, Fr. Andrew Quinn, anniversaries.

AUSTRALIA DAY

On Wednesday, 26th January 2022, all over Australia (and perhaps Australians overseas), we will celebrate our National Day. As Australians, we identify as a Nation and acknowledge the various cultures that make up the fabric of our society, including the contribution of the Aboriginal people who came and settled this country first. There is no better way to celebrate our special day

than by attending Mass to pray for this great Nation of ours, and to ask God's continual blessing of all its people. We are enriched by our diversity of backgrounds and cultures but strengthened by our national identity and unity. God bless Australia!

A special Mass for Australia Day will be celebrated in the Parish Church at 9 am on Wednesday 26th January (a Public Holiday).

FREEDOM: W.A. Somerset Maugham wrote a fairy tale entitled *Princess September and the Nightingale*. The nightingale used to come and sing to the princess every day. This roused the jealousy of her sisters who suggested that the bird might fly away. So, the princess caught the nightingale and put it in a golden cage. But once the nightingale was caged up and thus unable to be free it could not sing. When the princess says that she will take him out every day, he replies that he cannot sing without freedom. He must enjoy the rice fields and the lake and the willow trees without looking at them through the bars of a cage. "I cannot sing unless I am free", he says "and if I cannot sing, I die." So, the princess gives him his liberty.

Freedom is God's great gift to us but it is a dangerous gift. Christ in today's Gospel quotes the prophet Isaiah about himself saying that one of the reasons for his coming was to set at liberty those who are oppressed. Thus, Christianity became the religion of freedom and an enemy of slavery in any form. Where there is oppression we "cannot sing" and there is lack of love. Love is the keynote of Christianity and love is a liberating power. Love too is the enemy of evil. Our Lord said: *Amen, I say to you that whoever commits sin is the slave of sin*. He certainly came to free us from this form of slavery. He also came to show the value of each individual in the sight of God and that therefore there should be no tyrannizing over him by unjust treatment or insulting his personal dignity.

Today, liberty is often simply another word for permissiveness or licence. But liberty, to be true, must have boundaries. There is no liberty without law. Refusal to obey the laws, for example, governing sex only results in the end in misery and a form of slavery. Christ is the great champion of freedom. He is the "Truth, and the Truth will make us free.

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



Sacramental Program for 2022: Please visit the Parish website:

www.stjosephschurch.com.au

CHURCH OPENING

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

When you arrive for Mass at the Church or the Hall, you will also need to use the QR code OR use the 'pen and paper' system for official registration. This is the NSW Government compliance requirement.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Mass and we will be doing all that is reasonably possible to keep everyone safe who attends Mass. There will be good ventilation, hand sanitiser available and cleaning of the church between Masses. For regular updates on the current restrictions in the Church please refer to:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions>

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 otleycc@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 oadleycc@bigpond.net.au or contact 9580 1864.



TAX RECEIPTS for 2020-2021 are available. If you wish to receive an emailed tax receipt, please email the parish office. Once again, we would like to thank all who have kindly contributed to our parish at St Joseph's Oatley.

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