

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)

During the restrictions, the Sunday Mass will be live streamed on YouTube, and you are encouraged to connect prayerfully to this medium. The streaming will begin at 5pm on Saturday and can be accessed at any time after the Mass has concluded.

You can access the Mass on YouTube by following this link: [bit. /stjoatley](https://bit.ly/stjoatley) Or



3rd October 2021 – Mass for the Opening of the First
Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia

Masses for the Deceased: June Roebuck, recently deceased. Leo and Mary Arena, Alf and Rosaria Mangano, John Bernard McMillan, John Kevin McMillan, Fr. Denis Foley, Fr. Frank Mecham anniversaries.

The Plenary Council



Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ 27 September 2021

Those who gather throughout Australia to consider what 'God is asking of us in Australia at this time' will be listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Next week the Fifth Plenary Council of the Australian Catholic Church will assemble for the first time. Getting to this point has been a long process that began three and a half years ago. We now seem to live in a different country, in a different age. Its planning and initial stages began before the bushfires, before coronavirus, before the restrictions and lockdowns that have been part of our daily lives. It was conceived as a process that would bring people together personally in their local churches and finally in large gatherings. Its final stage come when people cannot gather to celebrate Mass in much of Australia and the members of the Council will meet electronically.

In the face of so much change it is helpful to remind ourselves of what the Council is about and what we might hope for from it. Pastoral councils are held from time to time in the Church to discuss issues of national importance for the Church. This is the first to be held in Australia since 1937. Their structure was regulated at a time when it was conceived as a gathering of Bishops, but it takes place when Pope Francis has pressed for Church governance in which all Catholics are involved. In this Council only Bishops will vote on its

decisions, and clergy and religious form most of the Council members. Despite these limitations, the preparations for the Council tried to involve as many Catholics as possible at parish level, in naming the main issues facing the Church today, giving feedback in the preparation of material for the Council discussions. Lay people from each diocese will be among the members of the Council.

This complex process began with a simple question: ‘What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?’ The question is deliberately broad: it can be asked of the internal life of the Church as it is expressed in our liturgy, teaching, parish and diocesan organisation and decision making. It can also be asked, as Pope Francis has emphasised, about the relationship of the Church to the wider society in our outreach to people who are not Catholic or marginalised by society, and in our contribution to public life and conversation.

At the Council, the members will have the benefit of the feedback from people in its earlier stages. They will be expected to take account not only of what we have said but of the passion with which we have brought to particular issues.

What might we hope that the Council will deliver? Pope Francis has recently spoken much of his own hopes. He is more concerned with good process than with good conclusions. He does not see the Council as a parliamentary meeting in which positions are debated and decided by vote. He sees them as exercises in listening in which all present are taken beyond their initial convictions. People may continue to differ, but they will have recognised deeper truths behind the difference. In this respect we all will be listening for the voice of the Spirit.

That process puts much emphasis on reflective prayer. This does not mean saying more prayers but making more space for reflection on what people have heard and said and on our own inner response. We do not stop at the point of agreement or disagreement but keep listening to what is being said beyond the words and behind our own instinctive response. The Council relies on a process of listening enriched and purified through prayer.

Over the sessions of the Council multiple answers to the simple question with which the process began will emerge and be refined. They shall then need to be received by people like us at the grass roots. It is understandable that many people have been sceptical about the Council. It takes a lot of trust in the Holy Spirit to invest effort and to place hope in such a process. But who better to trust?

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 is in recess during the School Holidays.

Sacramental Program for 2021: Please visit the Parish website:

www.stjosephschurch.com.au

Dear Parents and Carers, it is with regret that I advise, due to the recent COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the NSW government, the balance of our 2021 Sacramental Program for Confirmation and Reconciliation will be suspended. At this stage, no program will be run in Term 3. If the restrictions are lifted, we may run the Confirmation program in Term 4, 2021 (revised dates to be advised) and move the reconciliation program to Term 1, 2022. Please email our sacramental program coordinator Sandra Green on sandragreen@optusnet.com.au should you have any questions. Fr. Paul.

SRE classes in public schools are postponed for the time being. However, SRE Learning from Home lessons are available.

Catholic SRE Learning from Home materials can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>

New Learning from Home lessons have been uploaded this week and are available for parents to access across NSW. These include user-friendly Click & Learn PowerPoints and home activity sheets.

The NSW Department of Education will also advise schools to inform families of the availability of these resources.

Closure of Churches due to the recent spread of the Corona virus.

From Saturday, 26th June 2021, Greater Sydney (which includes the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong, and Shellharbour) went into lockdown. Consequently, the Church has been closed until further notice (refer to recent changes, below).

However, *funerals are permitted* with a limit of 10 attendees, in addition to those essential for the service (celebrant, undertakers, musician/singer, streaming operator).

Weddings are now permitted for small groups: 5 guests only, in addition to those necessary for the liturgy (i.e. the couple, the two witnesses, the celebrant and probably a musician/singer, and photographer).

It seems clear that, because the new Delta strain of Covid virus is so infectious, we are being asked to be even more cautious than during the previous lockdown. "Stay home" means "avoid all unnecessary contact with other people, including family members who live in other households." Those who live in the Liverpool, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Georges River, Fairfield, Cumberland, and Blacktown Local Government areas, are required

to remain in those areas unless they have a valid reason to leave for work (which requires at least one dose of a Covid 19 vaccine and a medical contraindication certificate which must be carried along with the required evidence of exemption to travel).

The Premier has now announced recent changes in relation to the easing of Covid restrictions. The following summarises the key changes and the approach we will take in Sydney Archdiocese, but no doubt further updates will be needed in the coming weeks. Not everything is clear yet!

Firstly, along with other Faith Groups, we are very grateful that, in her Covid Roadmap announcement, the Premier recognised that for people of faith worship is more like an essential service than a recreation. We now eagerly look forward to the opportunity to gather once more to celebrate our faith and give thanks to God. The re-opening of places of worship will be staged in line with the NSW Government Roadmap. These are the details as we presently understand them.

STAGE ONE – WHEN 70% ARE VACCINATED – ESTIMATED DATE 11 OCTOBER

The first stage commences when 70% of eligible people are fully vaccinated – this is expected to be 11 October. Even though we would be entitled on this date to open churches to the vaccinated only, following his recent consultation with us, the Archbishop has decided that **we will patiently wait the estimated two further weeks until we reach 80% fully vaccinated before re-opening our churches to the public**, and conducting public Masses etc.

STAGE TWO – WHEN 80% ARE FULLY VACCINATED – ESTIMATED DATE 25 OCTOBER

At 80% fully vaccinated **we will open our churches and ceremonies to “mixed” congregations** (fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated and yet unvaccinated); **the 4 sqm rule will apply, and masks must be worn indoors**. We will not be required to check a person’s vaccination status. We continue to urge everyone to be vaccinated, and so to reduce their risk of infection. People who are especially vulnerable, who are vaccinated but anxious about mixing with the unvaccinated, or who are unvaccinated and do not want to risk contact with others, are free to remain at home and live-streaming of Masses will continue.

STAGE THREE – WHEN 90% ARE EXPECTED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED – 1 DECEMBER 2021 – “THE NEW NORMAL”

The Government has advised that from 1 December there will be no difference between the Covid safety requirements for all NSW citizens, whether fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or unvaccinated. The key requirement for churches will be the **2sqm rule at all**

indoor religious gatherings, including weddings and funerals. There will be **no limit on the numbers at outdoor events**, and so outdoor Masses will be an option. Covid Safe plans will be required for outdoor events with more than 1,000 people. At weddings, dancing will be permitted, as well as eating and drinking while standing up.

Once we have reached stage three masks will not be required inside a church (though some people may wish to wear a mask for added protection).

During the restrictions, the Sunday Mass will be live streamed on YouTube, and you are encouraged to connect prayerfully to this medium. The streaming will begin at 5pm on Saturday and can be accessed at any time after the Mass has concluded.

Mass will also be streamed on Thursdays at 12 md during school term for the teachers and children of St. Joseph's School who are at School or at home with their parents.

You can access the Mass on YouTube by following this link: [bit. /stjoatley](https://bit.ly/stjoatley) Or



Message from the Parish Priest

It has now been three months that our parish community in Oatley, along with the rest of New South Wales is in hard lockdown. The cases of infections from the Delta strain of the Corona virus are increasing each day, and there have been several deaths either from or with the virus. Viruses can never be totally eradicated and will continue to circulate in the community and infect many people. The solution is protection from the virus. To do this, we have been placed in a strict lockdown to curb the spread of the Corona virus, and isolated from one another. We cannot remain in this situation forever. Since the emergence of the Corona virus at the beginning of last year, effective vaccines have been developed, and, of course, the best protection from any virus is scrupulous hygiene and vaccination. We are fortunate the Corona vaccines (Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna) are now readily available and rolled out. The Premier and her Health advisors are constantly urging us to have the vaccination whenever possible. This will be a passport to resuming a somewhat normal life as before the pandemic and to protect us from further outbreaks. I have been fully vaccinated with Astra Zeneca, and I urge all Parishioners who are eligible to be vaccinated as soon as practicable. Sound health advice says that we have nothing to fear from this, and any risks are far outweighed by the protection the vaccines afford.

We are all going through a very difficult time at present. The lockdowns have caused many people to lose their jobs and their incomes. Children are deprived of normal school attendance and face to face learning. People who live alone lack the company of friends and relatives and, people and families are separated from one another. Our spiritual wellbeing, as a Catholic Community, is centred on the Eucharist, the summit and source of our faith. It is the Eucharist that binds us together as one and nourishes and strengthens us to live our baptismal commitment as the Body of Christ. For some time now, we have been unable to assemble as a Christian Community or have only been allowed to assemble in smaller numbers. It is still uncertain as to when we will be able to come together once more in our parish Church to fully participate in the Liturgy of the Church and to be refreshed with the Body and Blood of our Blessed Lord by our reception of Holy Communion. Nevertheless, we are fortunate that we have the advantage with modern technology to be able to participate in Masses that are live-streamed. When I arranged for this facility to be installed in our parish last year it was at the time when things started opening again, and our congregation was returning to Mass, albeit with reduced numbers. Now, it has proved its worth and we are able to live-stream the Mass every week so you can participate at home. I have also started to live-stream Mass on Thursdays for the benefit of the children at school or at home. This, of course, is not the best solution, but it is the next best thing. Nothing will ever replace actual attendance at Mass with a real and conscious participation, and reception of Holy Communion. As the old saying goes: *Absence makes the heart grow fonder*, we should all take time in our isolation to reflect on the importance of the Mass and Sacraments in our lives and, in our hunger for the Eucharist, long for the time when we can come together again as a vibrant Christian community.

When we can open our Churches again to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments, possibly at the end of October, or sooner, certain rules will still apply, such as, social distancing of 4 square metres, no congregational singing, and check-in procedures for congregants (QR code etc.). There are vaccines readily available, and it would be wise to seek vaccination so that we are all protected against the virus. Otherwise, we will not be able to enjoy the freedoms accorded to the fully vaccinated.

Each day when I say Mass in our empty parish Church, I recall all the faces that usually occupy the pews and I offer the Holy Sacrifice for the wellbeing of all members of our Parish family. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Fr. Paul.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: During the period of lockdown, the Weekly is continuing its publication and is available to read, free of charge, as a digital edition. You can access this by clicking on the following link

[Digital Editions: The Catholic Weekly](#)

Last week in all the parishes of the Archdiocese we had the Appeal for the Charitable Works Fund. During lockdown we have not been able to collect money from parishioners for either the first or second collection, or for special appeals. However, some parishioners have been able to make contributions by using the electronic transfer facility or Bpoint. Some have even called at the presbytery to hand in their planned giving contributions. I would like to thank all parishioners for their support during these troubling times. The parish and the Archdiocese rely on the generous support of all parishioners.

Below is information about the Charitable Works Fund and instructions as to how you may make your contribution.

Charitable Works Fund Parish Appeal 2021

Dear Fellow Parishioner

History repeats itself.

Again we continue to find ourselves in lockdown. Parishes are closed. Access to the sacraments limited. In addition, many continue to suffer from COVID, whether it be loss of life, or loss of livelihood. These are unfortunate times.

However, the Church also has an opportunity to repeat history and shine in midst of crisis.

During the Spanish Flu pandemic, Catholics were at the forefront in supporting the sick and providing resources to those in need.

Today, we have an opportunity to do the same by supporting the parish Charitable Works Fund appeal.

A special message from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP (below) emphasises the importance of this appeal and invites you to support our "Gospel message of love, and its fruits in ministries of mercy".



Please consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$50 to support our ministries. Your donation will assist those suffering with mental illness, mothers facing homelessness and members of our deaf and disabled community.

To donate, please click the donate button below, select the donation amount and enter your parish.



Alternatively, you might like to **download our latest app** to assist with secure and easy donations.

OUR FAITH, OUR WORKS

Download the Our Faith Our Works app

Your one-stop location for Mass and Confession times, spiritual reflections and meditations, podcasts, local Catholic news, the Go Make Disciples mission plan and much more.

To download the app
visit ourfaithourworks.org/app

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

OUR FAITH, OUR WORKS

PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

PRAYER RESOURCES

A few helpful resources to assist your times of prayer.

PRAY

Become a saint by watching and listening to our special curated list from the Archdiocese and beyond.

On behalf of our ministries, thank you for your generous support. Together, let us repeat history, and continue the good works of mercy started in the Gospel.

God bless and stay safe

Michael Mendieta

Director, Development and Fundraising Office
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

MORE FROM OUR CWF MINISTRIES



Answering the Call through the Good Shepherd Seminary

Fr Noel Custodio, a first-year priest, shares about his journey to the priesthood through the Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney.

[READ MORE](#)



Catechism stops for no lockdown

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has taken to their laptops to ensure that Catechists continue to receive critical training to enable them to spread the Word of God to students in public schools.

[READ MORE](#)



Growing in faith with Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

The final month before being plunged into lockdown proved to hold some momentous occasions for members of the Aboriginal Catholic Community.

[READ MORE](#)



Ephpheta Staying Connected

The Ephpheta Centre continues to create meaningful opportunities for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community to connect and grow in their Catholic faith.

[READ MORE](#)



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND
Your *local* charity

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) collects funds to support the charitable and pastoral works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Your generous gift of \$2 or more is tax-deductible.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

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.



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.

3rd October 2021

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*And over all things put on love,
which is the bond of perfection,
and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.*

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 care for your peoples with gentleness
and rule them in love,
endow with a spirit of wisdom
those to whom you have handed on authority to govern,
that your people may be led to know the truth more fully
and to grow in holiness according to your will.
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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: *The Spirit brings news life to the Church. Let us be open to the prompting of the Spirit as we pray for our need and those of the Church.*

- 1 For the Catholic Church in Australia as we begin the First Assembly of the Plenary Council; that the Holy Spirit may inflame the hearts and minds of all so that we may experience a new Pentecost in this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
- 2 For the Plenary Council members who are assembling around Australia for the First Assembly: that their hearts and minds are opened to receive the Holy Spirit in all their conversations and prayer. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
- 3 For our Nation: that this journey of discernment and listening of the Plenary Council becomes a source of wisdom and courage as we move into the future. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
- 4 For those who are suffering: that they will know the compassion and kindness of Jesus by the outreach of all Christians. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
- 5 For this Eucharistic Assembly, whom Jesus is not ashamed to call brothers and sisters: May God's grace sanctify us as we sanctify this day to God's glory. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
- 6 For all those who have gone before us: May their lived example as followers of Jesus Christ be an ever-present memory that fires our own commitment to the Gospel message. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
- 7 For a greater devotion to the Holy Mother of God, Mary, Mother of the Church: May her prayers and those of all the Saints, guide the Church in faith, hope and love. **HAIL MARY.**

PRIEST: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with your loving presence. Make us strong and constant followers of Jesus with a desire to live and proclaim the Gospel message.*

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

*Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.
By the love of Christ we have been brought together.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

May these gifts we have consumed
benefit us, O Lord,
that we may always be aflame with the same Spirit
whom you wondrously poured out on your Apostles.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless us and keep us

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

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

And may Almighty God bless us all, in the name of the Father, and of Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer after Final Blessing

PRAYER OF PETITION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (A prayer used before every session of the Second Vatican Council. This is to be prayed at the beginning of a Plenary Council.)

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name. Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts. Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own and to live it in our lives. Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son. You desire justice for All enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favour. Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true. As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants, Amen

Let us praise the Lord and glorify him in our lives. Thanks be to God.



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