

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)

5th September 2021 – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE DEAF HEAR AND THE DUMB SPEAK: Long ago Isaiah prophesied that: *The eyes of the blind would be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.* Such words have a double meaning at least for us who can understand them. They expressed the joy of the prophet in the thought of the new age that was one day to dawn when the Messiah king would appear. His coming, he implies, would be accompanied by portents and miracles, as indeed it was. For us, if not for the prophet, his words also signified that there would be the dawn of a new vision of faith, and people would hear the word of God spoken to them in human form. "With the coming of Christ, the human race needs no longer be blind and deaf to its true destiny.

In today's Gospel Christ does what Isaiah had prophesied. He unstopped the ears of a deaf man. This he did out of kindness and compassion. But also, since St. John tells us, that his miracles were signs, Christ cured the man not only so that he could hear God's creation, but also that he would hear the word of God and keep it. In this case, Christ did not cure the man immediately. He wanted to drive home the lesson of his power, to show that what he was doing was not only for the benefit of the man's body but also for his heart and soul. It is what he does in Baptism. He makes use of external things, such as water and oil, to heal our souls and help us realise his great power so that we will follow him in spirit and in truth. Our baptism also has its obligations. We are to be other Christs and continue, as far as we are able, to cure those who are deaf to the good news of the Gospel and loosen the tongues of those who do not sing the praises of God. We must, in other words, try to break down the ignorance, prejudice, and other barriers which are set up and which prevent the hearing of the Word of God and its acceptance in peoples' lives.

Masses for the Deceased: Dujo Babic, Paul Bateman, Jim Westcott, recently deceased. Vid Matic, Lorna Davey, Kathleen Rohl, Kevin Graham, Rayma Winifred Papworth, Fr. Eric Burton, Fr. Tom Berkery, Fr. John Lander, Fr. Kevin Starkey, Fr. John Fitzgerald CSSR, Graeme Eugene Mansour, Milena Zuvic, anniversaries.

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



Mrs. Brakel, our School Principal, has produced a Children's liturgy of the word for this Sunday. It can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1hp_Q9zI0UvpkdI6MA4eBCKAoFStpIVbJ_4eyr1ZALdQ/presentation#slide=id.p

You can also access it by going to the Archdiocese of Sydney website where there is a list of Churches who stream their Masses each week. Just click on the link for St. Joseph's Parish, Oatley.

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.

As from 6pm on Saturday, 26th June 2021, Greater Sydney (which includes the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong, and Shellharbour) has gone into an indefinite lockdown. Consequently, the Church is closed until further notice.

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).

Baptisms *are not permitted*, except in case of emergency. Similarly, the anointing of the sick, and sick calls generally, are permitted in case of emergency only.

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).

During the lockdown, 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 for the teachers and children of St. Joseph’s School who are at School or at home with their parents. Parishioners may also wish to connect with this mass each Thursday.

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



Message from the Parish Priest

It is now the second month 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 and AstraZeneca) 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.

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.

EMBER DAYS mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. In Australia, the Church observes the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as special days of prayer and penance, focussing on the environment, the season and God's providence. On Friday last, I offered my daily Mass in the Parish Church with this intention and for the conquering of the Corona virus plaguing the world, and our nation in particular.

FATHER'S DAY: On this Sunday we remember all fathers, living and deceased. The Book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) states: *Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations.... their prosperity will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance to their children's children...Peoples will declare their wisdom, and the congregation proclaims their praise. (44: 1-15).* Our Fathers play a significant part in our lives. They guide and direct us, care for us and by their example, strengthen our character. We are grateful for their wisdom and encouragement.

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](#)



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



Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY – BISHOPS’ STATEMENT

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29th of August. The Australian Bishops’ Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis’ invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven *Laudato Si* Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or Tel (02) 6201 9845.

You can assess the statement with the following link:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

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.

5th September 2021 – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

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, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
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 FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY TIME**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the God of love in the name of Jesus who has promised to be present where two or three are gathered in his name.

1. For the Church, the people of God: May we practice in our own community life, the commandment of love that we preach to others. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. For *Francis*, our Pope, *Anthony* our Bishop, all bishops, theologians, and canon lawyers: May all who exercise authority in the church manifest the values of the Gospel, showing respect and engaging in dialogue. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. For the priests who serve us, and particularly those who are retired: May we always be mindful of the influence they have had in our lives, keep them always in our prayers and give them our support as they faithfully minister in our parishes. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. For all fathers in our community: May they be blessed on this their special day, and also by us who are grateful for their care and example. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. For vocations: May the Lord continue to provide His vineyard with workers engaged in the challenging yet rewarding ministry of announcing the Good News, and that those He has called will not fear to live their lives in service to their brothers and sisters through sacred ministry. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. For those who were bound on earth to Christ and to this faith community: May they be bound in heaven to the communion of the blessed. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. For greater devotion to the Holy Mother of God, Mary, Queen of Peace: May her intercession draw us closer to the Word incarnate. **HAIL MARY.**

Lord God, our Father, grant the prayers of your people. We join them to the intercession of Jesus in our midst, our brother, priest, and king, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. 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

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
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 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.

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 oatleycc@bigpond.net.au or contact 9580 1864.

