

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

In line with the present guidelines regarding the opening of Churches, St Joseph's Church is opened from 7 am to 6 pm daily, and the usual Mass timetable as above will apply. Sunday Masses have resumed for both 8am and 10am Mass times. We look forward to warmly welcoming everyone back to Mass.

28th November 2021 – First Sunday of Advent

Father Paul on annual Leave: I will be absent from the Parish from the 19th November until the 3rd December. As a consequence, there will be no weekday Masses from 20th November until Monday 6th December. Weekend Masses will be as usual. Father Peter Gardiner, CP will supply for the two weekends I am away. Father Peter is an old boy of Oatley Parish

Masses for the Deceased: Peter Hanrahan, Mario Piller Hoffer, Dominic Davino recently deceased, Fr. Ray Marsden, Fr. Keith Bush, anniversaries, all the Holy Souls.

The month of November is traditionally the month of the Holy Souls, and all my Masses will be offered for all your deceased relatives and friends.

ADVENT

The Season of Advent begins today, 28th November, and the Church enters a new liturgical year. Advent basically is a time of preparation for the 25th December, to celebrate Our Lord's first coming among us in the mystery of the Incarnation when He took flesh of the Blessed Virgin Mary and became man. Advent (which takes its name from the Latin *Advenio: to come to, to reach, to arrive at*) is both a spiritual preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas as well as a directing of the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming as he promised at the end of time. In short, the word *expectation* aptly summarizes Advent.

Over the years the Church has encouraged many practices which help us focus on the coming of Christ. In many of our parish Churches we see an Advent wreath with candles representing the four Sundays of Advent. The Children of our primary schools decorate a tree in the parish church with symbols of the antecedents of our Blessed Lord or his genealogy as taken from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. This is often referred to as the Jesse Tree and at Christmas it is decorated with lights and tinsel. Some parishes also encourage Advent home discussion groups for parishioners. The children prepare advent calendars to make down the dates leading up to the 25th December.

From the 17th December the Christmas novena begins and the focus shifts to the Christmas story. The Blessed Virgin Mary, as the expectant mother and model of the Church, exemplifies the desire of the ages, awaiting the coming of the Lord. During this time the Christmas Crib is usually set up in our Church.

Whilst the season of Advent is not specifically a penitential season like Lent, nevertheless, it is a time when we should take the opportunity to reflect on our lives. During the first two Sundays of Advent, we hear the voices of the Prophet Isaiah, and John the Baptist calling us to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. We need to remove the obstacles in our lives which would hinder a full reception of the Lord and to make ourselves ready to meet him. We can do this by a profitable examination of conscience and a worthy confession of our sins in the Sacrament of Penance.

THE ADVENT WREATH.

Symbolism of the Wreath:

Circle: Represents the eternity of God and the continuity of the first and second coming of Christ.

Green foliage: suggests growth, life and hope.

Red apples, pomegranates, holly and berries: suggests the first creation, the forbidden fruit – the fall of our first parents Adam and Eve that merited a Redeemer in Christ who suffered and died for us on the Cross.

Snow-tipped pine cones: The winter of our existence in old Testament times before the coming of the Saviour.

Pomegranate: In the middle ages it was often thought that the forbidden fruit eaten by Adam and Eve was a pomegranate. A pomegranate is full a seeds which will bring forth new life. On the wreath, this would symbolize death and the hope of resurrection.

Candles: God gradually revealing His plan for our salvation throughout human history up to the coming of Our Lord and Saviour. The three mauve candles represent the first, second and fourth Sundays and the pink or rose candle is for the third Sunday.

The First Candle: is for the Prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

The Second Candle: is for Bethlehem, the city of King David from whence would come forth the promised Messiah.

The Third Candle: is for the Shepherds and for all who seek the Lord in humility.

The Fourth Candle: is for the Angels who heralded Christ's birth and sang their hymn of joy.

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



Mass will also be streamed on Thursdays at 12 md for the teachers and children of St. Joseph's School.

The Children's liturgy of the word for this Sunday can be access by clicking on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1u0j_IXBAAGrwuz6S41YzIVs8WjEn6cHFF-XK-Y7RvL4/present?slide=id.gee6f26b3d6_0_58

Revised Sacrament Program 2021/2022 for St Joseph's Parish Oatley

Dear Parents and Carers, unfortunately, our Sacramental Program will be suspended for the remainder of 2021. Specific dates for the 2022 Program will be finalised shortly; however the proposed program for next year is as follows:

- **Reconciliation 2021 Catchup:** Term 1, 2022
- **Confirmation 2021 Catchup & Confirmation 2022:** Term 2, 2022. Our parish will combine the preparation for both groups from 2021 and 2022. It is with great pleasure I advise, Bishop Anthony Fisher has announced that our region will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral in June 2022.
- **First Holy Communion 2022:** Term 3, 2022
- **Reconciliation 2022:** Term 4, 2022

The Parish is also looking for parishioner(s) who are interested in running our Sacramental Program from 2023 onwards. If you have any questions about the program or getting involved in this very special and rewarding ministry, please reach out to our current coordinator Sandra Green at sandragreen@optusnet.com.au. Training will be provided.
Fr Paul

Sacramental Program for 2021/22: Please visit the Parish website:
www.stjosephschurch.com.au

SRE classes in public schools are postponed for the rest of the year. 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.ccress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>

New Learning from Home lessons have been uploaded 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.

CHURCH OPEN

So it is with great excitement that we can let you know that our church is now 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.

From Monday 8 November, a two- square metre rule applies, except for members of the same household and face masks are still mandatory as well as registering your attendance. There can only be a maximum of 60 people in the church for each Mass. To help with numbers, we will also be opening Marion Hall for the Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sunday Mass. People there will be able to view the livestreamed Mass and receive Holy Communion. This venue is limited to 30 people.

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 mask-wearing, good ventilation, hand sanitiser available, the enforcing of social distancing 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>

Live streaming

The Vigil Mass will continue to be live streamed on YouTube, and if you are unable to attend Mass physically, 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 via [bit. /stjoatley](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtj0atley) Or



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.

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.

Market Day Fundraiser at Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst Saturday 4 December from 9am to 3pm in the Church carpark in Issac St, Peakhurst. The Saturday Foodies & Farmers Market is always a great event and this one will feature a large marquee run by parishioners from St Joseph's Riverwood with fantastic items to delight families. The event holds something for everyone, even an amusement area for children. All proceeds from the St Joseph's table/s will go towards the Church's Roof Fund.

Position of Catechist Coordinator

OLF are seeking to appoint a person who would be responsible for overseeing the administrative duties important in ensuring the effective operation of the Catechist ministry in our parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst.

This will be a permanent, part-time, paid position that would require a total of 100 hours per annum. Interested applicants may obtain an Application Form and a copy of the Role Description by contacting the Parish Secretary via email at olfpeak@bigpond.com

Applications close: Friday 3rd December 2021