

## 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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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. 'Phone 9580 6588

### 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Feast of the Holy Family

**UNITY IN CHRIST:** The mass media has brought the various parts of the world very close together. Now we can sit in our armchairs and watch events on our television screen taking place on the other side of the equator. Satellite coverage of the earth can give pictures almost instantaneously in our news bulletins. We can see refugees being driven from their homes and living in terrible conditions, can watch starving people lying in the streets of war torn places and third world cities, and can gaze at the horrible aftermath of natural disasters. But though in sight and sound the world has become united, it is still very disunited in other ways. There is hatred between nations, industrial strife, huge differences between wealth and poverty. There is, in other words, much seeming unity externally, together with a great deal of dissension internally.

Today we are keeping the feast of the Holy Family. It is the feast of a little united family whose union is based on its greatest member, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. What God wanted was that this family would broaden out into a world-wide family, a family of his own people. For just as Jesus was the unifying force of the family of Nazareth, so must he be for the wide-world family. This has indeed grown immensely in the last two thousand years and the work of winning new members still goes on. What Christ wants is that the whole human race be brought into membership. If this were to happen, we would surely see vastly different pictures on our television screens. There would, of course, still be plenty of problems and troubles. There are bound to be, between human beings. Love of Christ does not eliminate all these. But at least they would be approached without bitterness and hatred. The angels sang *Peace on earth to people who are God's friends*. There would indeed be a far greater peace amongst nations who loved Christ. Differences would be solved in a spirit of goodwill and justice.

**Masses and Prayers:** Michael John Milgate (rec dec), Gaetano Tesoriero (dec), Stella Trimboli (dec), Marie Spataro (ann. 3/1), Albert Smart (ann.30/12), Shirley Quinlan (ann.28/12).

**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 (3<sup>rd</sup> January).

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

**The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses:** You can access this on YouTube by follow this link:

[bit.ly/stjoatley](https://bit.ly/stjoatley) or



**Sacramental Program for 2021:** Please visit the Parish website:

[www.stjosephschurch.com.au](http://www.stjosephschurch.com.au)

**Parish 2020 – A Call for Renewal** On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Sunday, 20th December, the former restrictions on Church attendance have been re-imposed due to a spike in Covid infections in the Northern Peninsular and Greater Sydney. There is a limit of 300 people who can attend Mass, provided a 4 square metre per person rule is adhered to. However, our Church will

only hold at least forty 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 strongly 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).



**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: [oadleycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:oadleycc@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 [oadleycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:oadleycc@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.*

## **27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Feast of the Holy Family**

### **THE INTRODUCTORY RITES**

#### **Entrance Procession**

*The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

#### **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 were pleased to give us  
the shining example of the Holy Family,  
graciously grant that we may imitate them  
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,  
and so, in the joy of your house,  
delight one day in eternal rewards.  
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 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, whom we find in the needs of all the human family.*

1. That with Mary and Joseph the Church may search anxiously for Christ and may recognize the One we seek. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That the family of nations, all children of one God, may work together toward common good. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That families who are separated may be reconciled to one another. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That God may bless families with joy and with the understanding that all households need each other. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That we may cherish our senior citizens, who enrich this community with their witness of faithful prayer and selfless service. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That gathered as one family at the table of the word and Eucharist, we may love one another as Christ has loved us. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That God may be present to the members of our families gone before us and that they may see God face to face. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
8. Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate, help all Christian families in their love for one another. **HAIL MARY.**

*Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure; that in the Name of your beloved Son, we may follow the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth, and deserve to abound in good works. We ask this through 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**

*Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,  
most merciful Father,  
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,  
so that, after the trials of this world,  
we may share their company for ever.  
Through Christ our Lord.

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!

*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 [oaileycc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:oaileycc@bigpond.net.au) or contact 9580 1864.*

