

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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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. ‘Phone 9580 6588

13th December 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)

CHRIST THE UNKNOWN: John the Baptist tells those who were sent by the Pharisees that *Among you there stands one whom you do not know*. These words could mean that the Messiah had not yet been revealed but they could also mean that when he would be revealed they and their leaders would not recognise him as such. These words of John could be addressed to many people in every age and certainly to many people in this country today. They may have heard of Christ, but they do not know him. They may well have given what Cardinal Newman called notional assent to his existence and personality, but they have not given them real consent. And yet the influence of his personality is all about them in every department of their lives. It is felt in schools and universities, in literature and art, in law and in the institutions of the country. No single man has had so great an influence upon it as Christ. He is in their midst, but they do not know it. Symbols of his presence are everywhere in the form of crosses, church spires and towers, in the names of boys and girls, of streets and districts and towns, in the letters B.C. and A.D. but even if these people recognise the cultural influence of Christianity they do not understand or love the Lord Jesus. St. Ignatius of Loyola spoke of an interior knowledge of Christ; this is the only knowledge that is effective; a knowledge based on a real insight into another's heart and spirit. This knowledge of Christ will not be obtained simply by reading the story about him in the Scriptures or by the study of theological works. There is only one way of gaining it and that is by prayer and meditation. Scripture must be read in a prayerful spirit for it to reveal God's purpose and love. Certainly, we must gain knowledge about Christ's life from the Gospels but equally we must understand what life means to us by our prayerful contemplation of it.

Masses and Prayers: Brian Jackson (ann.15/12), Ronald Stonebridge (ann.20/12), Vincent Bourke (ann.16/12), Rita Wagstaff (ann. 20/12), George Kent (ann.18/12), Maria Van der Velden- Hundscheid (ann.17/12). Albert & Susan Sprowls (dec), John & Joy Kitching (dec), Kevin & Mabs Colbourne (dec).

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Christmas Eve: 5 pm, 7 pm, 9.30 pm (Midnight Mass). Christmas Day: 8 am, and 10 am. It is necessary that you book in for any of these Masses as the Covid19 restrictions will allow only a maximum of eighty persons in the Oatley Church. Some of the Masses are fully booked already. For those parishioners who cannot be accommodated this Christmas, the Mass will be live-streamed and can be accessed with the following link: : bit.ly/stjoatley or



Sacramental Program for 2021: Please visit the Parish website:

www.stjosephschurch.com.au

Parish 2020 – A Call for Renewal On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12th 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.

Imposition of restrictions concerning Churches. From Monday 7th December, restrictions on Church attendance have been eased. There is no limit on the number of people who can attend Mass, provided a 2 square metre per person rule is adhered to. However, our Church will hold at least eighty 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 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.

Please note, with the social distancing rule, only a maximum of fifty persons can be accommodated in the Church.

Confessions are now available before the 5 pm Vigil Mass (4 pm to 4.45 pm).



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.

TAX RECEIPTS for 2019-2020 are now available, if you wish to receive a tax receipt please email: oatleycc@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 oatleycc@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.

Sunday Mass

13th December 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

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.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Let us pray.

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray without ceasing, rejoicing always in the One who calls us, the God who is faithful.

1. That all the baptized, anointed by the Spirit, may proclaim the good news of the year of the Lord's favour. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That the Lord God may cause righteousness and praise to spring up as a garden of peace for all nations. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

3. That those held captive by disease or addiction, by prejudice or oppression, may be released to rejoice in the liberty of God's children. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That we may hold fast to what is good, abstain from every evil and be sanctified entirely for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That the faithful departed may be clothed with the garment of salvation at the banquet of the Lamb. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the pure and spotless Virgin conceived without sin, may assist us as we patiently and joyously await the coming of Our Lord.
HAIL MARY.

Almighty Father, your mercy is from age to age; you fill the starving with good things. Thus encouraged, we make these our petitions in confidence 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

*Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
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
oatleycc@bigpond.net.au or contact 9580 1864.*

