

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223 Rev Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

Mrs Nicky Rodrigues – Parish Secretary (Thurs & Fridays)

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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au **Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley**

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal Phone: 9580 6588

Schedule of Masses		Baptisms	By appointment (usually Sunday, 11am)
Saturday	5 pm (Vigil for Sunday)	Confessions	Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Sunday	8 am, 10 am		
Monday	8am (Rosary 7.45)		
Tuesday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Wednesday	8am (Rosary 7.45),		
Thursday	12 Noon (Rosary 11.45)		
Friday	8am (Rosary 7.45)	Exposition	Thursday 9am to 11.45 (with benediction at 11.30am)
Saturday	8am (Rosary 7.45)		

1 December 2019 – First Sunday of Advent

Masses and Prayers :Fr John Flynn LC (rec dec) Fr Paul Stenhouse MSC (rec dec), Marie Monica Brymer (rec dec), Dorothy Lloyd (ann.03/12), Corinne Spruce (ann .6/12), John Saunders (ann. 2/12), Max Rowley (ann.24/11), Judith Sinclair (ann,2/12), dec members of CWL, those who are sick,

The Season of Advent begins on the 1st December, 2019, 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 summarises Advent.

Over the years the Church has encouraged many practices which help us to 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.

SINGERS REQUIRED TO FORM A CHRISTMAS CHOIR: Gosh it's only four weeks before Christmas! An appeal is made for singers to form a Choir for the 9.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Marion Binns, our Organist at the 10 am Mass on Sunday, would like to hear from you if you can help out in this regard.

The Vincent de Paul thanks you for your generosity and kindness for the Farmers Drought Appeal.

Lectors 2020/2021: *In the coming weeks I will be preparing the roster for the next 12 months.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our current lectors and I would love to welcome any new readers that would like to be included in the next roster.

Please email - caroline.dimeo09@gmail.com and include your mass time preferences.

Proclaiming the work of the Lord is a rewarding way to be involved in our parish and everyone is welcome including members of our parish currently in high school or starting high school in 2020.

Collections & Rosters

1st 711		2nd: \$339		Envelopes \$ 1988	
Money Counters Roster	Sun 3 Dec	Marcia & Brian Smith			
	Sun 10 Dec	Lynne Ekholm & Leo Sullivan			
Masses	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens	
Sat 7 Dec 5pm	Joe Shakkal	George Novak	Luca Johnson John Mercieca	Rafe Kowron	
Sun 8 Dec 8am	George Lazar	Ainsley Wilson	No Servers	Seb Arena	
Sun 8 Sec 10am	Phillip Merrick	Francis D'Silva	Declan McIntyre	George Battikha	
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society		
Sun 1 Dec	Roseanne McGrath	Brian Rayment	Susan Canham Angela Nadile		
Sun 8 Dec	Kylie Brakel	Marcia Smith	Lynne Ekholm		