

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)

19th September 2021 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Deceased: June Roebuck, recently deceased. David Way, Antonia Finneran, Peter Kelly, Hilda Marie Lee, Millie Saunders, Matthew Saunders anniversaries.

AMBITION: We should all want to be a success in some way in life. Christ has indicated this by his parable of the talents. This means that we have a duty to work hard with the gifts that God has given us. Christ did not attack ambition, but he did go for those who in their ambition trample upon the rights of others. In today's Gospel we are given an account of secret talks the apostles were having with one another. Clearly, they were quarrelling. Each one was ambitious to be the greatest at the expense of the others. Our Lord would have none of it. With true ambition, he says, there must be humility. He goes on to say that the person who trusts himself forward and boasts about his supposed superior position will have a very low position in his estimation.

This striving to be the greatest by trampling on the rights of others has been the cause of a great deal of bloodshed and misery. Holding to a false doctrine of racial superiority, the Nazi jackboots tramped upon many a dead body in their efforts to become the master race. Fortunately, their doctrine and their aims were reduced to dust. What Christ wants from all his followers is service of one another just as he came as the servant of all. *The Son of Man*, he said *came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many*. We must give bits of our lives to others by sharing our lives with them and thus being of service to them when they are in need. This must be done without condescension. Pride, or an air of superiority, can so easily enter service and ruin the humility with which it should be tendered. Someone has rightly said that "You add nothing to your height by standing on your dignity".

Christ said: *Learn of me because I am meek and humble of heart.* Ambition can be both a virtue and a vice. Humility is the ingredient which makes it virtuous.

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



The Children's liturgy of the word for this Sunday is given by Lucas Di Cicco, and can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NYkihSPbO1FLxnSvNsKyDNOMC_FiFdfj6XGpA1DYPTc/edit#slide=id.geca7caa71a_0_23

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.

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 AstraZeneca, 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.

When we can open our Churches again to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments, possibly at the end of October, or sooner, certain rules will still apply, such as, social distancing of 4 square metres, no congregational singing, and check-in procedures for

congregants (QR code etc.) The Archbishop and other church and faith leaders are presently lobbying the Government to seek an exemption from excluding people who are not fully vaccinated. **If the Government still insists of full vaccination status before anyone can attend any venue, then sadly, we will be required to exclude unvaccinated people from Church services.** There are vaccines readily available, and it would be wise to seek vaccination so that we are all protected against the virus. Otherwise, we will not be able to enjoy the freedoms accorded to the fully vaccinated.

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.



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](#)

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.

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.

19th September 2021 -Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.*

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 founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbour,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.
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-FIFTH SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY TIME.**

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to God our helper, the
upholder of our life.*

1. That all members of the church may imitate the example of Jesus, not seeking to be first but becoming servants of all. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That nations may renounce conflicts and disputes and realize that a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That those caught up in the quest for power and prestige may discover that true greatness lies in humble service of others. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That those who serve the children of our community in Christ's name may teach all of us how to welcome Christ in simplicity of heart. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That this community may seek in prayer not its own pleasure but the grace to be of service to others. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That the sick and the dying may draw strength from Jesus who came to the aid of the sick and the helpless. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That the dead who were God's children by baptism may rise again with Jesus to the joy of eternal life. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
8. That the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, may make us worthy of the promises of Christ. **HAIL MARY.**

*Lord God, speak your word to us and make us listen to it. May it bear the
fruit of Christian living in us. 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

*You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Graciously raise up, O Lord,
those you renew with this Sacrament,
that we may come to possess your redemption
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.
Through Christ our Lord.

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.

