

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

St Joseph's Church is opened from 7 am to 6 pm daily, and the usual Mass timetable as above apply. Will look forward to seeing everyone at Mass.

5th December 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

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

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS: The words of John the Baptist about himself: *the voice of one crying in the wilderness*, were first spoken by an anonymous prophet who has become known as the Second Isaiah. They were spoken by the latter at a time when the Israelites were in captivity in Babylon, but they were words of comfort because the prophet was announcing that the time of their deliverance was at hand. Cyrus, the Persian king, was on the point of capturing Babylon and issuing a decree allowing the Jews to return to their homeland of Palestine. The words of the prophet ring with a joyful note: *prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway of your God*. At long last the bonds of servitude were to be loosed.

The Old Testament foreshadows the New. St. Augustine wrote: "In the Old Testament the New Testament is revealed". God intervened in history to save his chosen people from captivity but also to prepare the way for a far greater act of deliverance, the

redemption of the whole world. The “*Voice in the Wilderness*” in the New Testament was a strong echo of the voice in the Old. Again a king was coming to bring deliverance to his chosen ones but this time the king was to be “the immortal king of ages” and he was to save his people from the bondage of sin.

We are looking forward at this time of Advent to the coming of our Saviour. In the spirit of John the Baptist we are to prepare the way of the Lord. We are to straighten out what is crooked within us so that the Lord can enter our hearts and make what was a wilderness rich and fertile by his presence. We are to make *the rough places plain* so that there will be no obstacles in the way to his entrance.

THE JESSE TREE.

The idea of the Jesse Tree for Advent comes from the traditional window in many medieval Cathedrals whose design is based on the descent of Jesus from the royal line of King David in most cases springing from Jesse, the father of David, and ending in Jesus or the Virgin and Holy Child, with intermediary descendants placed on scrolls of foliage branching out of each other. Some have the descent as recorded in St. Luke’s Gospel and others recorded in St. Matthew’s Gospel. A simple Jesse tree for children in primary school has cards the children have prepared and coloured, representing Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Jesse, David, Solomon, Jonah, Mary and Joseph. Famous Jesse windows can be seen in the cathedrals of Wells, in England, and Chartres, in France. There is a depiction of a Jesse Tree in the window of the Church porch.

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/1fAofCouGZpA_IQmgmwUoSg6_gNB_22mQn3ndjMcznFg/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.cress.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 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.

Currently the 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 is a maximum limit 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://bit.ly/stjoatley) Or



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.



CCareline: helping Sydney families with relationships, parenting, ageing services, disability, addictions and mental health concerns.
connect@catholiccare.org



Vinnies Christmas Envelope Appeal on next weekend the 11th and 12th of December.

Everyday many Families are affected by Homelessness and struggling to feed their Families. We would appreciate if you can donate even a small amount to help these families in Crisis. The envelopes will be on the Christmas tree so please take one and return them on the plate when you come to the Mass. Thank You for your Support. If you are not yet coming to Mass, you can also donate by clicking the GIVE NOW icon above.

Please note that the Market Day Fundraiser scheduled at Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst on the 4 December had been postponed due to the forecasted bad weather. We will keep you posted when a new date is arranged.