

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

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

20th December 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

THE ANNUNCIATION: St. Luke is the artist among the evangelists. National Galleries would be much poorer if he had not written his Gospel. There are so many splendid picture he gives which no other evangelist supplies. The Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the walk to Emmaus, the Visitation, the Presentation in the temple, are just a few pen pictures which he alone has given us. And, of course, there is the Annunciation. Countless artists have painted this scene. One, for example, set it in a little gothic chapel. Our Lady wears a dark green velvet robe edged with red. Her beautiful golden hair flows down her shoulders and she recoils a little from the magnificent angel garbed in splendid scarlet who carries a wand in one hand and points with the finger of the other hand towards Our Lady. The bright light streams through the gothic windows throwing the two figures in sharp relief against the chapel walls.

The Annunciation hardly occurred like that. But such a painting can be true to an inner reality. The artist is saying that Mary does not belong to a particular time or country. She belongs to all ages. Nor does he, if he is a true artist, attempt a photographic representation of her. He could not achieve this, even if he wished to do so, since we do not know what she looked like. His task is to express in paint her inner excellence, her purity, her faith, her simplicity, humility, and love. All these were manifested in the actual Gospel account. It tells of her virginity, her humble acceptance of God's will for her, her faith in him, and above all, her great love because without that love she would not have been able to carry out the task that was asked of her. God chose Our Lady to reconcile himself to humankind through Christ. It is because of this that what took place at Nazareth has universal significance for us all.

Masses and Prayers: Margaret Pullen (ann.26/12), Albert Williams (ann. 24/12),

The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses: You can access this on YouTube by follow this link: bit.ly/stjoatley

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.

The 5pm Mass is 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. A summary of the Mission Plan is available in the porch of the Church.

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.

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

20th December 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

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.

Collect

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us bring the need of all to the
Rock of our salvation, whose steadfast love endure forever.*

1. For the people of God, the house the Lord is building: May all who call on God's name grow in the obedience of faith. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. For all the peoples of earth, one kingdom of God: May all who love peace be sheltered from violence. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. For those in doubt or fear, perplexed by life's mystery: May their anxiety yield to trust in God's saving plan and purpose. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

4. For those parents in our community awaiting the birth of a child: Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, may they joyfully ponder God's power and goodness. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. For this Eucharistic Community and its life of worship and witness: May the Spirit come upon us and the power of the Most High overshadow us. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. For those whose days are fulfilled and who are gathered with our ancestors: May they be established in God's kingdom of peace and rest. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. Commemorating and seeking the intercession of the all holy, pure and most Blessed Virgin Mary, who eagerly awaited the birth of the Word Incarnate, and with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves to one another and our whole live to Christ. **HAIL MARY.**

O God, raise up (we pray) your power, and come among us with great might to assist us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, we may, by your bountiful grace and mercy, be speedily helped and delivered; through the satisfaction of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, forever and ever. 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

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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!
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