

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 open from 7 am to 6 pm daily, and the usual Mass timetable as above apply. We look forward to seeing everyone at Mass.

27th February 2022 – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Deceased: Peter Lyle, Brian Purdon, Josephine Tesoriero, recently deceased; Marcia June Elliott, Patricia Freeman, Raymond Mercer, Derice Mercer, Sonja Moore, Rita Briscoe-Hough, Faustina D'Silva, Cajetan D'Silva, Mia van der Velden, anniversaries.

DELINQUENCY: In the musical West Side Story there is an incident which takes place in a drug store after the members of one the gangs have gathered there and are talking and boasting about a horrible crime they had attempted to commit. Suddenly, the old man who runs the drug store can stand it no longer and he turns on them and shouts: "You make this world lousy"; to which one of the young gangsters replies: "We found it that way." Could one blame the youngsters for their conduct? The answer must be yes because they were not devoid of free will but a very large part of the blame also lay upon the 'lousy'

world in which they had been brought up, and in which they lived; a world of sleazy slums, of broken homes, of drunkenness and drugs and continual crime.

The world is not a 'lousy' place. God made it and saw that everything in it was good. Lousiness does not come from God but from the heart of individuals, and, as Our Lord says in today's Gospel: *Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.* A very great part then of the delinquency in society springs from the kind of society which exists. Parents of delinquents are often to blame. Their selfishness, their lack of love and discipline, their slovenly homes, their broken marriages are the thorns and brambles which prevent good growth. Children coming home from school to an empty home or when they do come home are nagged or ill-treated may well grow up to become enemies of society. Yet parents themselves are often what they are because they are the outcome of permissive, materialistic, and often irreligious surroundings. The poison they have injected into their children has been gathered from the society which has forgotten or ignored Christ. Christ is the good tree, the vine, from which all true goodness comes and without him nobody can bear fruit. He alone can inspire a new society based upon love.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE SEASON OF LENT: The season of Lent begins next Wednesday, 2nd March. Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others (almsgiving). In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their *eighteenth* year, until the beginning of their *sixtieth* year. The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their *fourteenth* year. The rationale behind the Church's law is an invitation for us to join ourselves to Jesus in his forty days of self-denial in the desert. As we imitate our Saviour, we confront our own human weakness and remind ourselves of the brevity of life and our need for salvation which only comes through faith and imitation of Christ.

The Pascal precept binds all Catholics to receive Holy Communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. The faithful are also obliged to confess their grave (mortal) sins individually in the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

The practice of almsgiving during Lent is recommended by contribution to Project Compassion. Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are available this Sunday in the foyer of the Church.

Ash Wednesday Masses on the 2nd of March with the blessing and imposition of ashes are at 8 am and 7 pm. The 8 am Mass will be live streamed for those parishioners who cannot attend, and for the School Children in the classrooms.

Stations of the Cross: This beautiful devotion apt for the season of Lent will be conducted in the Church each Friday during Lent at 7 pm, **starting Friday the 4th of March**. Come and walk the journey in memory of Christ crucified.

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



Sacramental Program for 2022 will be updated in early March, please visit the Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au.

Please note that Parish Confirmations this year will be at St. Mary's Cathedral on the 31st July and 7th August (with other St. George's Deanery parishes).

Market Day Fundraiser at Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst

Saturday 5 March from 8am to 3pm in the Church carpark in Issac St, Peakhurst. The Saturday Foodies & Farmers Market is always a great event and this one will feature a large marquee run by parishioners from St Joseph's Riverwood with fantastic items to delight families. The event holds something for everyone, even an amusement area for children. All proceeds from the St Joseph's table/s will go towards the Church's Roof Fund.

St. Joseph's Primary School

School tours will be held at St. Joseph's Primary School on the following afternoons for new families interested in enrolling their children at St Joseph's School 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th March (3:30 - 4:00pm). Enrolment packs can be collected at this time.

Please contact the school office on 9580 6588 or email enrolments.01783@sydstu.catholic.edu.au if you wish to attend one of the tours or have any enrolment questions.

Bethany College Open Day 1st March 2022 3.30pm - 6.30pm at the College

Enrolling Year 7, 2024. Enrolment packages will be available on the day.

The Marist Catholic College Penshurst Open Day takes place on Wednesday 9 March between 2pm-6pm. Visitors will be given the opportunity to be guided on a tour at both the South Hurstville and Mortdale Campuses. Registration for the tours is now open. Details regarding registration is provided on the College website.

Additional tours are available to families of feeder parishes and schools only. Thursday 10 March. Registration for the tours will be via Marist Catholic College website.



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

Church Open

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.

From Friday the 25th of February, masks are no longer mandatory for liturgical and parochial gatherings. However, they are still required for hospital visitations, aged care visitations, home visitation to the sick, and some school settings.

Choir and congregational singing is permitted.

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 good ventilation, hand sanitiser available 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>

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.



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.