

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

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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

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3rd January 2021 – The Epiphany of the Lord

THE SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE: Life has often been regarded as a pilgrimage, a journey into a future made up of so many hours, opportunities, conflicts, and unknown circumstances. The wise men made such a pilgrimage to the shrine of a desired king. They did not know what length of time, pitfalls, hardships lay between their departure and their hoped-for journey's end. It was the faith within them that kept them sure on course. Thus, their journey, like that of every true Christian, had elements of a double adventure. There was the search continued across the world to find the king but there was, at the same time, an interior adventure of the spirit which had its source in faith.

Every Christian has a daily task to accomplish, many of these tasks are humdrum without any exciting experiences. But always there is an underlying movement of the Spirit which, if not felt emotionally, is at least known as an inspiration. It is a burning fire which occasionally bursts forth into a warmth of consolation. The Christian, like the wise men, is always searching for the king. They found him in an unexpected place with no outward signs of royalty. This is also true of the Christian. You will find the king in your brothers and sisters, some of whom are outwardly unprepossessing. You will find him in family and work. The spiritual adventure goes on as long as life lasts. Its realisation in a person is an immense help in providing courage to face up to the difficulties which may lie ahead. The knowledge that one does not journey through life alone can give real support and comfort. The Magi had their star as an indication of God's guiding providence. We have much more than a star. We have the consolation of Christ's sacramental presence and his words of comfort written down for us in Scripture. His words are a light to our feet as we make our journey through life.

Masses and Prayers: Veita Kretchmer (ann. 8/1), Clifford Ball (ann.5/1), Vida Kennedy (ann. 8/1), Leo Hollis (ann.7/1), Brian McCudden (ann. 5/1),

Father Paul's Message to the Parishioners of Oatley: The Covid19 pandemic which has disrupted our lives in many ways during the year has forced us to understand that we are all vulnerable and subject to the whims of nature. Nevertheless, as we reflect on the many ups and downs we have experienced this year, we thank Almighty God for all the good things we have, particularly our health and safety, and for the strength he has given us in our struggles and sorrow. May our faith in the Word made flesh which we celebrate with faith at

Christmas strengthen our hope and bring us joy and peace. I wish all our families and parishioners the brightest joys of the Christmas season, and many blessing for the coming New Year. Fr. Paul

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB: During the last week of Advent and during the Christmas Season, a feature of our churches is the Christmas Crib. The custom reputedly goes back to St. Francis of Assisi, who is thought of having made the first model of the Crib at Greccio in 1223. The figure of the Child Jesus is placed in the manger during the first Mass of Christmas, on Christmas Eve, and the figures of the Magi are added on the Feast of The Epiphany (3rd January).

If you have a Christmas Crib at home, please take time to reflect on the greatest gift we have received – God made man.

The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses: You can access this on YouTube by follow this 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 Sunday, 20th December, the former restrictions on Church attendance have been re-imposed due to a spike in Covid infections in the Northern Peninsular and Greater Sydney. There is a limit of 300 people who can attend Mass, provided a 4 square metre per person rule is adhered to. However, our Church will only hold at least forty 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 strongly 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).



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.

3rd January 2021 – The Epiphany of the Lord

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.*

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 on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.
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 FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us intercede for our needs and those of all nations whom the glory of God has shone in Christ.

1. For God's holy Church, that her light may beckon a rich diversity of peoples to come and be heirs with us, members of the one body of Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. For nations covered with clouds of ethnic and racial hatred, that in this New Year their hearts may rejoice at the dawn of peace and the flourishing of righteousness. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. For children abused or neglected, and parents in difficulty or danger, that the Christian community may offer gifts of care and advocacy, intervention and support. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. For all who earnestly seek the face of God, that this community's faith, hope and love may guide them to the revelation of God's grace. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. For this Eucharistic assembly, that we may faithfully offer Christ the gold of a living faith, the incense of our worship and the myrrh of compassion for others. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. For those who followed the star of faith and walked by the light of Christ, that, joyfully entering heaven, they may behold God face to face. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom, we may always treasure God's Word and ponder it in our hearts. **HAIL MARY.**

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things both in heaven and on earth: mercifully hear the prayers of your people and, as have begun this New Year, grant prosperity and peace in our time. 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

*We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere,
that we may perceive with clear sight
and revere with true affection
the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.
Through Christ our Lord.

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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