

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

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Rev. Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

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St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley

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10th January 2021 – The Baptism of Our Lord

DEATH AND RESURRECTION: There is in Baptism a note of death. The immersion in water symbolises this best. All of us when we are baptised die. We die to our old self. Christ's Baptism was also a symbol of death, his death, and our death. He said before his Passion *I have a baptism to be baptised with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished.* Hence his baptism by John the Baptist was a sign of his future baptism by blood. Christ did not need a baptism of purification for himself but we, united with him, are purified of sin.

Baptism implies two forms of death and it also implies two ways of resurrection. It is death to sin and resurrection to a new life of grace. It reflects physical death and a resurrection to an eternal life of happiness. The Father's word addressed to Christ: *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased,* can also be true of each of us after our baptism. For we have become sons of God as St. Paul tells us: *The Spirit himself give testimony to our spirit that we are the sons of God; and if sons, heirs also; heirs indeed of God and joint heirs with Christ.* Thus, Baptism makes a marriage between Heaven and earth. Heaven takes possession of our being so that all we do takes on a supernatural value. Christ becomes united with us. We die in order that we may live with him.

The Spirit of God took possession of Christ in an incredibly special way to direct his energies towards his allotted task. He takes hold of us also when we are baptised with water and the Spirit to guide us and give us the power to follow in Christ's footsteps. We are baptised and anointed with the Holy Spirit to be the Body of Christ. Christ lives and dies in us. The waters of Baptism have created us into his likeness; the divine image which had been disfigured by sin is now restored to its former splendour. This was made possible for us by the baptism of blood which Christ endured for us upon the cross.

Masses and Prayers: Alveen Laing (ann.15/1), John Lloyd (ann. 17/1), Ronald Needs(ann.17/1), Eileen Harland (ann.15/1),

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: oadleycc@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 oadleycc@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.

10th January 2021 – The Baptism of the Lord

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*

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.

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us call on God in prayer, who draws near to us in Christ, the Beloved One on whom God's Spirit rests.

1. That all who are baptised into the everlasting covenant may conquer the world by faith, and transform it by love. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That nations who do not yet know God's steadfast love may be moved by the witness of believers to seek and find the Lord. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That those unsatisfied by material gain, who thirst for fulfilment, may come to drink freely the wine of God's kingdom and the milk of God's wisdom. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That those in our religious education and sacramental programs may incline their ears to the word of life and find delight at God's feast, and love among God's children. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That the catechumens of our community may come with Jesus through water and blood and receive the Spirit's anointing as God's beloved sons and daughters. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That God's word, descending on us like the rain, may accomplish its purpose among us and yield a harvest of obedient faith and generous love. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. That all the departed who believed in Jesus as the Christ, may share fully in the victory by which Christ conquers death. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
8. May the intercession and prayer of Mary, Mother of the Church, assist all Baptised Christians as they strive to follow Christ, the Good Shepherd. **HAIL MARY.**

Receive mercifully, O Lord, the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also have the power and grace to faithfully fulfil them. 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

*Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,
we may be your children in name and in truth.
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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