

# 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)

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Parish website: [www.stjosephschurch.com.au](http://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.

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 – The Epiphany of the Lord

**Masses for the Deceased:** Margaret Pell, recently deceased; Shirley Quinlan, Margaret Pullen, George Kent, Doris Attard, Marica Greguric, Brian McCudden, Father Kevin Muldoon, anniversaries.

*Please take time to visit our Christmas Crib in the Church and reflect on the greatest gift we have received – God made man.*

**THE EPIPHANY:** The coming of the wise men out of the East in all their Oriental splendour and their rich offerings has always excited Christian imagination. It is an incident full of mystery and mysticism, symbolic of the striving for truth that has been the mainspring of many human endeavours. It is the function of wisdom to seek after truth, and these wise

scholars were endowed not only with human learning, but also with that supernatural insight which enabled them to recognise truth itself hidden away in a poor cottage in a distant land.

Scripture, speaking of wisdom, says *It is an infinite treasure to men and they that possess it become the friends of God.* And so it was with these Magi from the East. The shepherds were simple people accustomed to silence and the stars; but all were wise in that true sense of wisdom which is God's gift to humankind. To both were given the great privilege of kneeling before the king who contained all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge. Against the blackness of the night the Magi saw a star. For them it was no ordinary phenomenon, it was a light illuminating the mystery of a dark past. It was the finger of God pointing out the direction they must take to find the Truth. That star was a new dawn from the Gentiles and when those men set out on their long and difficult journey all the hopes of the Gentiles rode with them. It was a journey across a desert but nothing, neither the perils on the way, nor the flattery a Herod deterred them from their purpose. Their faith was put to constant test, but it held firm to the end. Truth was disguised in poverty – royalty was hidden, yet they were not disillusioned. They bowed down and adored, and the glitter and fragrance of their gifts were the manifestation of the yearning in their hearts.

### **THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

This well-beloved Christmas song may seem strange to many people but is, in fact, rich in Christian symbolism, and was in fact a metaphor for a bible story. The true twelve days of Christmas varies across some fifty religious denominations, but the Catholic version has the Christmas season starting on December 25 and concluding with the feast of the Epiphany.

Each day represents the celebration of a martyr, saint or a feast connected with Jesus' birth, and it is in memory of the visit of the Three Wise Men that we give presents to each other at Christmas.

During the penal times in England when Catholics were forbidden to practice their faith, the song was used as a secret catechism to teach their children knowledge of the saints and the doctrine of the faith in a secret code:

“On the first day of Christmas my true love (God) gave to me, a partridge (Jesus Christ) in a pear tree (perhaps representing the cross).

**Second day:** Two turtle doves (Old and the New Testaments).

**Third day:** Three French hens (gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity).

**Fourth day:** Four Calling birds (the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

**Fifth day:** Five golden rings (the five Books of Moses, the Pentateuch).

**Sixth day:** Six Geese a-laying (six days of creation).

**Seventh day:** Seven Swans a-swimming (seven gifts of the Holy Spirit).

**Eighth day:** Eight Maids a-milking (the eight beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount).

**Ninth day:** Nine Ladies dancing (the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as charity, peace, patience and kindness).

**Tenth day:** Ten Lords a-leaping (the Ten Commandments).

**Eleventh day:** Eleven pipers piping (the eleven apostles).

**Twelfth day:** Twelve drummers drumming (the twelve points of the Apostles Creed).”

Let us give thanks to Almighty God for all the good gifts he has bestowed upon us, and in particular, the gift of our Catholic Faith, and the ability to practice it in freedom.

**Father Paul’s Message to the Parishioners of Oatley:** As we reflect over the past two years, a time of anxiety and perhaps fear with a pandemic which we have not experience in our lifetime, and a time marked by restrictions on the freedoms which we normally take for granted, and the separation from family members and friends, this Christmas should be a time to strengthen our faith and to give us hope and confidence for the future.

2000 years ago, a babe was born in a stable in Bethlehem of Judah. That babe was the Saviour promised by the prophets long ago. Each Christmas we celebrate his birth with great joy as he brings Light, Truth, and hope to a troubled world. Keep safe this Christmas and I wish you the brightest joys that the Nativity of the Lord brings, and the many blessing that flow from his appearing for the coming new year. Fr. Paul.

### **St Vincent de Paul Message**

St Vincent de Paul Oatley Conference wishes to sincerely say **THANK YOU** to the Parish Community and St Joseph’s Catholic School for the generous and wonderful donations that have been gifted in Vouchers, Toys and Food items. These were distributed to Families in need to assist in making their Christmas Joyous.

### **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](http://bit.ly/stjoatley) Or



## Revised Sacrament Program 2022 for St Joseph's Parish Oatley

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](mailto:sandragreen@optusnet.com.au). Training will be provided. Fr Paul

**Sacramental Program for 2022:** Please visit the Parish website:

[www.stjosephschurch.com.au](http://www.stjosephschurch.com.au)

### **CHURCH OPENING**

**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.**

**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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)