

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223 Rev Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

Mrs Nicky Rodrigues – Parish Secretary (Thurs & Fridays)

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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au **Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oatley**

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal Phone: 9580 6588

Schedule of Masses		Baptisms	By appointment (usually Sunday, 11am)
Saturday	5 pm (Vigil for Sunday)	Confessions	Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Sunday	8 am, 10 am		
Monday	8am (Rosary 7.45)		
Tuesday	8am, 5pm, 7pm, 9.30pm		
Wednesday	8am & 10am		
Thursday	9am only		
Friday	8am (Rosary 7.45)		
Saturday	8am (Rosary 7.45)		

22 December 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses and Prayers : Marie McCarthy(ann.25/12), Margaret Pullen (ann.26/12), Shirley Quinlan (ann.28/12), Montague Williams (ann.24/12), dec members of CWL and those who are sick, including Dusanka Jurcevic, Dujo Babic.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB: During the last week of Advent and during the Christmas Season, a feature of our churches is the Christmas Crib. This custom reputedly goes back to St. Francis of Assisi, who is thought of have 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 (6th January).

THE BROKEN WALL: In the long history of the human race there have always been walls or barriers of some kind which people have looked upon with joy because the sight of them signified some lone journey's end or a happy home-coming. I expect the heart of Sir Francis Chichester gave quite a leap after his 14,000 mile solo sail across the seas when he saw the entrance to Sydney harbour. Quite a lot of Englishmen must have looked at the white cliffs of Dover in this spirit; certainly many did at Dunkirk.

In Old Testament times the Israelites burst out into songs of joy when they arrived at their wall, the barrier that divided them from the land of their heart's desire, the land of promise where they could make a permanent home.

It is something of this thrill that the Church experiences at this time when she approaches the wall that is broken down to make an entrance into a new kingdom of promise. St. Paul speaks of it when he writes "For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility". This is the dark sinister wall of sin which cut us off from our true home and happiness, like the grim barbed wire and concrete wall that, during the Cold War, stretched across Berlin.

There is then a special joy in home-coming. A young soldier in Northern Ireland after the strain of his time of duty must have felt this, so also a sick person who has been in hospital. Advent is a very real sense a home-coming. For it looks to Christmas – a time of reunion and reconciliation. Today's Gospel tells of the visit of the Angel to Joseph. "Mary will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." There are always walls within ourselves which need breaking down and this is his task to give us the joy of knowing that once again there are no barriers between ourselves and him.

Church Wardens Needed: Over recent months our parish has lost three rostered Church Wardens. Wardens are required for three Masses over the weekend - 5.00pm Vigil on Saturday and 8.00am and 10.00am Masses on Sunday. Their duties involve managing the collections and attending to the sale of the Catholic Weekly at the table in the foyer. Initially experienced assistance will be provided.

As a reminder, the first collection supports the daily living expenses of the parish clergy and the second collection including planned giving program is the main source of income for the daily running of the parish. Parishioners are asked to consider this request and advise John Perkins on 0409077490 or Richard McMillan on 9580 5778. Enquiries close 14 Dec 2019.

Christmas Masses 2019 at St Joseph's at Oatley: Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December: 5pm Vigil, 7pm (Children's Mass, but all welcome. Carols from 6.30 pm) in the Church, 9.30 pm Mass (carols at 9.00pm). **NO MIDNIGHT MASS.** Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December: 8am and 10am. Thursday, 26th December, 9 am only (Feast of St Stephen).

Collections & Rosters

1st \$837		2nd: \$518		Envelopes \$ 1373	
Money Counters Roster	Sun 24 Dec	George & Kathy Novak			
	Sun 31 Dec	Vince & Jenny Elliott			
Masses	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens	
Sat 21 Dec 5pm	Glenn McLachlan	Krystelle Boulos	Anna & Grace C	Brian Smith	
Sun 22 Dec 8am	Robert Dimeo	Jean Devine	No Servers	Mark Shad	
Sun 22 Dec 10am	Phillip Merrick	Joseph Lucero	Paris S Mavina K	David Lee	
Sat 28 Dec 5pm	John Romanous	Alison Felici	No Servers	John Perkins	
Sun 29 Dec 8am	George Lazar	Susan Canham	No Servers	Seb Arena	
Sun 29 Dec 10am	Joe Shakkal	Ana Simurina	Anthony A Luca J	George Battikha	
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society		
Sun 22 Dec	School Holidays	Brian Rayment	Marcia Smith		
Sun 29 Dec	School Holidays	Marcia Smith	Susan Canham Angela Nadile		