

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

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

Mrs Kylie Brakel – Principal. ‘Phone 9580 6588

6th December, 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent

THE POWER OF HOPE: When a person begins to look back continually over their shoulder in life it is a sign that one is growing old. The young look to the future; they do not dream dreams of the past; they have visions of what is to come. Christ wanted us to remain young in spirit and, like the young, to look to the future, to have, in other words, the Christian virtue of hope. This does not mean that we are to have our eyes fixed on Heaven to the neglect of the world, that we are to consider this life a kind of unfortunate necessity to be endured until we have pie in the sky by-and-by. We are not to be always looking through a window at a distant enchanting land to which one day we will come. We must keep our minds and work on the present, for hope, though it does look to the future, has its seedbed in the present. This is true of all hope both natural and supernatural. The fisherman who hopes to catch a fish must use his energies in the present though his desire is in the future. The one who wants to climb a mountain must climb in the present if the future object is to be attained. All of us must take off our coats and work with energy if we are to gain the land of our desires.

John the Baptist in today's Gospel gives a message of hope to the people. What their race has been waiting for generations is now about to take place. But they must prepare themselves for the coming if that coming is to be realised in their hearts. They must straighten out their crooked ways. They must prepare for the coming of their Messiah by true repentance. Isaiah says: *The glory of the Lord will be revealed.* This will only be true for those who have the true virtue of hope and the humility to accept him when he comes. This was the humility which John himself manifested when he said: *After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.*

Masses and Prayers: John Saunders (ann.2/12), Judith Sinclair (ann. 3/12), Dorothy Lloyd (ann. 3/12), Margaret Stadtmiller (ann.9/12), Corinne Spruce (ann. 6/12).

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Christmas Eve: 5 pm, 7 pm. 9.30 pm (Midnight Mass).
Christmas Day: 8 am, and 10 am. It is necessary that you book in for any of these Masses as the Covid19 restrictions will allow only a maximum of eighty persons in the Oatley Church. Some of the Masses are fully booked already. For those parishioners who cannot be

accommodated this Christmas, the Mass will be live-streamed and can be accessed with the



following link: bit.ly/stjoatley or

Sacramental Program for 2021: Please visit the Parish website:

www.stjosephschurch.com.au

Parish Visitation: Bishop Terry Brady will be visiting the Parish this weekend. He will celebrate all the weekend Masses on the 5th and 6th December and meet the parishioners. The Bishop's Mass at 5 pm on Saturday will be live-streamed and can be accessed as above.

Parish 2020 – A Call for Renewal On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12th December, 2020, Archbishop Anthony Fisher will launch 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.

Imposition of restrictions concerning Churches. From Monday 7th December, restrictions on Church attendance have been eased. There is no limit on the number of people who can attend Mass, provided a 2 square metre per person rule is adhered to. However, our Church will hold at eighty 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 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.

Please note, with the social distancing rule, only a maximum of fifty persons can be accommodated in the Church.

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: eatleycc@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 eatleycc@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.

Sunday Mass

6th December 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession

*O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.*

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.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

*As we await the fulfillment of God's promise, let us offer prayer to the Lord
whose patience is our salvation.*

1. For the Church, that she may herald the glad tidings of God's coming to gather and comfort all people. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. For the world, that its striving for peace may foreshadow the new heavens and new earth where righteousness will be at home. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

3. For the oppressed, that worldly pride may be brought low, the downtrodden lifted up, and the uneven ground leveled to become a highway for God's justice. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. For the safety of those who travel by sea, air and land, and for the salvation of the sick, the suffering, and the captive. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. For this Eucharistic community that, by leading lives of holiness and godliness, we may wait for the day of the Lord and hasten its coming. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. For those gone before us that, found at peace without spot or blemish, they may receive from the Lord's hand the reward and recompense of life. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. Remembering our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary and with all the saints, let us commend ourselves to her prayers, to one another and our whole life, to Christ, her Divine Son. **HAIL MARY.**

Most loving Father, look upon the needs of your people and grant our petitions, as we prepare a way for your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. 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

*Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
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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on this website under "Donations" on the menu. 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.*

