

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)

‘Phone 9580 1864, Email: oatleycc@bigpond.net.au

Parish website: 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:

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 open from 7 am to 6 pm daily, and the usual Mass timetable as above apply. We look forward to seeing everyone at Mass.

20th March 2022 – Third Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Deceased: Monica Hunt, Robyn Hession, Marge Graham (died in the floods) recently deceased; Pauline Elias, Buyung Elias, Christina Salim, Alexander Arifin, Agnes Arifin, Frederika Striff, Cardinal Sir James Darcy Freeman, Fr. John Riordan, Father Denis Madigan, Bishop Patrick Laurence Murphy anniversaries.

SECURITY: People have always sought security. That is why they have given up a nomad existence and formed themselves into nations or communities where laws can bring them peace. Today in modern states security has become very complex. States pass laws in an endeavour to secure it for their citizens. Thus, we have so called social security. This is an attempt to provide for the economic and health needs of the people. Science and technology are employed to help to give confidence against attacks from disease or various enemies.

But what neither the state or science can provide is that inner security which every human being needs. We can so easily become subject to our emotions and passions and arouse a civil war within us. Like the fig tree in the parable of today's Gospel, we can become fruitless; be so taken up with ourselves that our spiritual life withers away. God would be perfectly just if he left us without the fertilising help of his grace.

We are in constant need of this grace of repentance; none of us is perfect and if we endeavour to be completely self-reliant disaster will follow.

Our inward peace and security must arise from the recognition of God's power and love as shown to us in Christ. Christ said: *Without me you can do nothing*. The branches of the tree must be embedded in him. If we, the branches, are cut off from him, they cannot bear fruit and are only fit to be burnt. It is obviously prudent to take measures for material security, but a guarantee against economic or other material loss is no guarantee of inner security or peace. It alone cannot give us that peace of which Christ spoke, and indeed it can so entice us as to do exactly the opposite. We have the consolation of knowing from Christ's words in today's parable that if we do go wrong, he will offer us the grace of repentance.

THE SEASON OF LENT: Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others (almsgiving). In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their *eighteenth* year, until the beginning of their *sixtieth* year. The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their *fourteenth* year. The rationale behind the Church's law is an invitation for us to join ourselves to Jesus in his forty days of self-denial in the desert. As we imitate our Saviour, we confront our own human weakness and remind ourselves of the brevity of life and our need for salvation which only comes through faith and imitation of Christ.

The Pascal precept binds all Catholics to receive Holy Communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. The faithful are also obliged to confess their grave (mortal) sins individually in the Sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

The practice of almsgiving during Lent is recommended by contribution to Project Compassion. Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are available this Sunday in the foyer of the Church.

Stations of the Cross: This beautiful devotion apt for the season of Lent will be conducted in the Church each Friday during Lent at 7 pm. Come and walk the journey in memory of Christ crucified.

This weekend the St. Vincent de Paul Conference will be taking up a leaving collection after the weekend Masses for the relief fund for flood affected areas in the State.

You may also wish to donate online at [St Vincent de Paul Society NSW - Flood Appeal \(vinnies.org.au\)](http://StVincentdePaulSocietyNSW-FloodAppeal.vinnies.org.au)

The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses: You can access this on YouTube by following this link: bit.ly/stjoatley **OR**



Mass will also be streamed on Thursdays at 12 md for the teachers and children of St. Joseph's School.

The Children's liturgy of the word for this Sunday can be access by clicking on the following link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1v_HqpBcswz9NX-CAGfxb_PTzk9HX-z2P1kOxrvvw0TU/present?slide=id.gee6f26b3d6_0_58

Sacramental Program for 2022 has been recently updated, please visit the Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au and click on the tab *Sacrament Dates 2022* for further information.

Applications for the ***Sacrament of Confirmation 2021 & 2022*** are now open and will close Sunday 17 April 2022. Please visit the parish website www.stjosephschurch.com.au and click on the tab *Sacramental Dates 2022* for further details. The parent information evening is scheduled for 28 April @ 7.30pm via ZOOM[®]. All families registered will be sent the ZOOM[®] link by email from the sacramental coordinator after applications close

Please note that Parish Confirmations this year will be at St. Mary's Cathedral on the ***7th of August 2022 at 3.30pm*** (St. George's Deanery parishes).

St. Joseph's Primary School

Kindergarten 2023 online enrolments are now open. Access to the online system is via SCS and the school websites. Please lodge applications by 1 April.

[Link to the Enrolment System](#)

Please contact the school office on 9580 6588 or email enrolments.01783@sydstu.catholic.edu.au if you have any enrolment questions.

Church Open

Our church is open each day for weekday Masses and Sunday Masses at 5pm (Saturday Vigil), 8am and 10am, Sundays. We look forward to warmly welcoming everyone back to Mass.

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 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 or contact 9580 1864.



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.