

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)		
Sunday	8 am, 10 am		
Monday	8am (Rosary 7.45)	Confessions	Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Tuesday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Wednesday	8am (Rosary 7.45)	Exposition	Thursday, 9am to 11.45am (with benediction at 11.30am)
Thursday	12 Noon (Rosary 11.45)		
Friday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Saturday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		

26 August 2018 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Masses and Prayers, Leo Brimmer (ann.19/8), Roma Carlton (ann.29/8), Gloria Stonebridge (ann.28/8), Catherine Kennedy (ann.31/8), members of CWL, and those who are sick.

A Hard Saying: No doubt there is much in Christian teaching that is hard to accept. It is much easier to say with the disciples, “ This is intolerable language, who can listen to it”, and then block one’s ears to it. Christ never promised an easy passage to salvation. He spoke of a “narrow way” to it. What the disciples found difficult in the Gospel was Christ’s teaching about himself as food and drink. But Christ is not blaming them for finding it difficult, nor for want of understanding of his teaching. Could anyone blame them for not grasping his meaning? It must have sounded almost completely unintelligible. What Christ was demanding was not understanding but faith in himself. After all these were his disciples. They knew him. They must have known him, unless blinded by prejudice, as a most wonderful person who spoke with complete sincerity and truth. They must have known of his claim to messiahship. Therefore they should have had faith in him. Their attitude should have been “though we don’t understand we know what you are saying is the truth”, instead, as the Gospel tells us “After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went with him”.

What happened then still happens today. There are those who find Christ’s saying hard and because of their lack of faith no longer go along with him. The Christian may find many difficulties if accepting Christ’s teaching but faith feeds on difficulties. It is for all of us to say with St. Peter “Lord to whom we shall go? You have the words of eternal life.” We do not know the answers, but we do know where to go, not for the answers, but for the acceptance of truth.

Plenary Council Why not be involved? The 2020 Plenary Council is a gathering of the Church in Australia to make decisions for the future. Your voice is important. You are invited to contribute to the Plenary Council agenda, by sharing your experience of faith and of the Church. To be involved, visit <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Become an Ambassador, facilitating listening and dialogue groups in your parish. If you want to know more, please speak with your Parish Priest, contact [9390 5100](tel:93905100) or email plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org

Priests’ Retirement Foundation: This weekend we will be making the Priests’ Retirement Foundation Pastoral Appeal. Envelopes are available on the pews. The Foundation provides for the Priests of the Archdiocese who have retired and are on lesser duties .

Father Paul’s completion of Annual Leave: I will be away on annual leave from Wednesday 29th August until Friday 14th September. Father Pat Keenan CSSR will be supplying for the Parish during my absence.

“Drought Assistance – Oatley Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Over the past two weeks the Conference has sought donations of various non-perishable items from Oatley Parish to assist those badly affected by the drought in NSW. The Conference is grateful for the items already received and will conclude its program this weekend. However, there will still be an opportunity to place items in the categorised baskets in the church foyer before Monday morning . It is proposed to forward the items to Wellington NSW from where hampers will be made up for distribution. Any enquiries please call Sue Vit on 0407 291 722 or John Perkins on 0409 077 490.”

Confirmation Classes: Saturdays:, 25th August 3.30pm, 1st September 3.30pm, 8th September 3.00pm.

COLLECTIONS AND ROSTERS

1st: 913	2nd: \$1471	Envelopes: \$1654
Money Counters Roster	Sun 28 Aug	Lynne Ekholm Leo Sullivan
	Sun 4 Sept	Marcia & Brian Smith

	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens
Sat 25 Aug 5pm	Joe Shakkal	Sandra Soldo	Amber L Martha K	Bill Quigley
Sun 26 Aug 8am	Anne Lee	Darren McDowell	No Servers	Mark Shad
Sun 26 Aug 10am	Glenn McLachlan	Ana Simurina	Ivan G Lachlan	David Lee
Sat 1 Sept 5pm	Glenn McLachlan	Lewis DeGabriele	Sorcha M Sophia S	Brian Smith
Sun 2 Sept 8am	Tom Ryan	Chris’ Mitchell	No Servers	Tom Ryan
Sun 2 Sept 10am	Phillip Merrick	George Novak	Mavina K Marita B	Maureen Owens
Children’s Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society	
Sun 26 Aug	Natalie Greguric	Lewis DeGabriele	Marcia Smith Marg Vella	
Sun 2 Sept	Jenny el Khabbaz	Brian Rayment	Susan Canham Angela Nadile	