

## **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](mailto:oatleycc@bigpond.net.au)  
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)

## **26<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Masses for the Deceased:** June Roebuck, recently deceased. Leo and Mary Arena, Alf and Rosaria Mangano, David Way, Hilda Marie Lee, Millie Saunders, Matthew Saunders, Fr. Donald Griffin, Fr. Gregory Meere, Albert (Dan) Hall, Rev. John Shallvey msc, anniversaries.

**SELF-CONTROL:** When Our Lord speaks in today's Gospel about cutting off one's hand or foot or plucking out one's eyes his words are not to be taken literally. He is using hyperbole. He is not speaking of self-mutilation. He is emphasising the need for self-control in our lives. Our hand can be a means of wrong-doing if we use it, for example to steal or damage someone's property. But our hand is only an agent of our mind and will. They are the directing forces which need to be checked. Similarly, our feet can lead us astray into occasions of evil; they too need to come under the influence of our will to restrain them. Our eyes can be used either for our spiritual benefit or for immorality. We must be our own surgeon in the sense that we must cut out of ourselves evil tendencies and evil promptings of the will that can so easily ruin our lives.

If then we realise that we are God's children, we must, at the same time, understand that we should live under his discipline and must use our faculties in his service and not in the service of evil. This will at times involve self-denial. We may have to close our eyes to certain things which attract us. We may have to say "no" to our hands and feet. Always there is the choice between self-control or self-destruction. This is what Christ is saying in the Gospel. The choice is between the kingdom of Heaven and being eternally cut off from God. We have not got the freehold of our bodies. They are given to us on earth to use in God's service. He is our landlord to whom one day we must give an account of ourselves.

Always during our life, he has supplied the means by which our eyes and hands and feet could have a divine purpose and significance. It would be much better for us to be without them if that divine purpose and significance is ignored or frustrated through evil use.

**The Parish now has the facility to stream our Sunday Masses:** You can access this on YouTube by following this link:

[bit.ly/stjoatley](https://bit.ly/stjoatley) or

**You can also access it by going to the Archdiocese of Sydney website where there is a list of Churches who stream their Masses each week. Just click on the link for St. Joseph's Parish, Oatley.**



**The Children's liturgy of the word** is in recess during the School Holidays.

**Sacramental Program for 2021:** Please visit the Parish website:

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

Dear Parents and Carers, it is with regret that I advise, due to the recent COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the NSW government, the balance of our 2021 Sacramental Program for Confirmation and Reconciliation will be suspended. At this stage, no program will be run in Term 3. If the restrictions are lifted, we may run the Confirmation program in Term 4, 2021 (revised dates to be advised) and move the reconciliation program to Term 1, 2022. Please email our sacramental program coordinator Sandra Green on [sandragreen@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sandragreen@optusnet.com.au) should you have any questions. Fr. Paul.

**SRE classes in public schools are postponed for the time being. However, SRE Learning from Home lessons are available.**

Catholic SRE Learning from Home materials can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>

New Learning from Home lessons have been uploaded this week and are available for parents to access across NSW. These include user-friendly Click & Learn PowerPoints and home activity sheets.

The NSW Department of Education will also advise schools to inform families of the availability of these resources.

## **Closure of Churches due to the recent spread of the Corona virus.**

As from 6pm on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Greater Sydney (which includes the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong, and Shellharbour) has gone into an indefinite lockdown. Consequently, the Church is closed until further notice.

However, *funerals are permitted* with a limit of 10 attendees, in addition to those essential for the service (celebrant, undertakers, musician/singer, streaming operator).

Weddings are now permitted for small groups: 5 guests only, in addition to those necessary for the liturgy (i.e. the couple, the two witnesses, the celebrant and probably a musician/singer, and photographer).

Baptisms *are not permitted*, except in case of emergency. Similarly, the anointing of the sick, and sick calls generally, are permitted in case of emergency only.

It seems clear that, because the new Delta strain of Covid virus is so infectious, we are being asked to be even more cautious than during the previous lockdown. “Stay home” means “avoid all unnecessary contact with other people, including family members who live in other households.” Those who live in the Liverpool, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Georges River, Fairfield, Cumberland, and Blacktown Local Government areas, are required to remain in those areas unless they have a valid reason to leave for work (which requires at least one dose of a Covid 19 vaccine and a medical contraindication certificate which must be carried along with the required evidence of exemption to travel).

**During the lockdown, the Sunday Mass will be live streamed on YouTube, and 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.**

**Mass will also be streamed on Thursdays at 12 md for the teachers and children of St. Joseph’s School who are at School or at home with their parents.**

You can access the Mass on YouTube by following this link: [bit. /stjoatley](https://bit.ly/stjoatley) Or



## Message from the Parish Priest

It has now been three months that our parish community in Oatley, along with the rest of New South Wales is in hard lockdown. The cases of infections from the Delta strain of the Corona virus are increasing each day, and there have been several deaths either from or with the virus. Viruses can never be totally eradicated and will continue to circulate in the community and infect many people. The solution is protection from the virus. To do this, we have been placed in a strict lockdown to curb the spread of the Corona virus, and isolated from one another. We cannot remain in this situation forever. Since the emergence of the Corona virus at the beginning of last year, effective vaccines have been developed, and, of course, the best protection from any virus is scrupulous hygiene and vaccination. We are fortunate the Corona vaccines (Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna) are now readily available and rolled out. The Premier and her Health advisors are constantly urging us to have the vaccination whenever possible. This will be a passport to resuming a somewhat normal life as before the pandemic and to protect us from further outbreaks. I have been fully vaccinated with Astra Zeneca, and I urge all Parishioners who are eligible to be vaccinated as soon as practicable. Sound health advice says that we have nothing to fear from this, and any risks are far outweighed by the protection the vaccines afford.

We are all going through a very difficult time at present. The lockdowns have caused many people to lose their jobs and their incomes. Children are deprived of normal school attendance and face to face learning. People who live alone lack the company of friends and relatives and, people and families are separated from one another. Our spiritual wellbeing, as a Catholic Community, is centred on the Eucharist, the summit and source of our faith. It is the Eucharist that binds us together as one and nourishes and strengthens us to live our baptismal commitment as the Body of Christ. For some time now, we have been unable to assemble as a Christian Community or have only been allowed to assemble in smaller numbers. It is still uncertain as to when we will be able to come together once more in our parish Church to fully participate in the Liturgy of the Church and to be refreshed with the Body and Blood of our Blessed Lord by our reception of Holy Communion. Nevertheless, we are fortunate that we have the advantage with modern technology to be able to participate in Masses that are live-streamed. When I arranged for this facility to be installed in our parish last year it was at the time when things started opening again, and our congregation was returning to Mass, albeit with reduced numbers. Now, it has proved its worth and we are able to live-stream the Mass every week so you can participate at home. I have also started to live-stream Mass on Thursdays for the benefit of the children at school or at home. This, of course, is not the best solution, but it is the next best thing. Nothing will ever replace actual attendance at Mass with a real and conscious participation, and reception of Holy Communion. As the old saying goes: *Absence makes the heart grow fonder*, we should all take time in our isolation to reflect on the importance of the Mass and Sacraments in our lives and, in our hunger for the Eucharist, long for the time when we can come together again as a vibrant Christian community.

When we can open our Churches again to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments, possibly at the end of October, or sooner, certain rules will still apply, such as, social distancing of 4 square metres, no congregational singing, and check-in procedures for

congregants (QR code etc.) The Archbishop and other church and faith leaders are presently lobbying the Government to seek an exemption from excluding people who are not fully vaccinated. **If the Government still insists of full vaccination status before anyone can attend any venue, then sadly, we will be required to exclude unvaccinated people from Church services.** There are vaccines readily available, and it would be wise to seek vaccination so that we are all protected against the virus. Otherwise, we will not be able to enjoy the freedoms accorded to the fully vaccinated.

Each day when I say Mass in our empty parish Church, I recall all the faces that usually occupy the pews and I offer the Holy Sacrifice for the wellbeing of all members of our Parish family. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

**Fr. Paul.**

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** During the period of lockdown, the Weekly is continuing its publication and is available to read, free of charge, as a digital edition. You can access this by clicking on the following link

[Digital Editions: The Catholic Weekly](#)

Today in all our parishes we have the Appeal for the Charitable Works Fund. During lockdown we have not been able to collect money from parishioners for either the first or second collection, or for special appeals. However, some parishioners have been able to make contributions by using the electronic transfer facility or Bpoint. Some have even called at the presbytery to hand in their planned giving contributions. I would like to thank all parishioners for their support during these troubling times. The parish and the Archdiocese rely on the generous support of all parishioners.

Below is information about the Charitable Works Fund and instructions as to how you may make your contribution.

## Charitable Works Fund Parish Appeal 2021

Dear Fellow Parishioner

History repeats itself.

Again we continue to find ourselves in lockdown. Parishes are closed. Access to the sacraments limited. In addition, many continue to suffer from COVID, whether it be loss of life, or loss of livelihood. These are unfortunate times.

However, the Church also has an opportunity to repeat history and shine in midst of crisis.

During the Spanish Flu pandemic, Catholics were at the forefront in supporting the sick and providing resources to those in need.

Today, we have an opportunity to do the same by supporting the parish Charitable Works Fund appeal.

**A special message from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP** (below) emphasises the importance of this appeal and invites you to support our “Gospel message of love, and its fruits in ministries of mercy”.



**Please consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$50 to support our ministries.** Your donation will assist those suffering with mental illness, mothers facing homelessness and members of our deaf and disabled community.

**To donate, please click the donate button below, select the donation amount and enter your parish.**

**DONATE TO CWF TODAY**

Alternatively, you might like to **download our latest app** to assist with secure and easy donations.

**Download the Our Faith Our Works app**

Your one-stop location for Mass and Confession times, spiritual reflections and meditations, podcasts, local Catholic news, the Go Make Disciples mission plan and much more.

**To download the app**  
visit [ourfaithourworks.org/app](https://ourfaithourworks.org/app)

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

**PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**PRAYER RESOURCES**

A few helpful resources to assist your times of prayer.

**PRAY**

Become a saint by watching and listening to our special curated list from the Archdiocese and beyond.

On behalf of our ministries, thank you for your generous support. Together, let us repeat history, and continue the good works of mercy started in the Gospel.

God bless and stay safe

**Michael Mendieta**

Director, Development and Fundraising Office  
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

## MORE FROM OUR CWF MINISTRIES



### **Answering the Call through the Good Shepherd Seminary**

Fr Noel Custodio, a first-year priest, shares about his journey to the priesthood through the Good Shepherd Seminary in Sydney.

[READ MORE](#)





### **Catechism stops for no lockdown**

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has taken to their laptops to ensure that Catechists continue to receive critical training to enable them to spread the Word of God to students in public schools.

[READ MORE](#)



## **Growing in faith with Aboriginal Catholic Ministry**

The final month before being plunged into lockdown proved to hold some momentous occasions for members of the Aboriginal Catholic Community.

[READ MORE](#)



## Ephpheta Staying Connected

The Ephpheta Centre continues to create meaningful opportunities for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community to connect and grow in their Catholic faith.

[READ MORE](#)



**CHARITABLE WORKS FUND**  
Your *local* charity

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) collects funds to support the charitable and pastoral works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Your generous gift of \$2 or more is tax-deductible.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

**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.*

## **26<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **THE INTRODUCTORY RITES**

#### **Entrance Procession**

*All that you have done to us, O Lord,  
you have done with true judgement,  
for we have sinned against you  
and not obeyed your commandments.  
But give glory to your name  
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.*

#### **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.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

## **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

## **Collect**

Let us pray.

O God, who manifest your almighty power  
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,  
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us  
and make those hastening to attain your promises  
heirs to the treasures of heaven.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
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 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF  
ORDINARY TIME.**

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray in the name of Jesus to  
the God for whose kingdom we long.*

1. That the Church may rejoice at every sign of the Spirit's presence and recognize as fellow disciples all who call on the name of Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That stumbling blocks placed in the path toward peace may give way before mutual trust and reconciliation. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That laborers who tend the fields and harvesters who provide for our tables may receive the just wages and decent living conditions for which they have a right. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That Christian landlords and business owners may guard against greed by opening their hearts to the needy and working on behalf of justice. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That we, who partake at this table of a foretaste of heaven's banquet, may never choose instead the hell of those who live only for themselves. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
6. That those who followed Christ in this life and served Christ in others may come to the reward of life with Christ for ever. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
7. May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, assist us in our journey of faith. **HAIL MARY.**

*Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time and with one accord to  
make our common supplications unto you; and has promised that when two  
or three are gathered together in your name, you will grant their requests:  
Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of your servants, as may be  
most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,  
and in the world to come, life everlasting. We ask this in the name of Jesus  
Christ, our Lord. 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**

*Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,  
by which you have given me hope.  
This is my comfort when I am brought low.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord,  
restore us in mind and body,  
that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ,  
to whose suffering we are united  
whenever we proclaim his Death.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

## BLESSING

May the Lord bless us and keep us

May he let his face shine upon us  
and show us his mercy.

May he turn his countenance towards us  
and give us his peace.

And 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.

*If you wish to donate to the Church Account (Second Collection) there is a Bpoint facility 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](mailto:oatleycc@bigpond.net.au) or contact 9580 1864.*



**CCareline:** helping Sydney families with relationships, parenting, ageing services, disability, addictions and mental health concerns.  
[connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)