

St Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21C Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

Rev Paul Hilder – Parish Priest

Mrs Nicky Rodrigues – Parish Secretary (Tues, Thurs & Fridays)

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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au

St 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	Exposition	Thursday, 9am to 11:45am (with benediction at 11:30am)
Monday	8am (Rosary 7:45)		
Tuesday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Wednesday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Thursday	12 noon (Rosary 11:45)		
Friday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Saturday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		

11th December 2016 3rd Sunday of Advent

Masses and prayers: Raymond Caramsing (ann.08/11), Dulcie Perkins (rec dec 2/12) Dominic Colagiuri (ann. 3/12), Vincent Bourke (ann. 16/12), George Kent (ann. 18/12), deceased members of CWL, and those who are sick, including, Terri & Chris Sarno, Marcella Hill, Carole Tesoriero ,Henry Pak, Patricia Dolan and who need our prayers including Philip Trinder.

Third Candle of Advent: is for the Shepherds, and for all who seek the Lord in humility.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

The Jewish Festival of Hanukkah was instituted by Judas Maccabeus on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Chislev (i.e. 25th December). The story of the Feast and its institution is told in the Bible..... 1 Maccabees 1:54, Daniel 9:27-11:31; 2 Maccabees 10:5.

After the death of Alexander the Great in 323BC, the Seleucid Kings became masters of Asia Minor. One of these kings, Epiphanes the Fourth, began a campaign of persecution against the Jews. He desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem and erected over the altar of Holocausts an altar where pagan sacrifices were offered. This act, referred to in the Bible as "The Abomination of Desolation" is mentioned both in the First Book of Maccabees and in the Book of Daniel. It took the form of a sacrifice in honour of the pagan god, Zeus Olympios, and was carried out on the 25th December, 168BC. Three years later, Judas Maccabeus, after his first victories, purified the sanctuary, built a new altar and restored the Jewish sacrifices on the same day, 25th December, 165BC, exactly three years after the profanation of the Temple by Antiochus Epiphanes. It was then decided that the Feast of the rededication of the Temple should be observed on the 25th December each year. The feast is mentioned only once in the New Testament. In St. John's Gospel we are told, "It was the time when the feast of the Dedication was being celebrated in Jerusalem. It was winter and Jesus was in the Temple walking up and down in the Portico of Solomon" (John 19:22-23).

The celebration of Hanukkah lasted for eight days and was a most joyful feast. Apart from the ceremonies in the Temple, green branches of trees and palms were carried around as a sign of joy and joyful hymns were sung. The feast was also characterized by the use of lamps. Lamps

were lit on the last day of the feast. On this account, the Jewish historian, Josephus, also calls Hanukkah the "Feast of Lights".

The 25th December is now our Christmas Day. We too celebrate with great joy. The Christmas Tree with its lights and decorations remind us of the procession of branches and palms and the lighting of the lamps on the eight days of the feast. St. John, in the Prologue to his Gospel, gives prominence to the birth of Our Lord as "That life was the light of all people, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The true light that enlightens all people; and He was coming into the world".

Jesus, the Messiah, is the true Temple and His sacrifice on the Cross replaces all others.

Christmas Masses

Saturday 24th December: **5pm** Vigil Mass in church.

7pm Mass in the undercroft of the school (All welcome)

Midnight Mass, starting with carols at 11.30.

Sunday 25th December: 8am (dawn Mass); 10am .

SILVER CIRCLE Winners. Week 9: 1st.Prize.\$20. No 24.Tom Ryan. 2nd. Prize.\$5.No 37. Jill O'Leary

Positions Vacant for 2017 – Family Educators

Applications are invited for the position of **Family Educator** based in a number of Catholic primary schools in the Sydney Archdiocese. To see locations please go to www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au . Click on Employment, Positions Vacant, Family Educator Role to see the application pack. Applications close December 12, 2016. For further information contact meredith.lemos@syd.catholic.edu.au.

Collections Last Week

1st: \$1009	2nd: \$421	Envelopes: 1921
Money Counters Roster	Sun 13 December Kathryn Wojcicki Leo Sullivan	
	Sun 20 December Brian & Marcia Smith	

Parish Liturgy Roster

	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens
Sat 10 Dec 5pm	Glenn McLachlan	George Novak	Mitchell L Joseph P	Richard McMillan
Sun 11 Dec 8am	Tom Ryan	Patrick Salonga	Chloe R Bridget C	Seb Arena
Sun 11 Dec 0am	Joe Shakkal	Joseph Nadile	Rory & Luke G	David Lee
Sat 17 Dec 5pm	TBA	Lewis DeGabriele	John M Thomas B	John Perkins
Sun 18 Dec 8am	Anne Lee	Darren McDowel	Isabella & Krystelle B	Tom Ryan
Sun 18 Dec 10am	TBA	Jamie & Melissa Dimeo	Mitchell B Alex P	Maureen Owens
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society	
Sun 11 Dec	Fiona Doolan	Marcia Smith	Wendy Grimes	
Sun 18 Dec	Danielle Purser	Lewis DeGabriele	Margaret Rayment Kath Richardson	