

## 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](http://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)
<b>Saturday</b>	5 pm (Vigil for Sunday)	<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	8 am, 10 am		
<b>Monday</b>	8am (Rosary 7:45)	<b>Exposition</b>	Thursday, 9am to 11:45am (with benediction at 11:30am)
<b>Tuesday</b>	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
<b>Wednesday</b>	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
<b>Thursday</b>	12 noon (Rosary 11:45)		
<b>Friday</b>	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
<b>Saturday</b>	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		

## 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Readings Sunday Year. A, Weekdays Year. 1

**Masses and prayers** Malcolm Blair (ann. 27/11), Graham Kelly (ann.23/11), Allan Cameron (ann.29/11), Dorothy Lloyd (ann.03/12), deceased members of CWL, and those who are sick, including, Terri & Chris Sarno, Marcella Hill, Carole Tesoriero, Patricia Dolan and who need our prayers including Henry Pak and Philip Trinder, and November Masses for the Holy Souls.

**The Season of Advent**, begins this Sunday, and the Church enters a new liturgical year. Advent, basically is a time of preparation for 25<sup>th</sup> December, to celebrate Our Lord's first coming among us in the mystery of the Incarnation, when He took flesh of the Blessed Virgin Mary and became man. Advent (which takes its name from the Latin *Advenio*: (to come to, to reach, to arrive at), is both a spiritual preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas as well as directing the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming as he promised at the end of time. In Short, the word *expectation* aptly summarises Advent.

Over the years the Church has encouraged many practices which help us focus on the coming of Christ. In many of our parish Churches, we see an Advent wreath with candles representing the four Sundays of Advent. The children of our primary schools decorate a tree in the parish Church with symbols of the antecedents of our Blessed Lord or his genealogy as taken from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. This is often referred to as the Jesse Tree and at Christmas it is decorated with lights and tinsel. Some parishes also encourage Advent home discussion groups for parishioners. The children prepare Advent calendars to mark down the dates leading up to 25<sup>th</sup> December.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Christmas novena begins and the focus shifts to the Christmas story. The Blessed Virgin Mary, as the expectant mother and model of the Church, exemplifies the desire of the ages, awaiting the coming of the Lord. During this time, the Christmas Crib is usually set up in our Church.

Whilst the season of Advent is not specifically a penitential season like Lent, nevertheless, it is a time when we should take the opportunity to reflect on our lives. During the first two Sundays of Advent, we hear the voices of the Prophet Isaiah, and John the Baptist calling us to prepare

for the coming of the Messiah. We need to remove the obstacles in our lives which would hinder a full reception of the Lord and to make ourselves ready to meet him. We can do this by a profitable examination of conscience and a worthy confession of our sins in the Sacrament of Penance.

### THE ADVENT WREATH: SYMBOLISM OF THE WREATH.

**Circle:** Represents the eternity of God and the continuity of the first and second coming of Christ

**Green Foliage:** suggests growth, life and hope.

**Red Apples, Pomegranates, Holly and Berries:** suggests the first creation, the forbidden fruit- the fall of our first parents Adam and Eve that merited a Redeemer in Christ who suffered and died for us on the Cross.

**Snow tipped Pine cones:** The winter of our existence in Old Testament times before the coming of our Saviour.

**Pomegranates:** In the middle ages, it was often thought that the forbidden fruit eaten by Adam and Eve was a pomegranate, because it is full of seeds which will bring forth new life. On the wreath, this would symbolise death and the hope of resurrection.

**Candles:** God gradually revealing His plan for our salvation throughout human history up to the coming of our Lord and Saviour. The three mauve candles represent the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, and the pink or rose is for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

**First Candle:** is for the Prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

**Second Candle:** is for Bethlehem, the city of King David from whence would come forth the promised Messiah.

**Third Candle:** is for the Shepherds and all who seek the Lord in humility.

**Fourth Candle:** is for the Angels who heralded the Christ's birth and sang their hymn of Joy.

### Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2016, commencing Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Your donation will be an important foundation in making a difference to the lives of many Australians this Christmas. .President Sue Vit and Members.

**Silver Circle winners**, Week 7; 1st Prize. \$20, No. 27, Sue Wilcox. 2nd. Prize. \$ 5. No. 10. Barbara Morris. CWL will hold their Christmas Luncheon following Midday Mass on Thursday 8th December. Cost \$35. Parishioners, both male and female, are most welcome. Ring 95792174 or see Marcia

### Collections Last Week

1 <sup>st</sup> 949	2 <sup>nd</sup> \$ 581	Envelopes \$1891
Money Counters		29 Nov Anna Merrick Sandy Cox Maria Pak
		6 December Leanne Graham Lisa Parry Tom Ryan

### Parish Liturgy Roster

	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens
Sat 3 Dec 5pm	Sam Attard	Dick McMillan	David & Anna C	Brian Smith
Sun 4 Dec 8am	Anne Lee	Nathaniel Gleeson	Bridie M Beth J	Mark Shad
Sun 4 Dec 10am	Vince Cordi	Alex/Thomas Merrick	Audrey G Jocelyn H	Lewis DeGabriele
	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>Rosary Leader</b>	<b>Altar Society</b>	
Sun 4 December	Karen & Cath Horder	Lewis DeGabriele	Susan Canham Angela Nadile	