

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)		
Sunday		
8 am, 10 am		
Monday	Confessions	Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
9am (Rosary 8:45)		
Tuesday		
8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Wednesday	Exposition	Thursday, 9am to 11:45am (with benediction at 11:30am)
8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Thursday		
12 noon (Rosary 11:45)		
Friday		
8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Saturday		
8 am (Rosary 7:45)		

1st January 2017, Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Masses and prayers: Veita Kretchmer (ann.08/01), Marie Spataro (ann.03/01), Clifford Ball (ann.01/01), Ella Doyle (ann.05/01), Vida Kennedy (ann.08/01), 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 Philip Trinder.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

This well beloved Christmas song may seem strange to many people but is, in fact, rich in Christian symbolism, and was in fact a metaphor for a bible story. The true twelve days of Christmas varies across some 50 religious denominations, but the Catholic version has the Christmas season starting on December 25 and concluding with the feast of the Epiphany.

Each day represents the celebration of a martyr, saint or a feast connected with Jesus' birth, and it is in memory of the visit of the Three Wise Men that we give presents to each other at Christmas.

During the penal times in England when Catholics were forbidden to practice their faith, the song was used as a secret catechism to teach their children knowledge of the saints and the doctrine of the faith in a secret code:

"On the first day of Christmas my true love (God) gave to me, a partridge (Jesus Christ) in a pear tree (perhaps representing the cross).

Second day: Two turtle doves (Old and the New Testaments).

Third day: Three French hens (gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity).

Fourth day: Four Calling birds (the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

Fifth day: Five golden rings (the five Books of Moses, the Pentateuch).

Sixth day: Six Geese a-laying (six days of creation).

Seventh day: Seven Swans a-swimming (seven gifts of the Holy Spirit).

Eighth day: Eight Maids a-milking (the eight beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount).

Ninth day: Nine Ladies dancing (the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as charity, peace,

patience and kindness).

Tenth day: Ten Lords a-leaping (the Ten Commandments).

Eleventh day: Eleven pipers piping (the eleven apostles).

Twelfth day: Twelve drummers drumming (the twelve points of the Apostles Creed).

Let us give thanks to Almighty God for all the good gifts he has bestowed upon us, and in particular, the gift of our Catholic Faith, and the ability to practice it in freedom.

Collections Last Week

1st: \$3253	2nd: \$1551	Envelopes: \$2632
Money Counters Roster	Sun 3 Jan Lynne Ekholm Leo Sullivan	
	Sun 10 Jan Anna Merrick Sandy Cox Phil Stevens	

Parish Liturgy Roster

	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens
Sat 31 Dec 5pm	Glenn McLachlan	Jelena Suto	John M Thomas B	Brian Smith
Sun 1 Jan 8am	Anne lee	George Novak	Isabella & Krystelle B	Seb Arena
Sun 1 Jan 10 am	Vince Cordi	Jamie & Melissa Dimeo	Mitchell B Alex P	Lewis DeGabriele
Sat 7 Jan 5pm	Sam Attard	Emma Bennett	TBA	Richard Mc Millan
Sun 8 Jan 8am	Tom Ryan	Michael Gleeson	TBA	Tom Ryan
Sun 8 Jan 1 0am	John Romanous	Kyle McLachlan	TBA	David Lee
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society	
Sun 1 Jan	School Holidays	Brian Rayment	Susan Canham Angela Nadile	
Sun 8 Jan	School Holidays	Marcia Smith	Wendy Grimes	

As we begin the New Year today, let us make our resolution to be a little more understanding, patient, forgiving, tolerant and kind.

May the Lord grant us peace and good health during 2017.

Happy New Year to all! Fr. Paul.