

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
8am (Rosary 7:45)		
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)		

8th January 2017, The Epiphany of the Lord.

Masses and Kelly Sherlock (ann.11/01), deceased members of CWL, Jura Jerkovic (for his good fortune), for souls in purgatory, and those who are sick, including, Terri & Chris Sarno, Marcella Hill, Carole Tesoriero, Patricia Dolan and who need our prayers including Philip Trinder.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We acknowledge the fact that Jesus, as well as being truly human, is also truly God. Today his divinity shines forth in the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus in the stable of Bethlehem. The Magi are the first gentiles to worship Christ. Guided by a mysterious star they came to offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gift of gold recognises the child as a King. The frankincense, which is used for divine worship, acknowledges his divinity, and the myrrh, an aromatic substance used in balms for healing and for the preparation of the dead for burial, foreshadows Christ's suffering, death and burial. In the New Testament they are called *Maji*, or sages. The idea that they were kings first appears in Christian tradition in the writings of Tertullian who calls them *ferē reges* ('almost kings') and it became general from the 6th century, on the basis of an implied reference in Psalm 72. The Gospel says nothing of their number, but the Christian theologian Origen was the first to give it as three, probably on account of their three gifts, and this has become the general tradition. Their names, *Gaspar*, *Melchior*, and *Balthasar*, are first mentioned in the 6th century. In the middle ages they were venerated as saints. Their relics were originally in Constantinople but brought by the Crusaders to Milan in the 5th Century. They were then taken by Frederick Barbarossa to Germany in 1162 and are now enshrined the Cologne Cathedral.

The Adoration of the Magi has become one of the most popular subjects of Christian art.

The earliest painting in existence is in the 'Capella greca' of the Priscilla Catacomb in Rome which dates from the 2nd century.

The two other Epiphanies of the Lord that we celebrate at this time are his Baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist (this Feast is on Monday 9th January this year), and the changing of water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana in Galilee (this Gospel was read at Mass yesterday).

Tax Deductibility Changes to the Planned Giving Program.

Due to recent NSW State Government Legislative changes that take effect from 1st January 2017, it will not be possible to provide tax deductibility on Planned Giving donations made after 31/12/2016. A tax deductible receipt will however be provided for any contributions made for the period 01/07/2016 to 31/12/2016.

The Parish Finance Committee will be contacting everyone on the Planned Giving program to provide them with further information.

Collections Last Week

1st: \$979	2nd: \$398	Envelopes: \$1858
Money Counters Roster	Sun 10 Jan Anna Merrick Sandy Cox Phil Stevens	
	Sun 17 Jan Brian & Marcia Smith	

Parish Liturgy Roster

	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens
Sat 7 Jan 5pm	Sam Attard	Emma Bennett	Anna & David C	Richard Mc Millan
Sun 8 Jan 8am	Tom Ryan	Michael Gleeson	Elissa & Selina C	Tom Ryan
Sun 8 Jan 1 0am	John Romanous	Kyle McLachlan	Ross G John M	David Lee
Sat 14 Jan 5pm	Phillip Merrick	Carreon Family	Kyler & Xavier I	Rafe Kowron
Sun 15 Jan 8am	Anne Lee	Chris' Mitchell	Bridget C Chloe R	Mark Shad
Sun 15 Jan 1 0am	Danny Clark	Damian & Niamh Callinan	Joseph P Mitchell L	Maureen Owens
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society	
Sun 8 Jan	School Holidays	Marcia Smith	Wendy Grimes	
Sun 15 Jan	School Holidays	Lewis DeGabriele	Margaret Rayment Kath Richardson	

