

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)

Phone: 9580 1864 Fax: 9586 3074 Email: oatleycc@bigpond.net.au

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	8am (Rosary 7:45)	Confessions	Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Tuesday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Wednesday	8am (Rosary 7.45)	Exposition	Thursday, 9am to 11:45am (with benediction at 11:30am)
Thursday	12 Noon (Rosary 11.45)		
Friday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Saturday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		

3rd December 2017 –First Sunday of Advent

Masses and Prayers: Len Elliott & Madge Archer (rec dec), Phyllis Noble (ann.21/11) Graham Kelly (ann.23/11), Bernice O'Connor (ann.23/11), Giuseppe Talarico (ann.22/11), Allen Cameron (ann.29/11), Malcolm Blair (ann.27/11), Judith Sinclair, (ann.2/12), Dorothy Lloyd (ann.3/12), Margaret Stadtmiller (ann.9/12), members of CWL, and those who are sick, including, Terri & Chris Sarno, Marcella Hill, Carole Tesoriero, Ray Byers.

The Season of Advent begins on the 3rd December 2017, and the Church enters a new liturgical year. Advent basically is a time of preparation for the 25th 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 a directing of the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming as he promised at the end of time. In short, the word *expectation* aptly summarizes 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 make down the dates leading up to the 25th December.

From the 17th 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 Parish Christmas Tree". Fr Paul Hilder would like to invite you and your family to come to the Parish on Sunday, 17th December, at 3pm. Please bring a small decoration to hang on the tree and join the community in the Marian Hall for some afternoon tea. For catering purposes, there is a list in the church foyer to put your names down and number of people attending.

Catholic women's league will hold their Christmas Luncheon on Thursday 7th December following midday Mass. NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE it will now be held at Elim Cafe. Cost is \$40 including 3 raffle tickets. See or call Marcia 95792174.

"For **Seniors** - Life Ascending Australia will meet on Friday 8 December at **12 noon** in the Marian Hall. Visitors/Enquirers are always welcome, Enquiries: Norm Windred 9579 5492"

Collections Last Week

1st: \$ 785	2nd: \$430	Envelopes: \$1481
Money Counters Roster	Sun 05 Dec	Brian & Marcia Smith
	Sun 12 Dec	Anna Merrick Sandy Cox, Maria Pak

Parish Liturgy Roster

	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens
Sat 2 Dec 5pm	Glenn Mclachlan	Richard McMillan	Bridie & Sorcha M	Rafe Kowron
Sun 3 Dec 8am	Anne Lee	Carreon Family	Marc & Luke S	Tom Ryan
Sun 3 Dec 10am	Phillip Merrick	Jade Serban	George B John M	George Battikha
Sat 9 Dec 5pm	Joe Shakkal	George Novak	TBA	Richard McMillan
Sun 10 Dec 8am	Tom Ryan	Patrick Salonga	TBA	Seb Arena
Sun 10 Dec 10am	Phillip Merrick	Emma Bennett	TBA	Lewis Degabriele
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society	
Sun 3 Dec	Fiona Doolan	Marcia Smith	Susan Canham Angela Nadile	
Sun 10 Dec	Roseanne Mcgrath	Lewis DeGabriele	Wendy Grimes	