

St Joseph's Catholic Church Oatley

PO Box 105 (21 Frederick Street) Oatley 2223

Rev John Doherty – Parish Priest

Mrs Margaret Grainger – Parish Secretary (Tues & Thurs school holidays)

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Parish website: www.stjosephschurch.com.au

St Joseph's Catholic School, Oatley

Mrs Catherine Coman – Principal Phone: 9580 6588

Schedule of Masses		Baptisms	By appointment (usually first and third Sunday, 11am)
Saturday	6 pm (Vigil for Sunday)		
Sunday	8 am, 10 am		
Tuesday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		
Wednesday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)	Confessions	Saturday 5:00-5:45 pm
Thursday	12 noon (Rosary 11:45)		
Friday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)	Exposition	Suspended during school holidays
Saturday	8 am (Rosary 7:45)		

26 December 2010: Holy Family

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2010 FROM ARCHBISHOP CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

Christmas has again come upon us quickly, as we gather to celebrate the most popular feast and festival in the calendar.

A mother and a father with a new child provoke universal approval, while the claim that Mary's baby is the only Son of God, the anointed one who was long awaited, is a double blessing for those who believe.

In the Eastern states the drought has broken after about ten years, as the rains started and continued to fall. We thank God for all the long term good the floods will do to the river systems and the countryside, while ruefully acknowledging the dashed hopes for a bumper harvest.

Australia is often like this, but much, indeed most of Australian life is good and those of us blessed with prosperity and happiness should strive to spread the good cheer to those who are battling.

Many of the best aspects of life on our vast continent derive from the Christian tradition, even as some do not recognise this and a few refuse to acknowledge it.

Our two most important holidays celebrate Christmas and Easter. Sunday is still a day of rest in the much loved Australian weekend. We find church communities in every suburb and in every city and town Christian schools, aged-care facilities, welfare agencies and often hospitals are serving everyone.

We acknowledge with gratitude the presence of the other major religious traditions and relish their friendship and cooperation. All people of good will, irreligious and religious contribute.

But it remains a fact that all the even more important level of virtues and values rather than institutions, Christianity continues as a major force. The Australian principle of a fair go for all cannot be understood without the Christian teachings of universal love and forgiveness. Marriage, family, truth telling and social justice derive from the Judaeo - Christian tradition.

The wonderful reception from almost the whole population to the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop demonstrated once again, like World Youth Day, the respect and affection of majority Australia for Christianity.

It remains only for us as Christians to practise what we preach and for me to wish everyone, especially the sad and the sick, a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Masses and prayers: Please pray for Rita Wagstaff (died 20/12), Maria Grazia Trimboli (died 4/12), Clare Joyce Sudwick (rec dec.), Doris Attard (ann. 27/12), Vanessa McDonald, John Francis Hannon (ann. 28/12), Marie McCarthy (ann. 25/12) and those who are sick or who have asked for or need our prayers, including, Kath Green, Ron Cahill, Ben Nimac, Jeni Irwin, Charlotte Wyse and Andrew.

Masses this week: Communion services will replace Masses during this coming week. I will be away leaving Boxing Day arriving back late Saturday 1 January. **Fr John Stork** will be celebrating Masses today, Sunday.

The Parish Office will be open on **Thursday** only this coming week.

Money Counters Roster		
Sun 26 Dec		Margaret Pullen, Lynne Ekholm,
Sun 2 Jan		Margaret Pullen, Brian & Marcia Smith

Parish Liturgy Roster

	Acolytes and Ministers	Lectors	Altar Servers	Mass Wardens
Sun 26 Dec 8am	Tom Ryan	Shirley Quinlan	Niamh C Gabrielle L	Seb Arena
Sun 26 Dec 10am	Vince Cordi	Alex Merrick	Marie-Clare T Justin C	Bill Quigley
Sat 1 Jan 6pm	Sam Attard	Brian/Marcia Smith	Liam M Conor M	Richard McMillan
Sun 2 Jan 8am	Shirley Quinlan	Bill Monaghan	Isabella B Jasmin C	Tom Ryan
Sun 2 Jan 10am	Phillip Merrick	Mirjana Males	Adriana B Lavinia M	David Lee
Children's Liturgy		Rosary Leader	Altar Society	
Sun 26 Dec	No Liturgy – School Holidays	Bill Monaghan	Marcia Smith, Joan Gilmore	
Sun 2 Jan	No Liturgy – School Holidays	Brian Rayment	Margaret Pullen, Willy Van Wanrooy	

