

**St Joseph's Como-Oyster Bay Catholic Church** Fr. Jerzy Chrzczonowicz PP e-mail:jerzy1junior@hotmail.com, mobile: 0411 125 357 210 Oyster Bay Road, Como, Ph: 9528 0205.

Fax: 9528 7434 Web: [www.stjosephscomo.org.au](http://www.stjosephscomo.org.au); [stjoscomo@bigpond.com](mailto:stjoscomo@bigpond.com), Parish Bookkeeper Patricia Low, Parish Auditor Cesar Marmolego, Parish Secretary Anne McMaster

Office Mon. 12:00 – 3:00pm Thur. 8:00am – 3:00pm .School Principal: Mr Allan Fagerstrom PO Box 447, Jannali 2226. Phone: 9528 8716 [info@stjcomo.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stjcomo.catholic.edu.au)

**Our sick:** Grace Di Matteo, Josefa Dabu, Terry Quailey, Rita Webb, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Marko Radmil, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Andre and Thea Van Gastel and friends from the Chesalon Home & housebound

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Saturday Vigil: 6pm (for Summer)

Sunday: 8am, 9.30am

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Mon 6.45am Tues 7.30pm Wed 9am

Thurs 6.45am Fri 9.00am Sat 9.00am

**HOLY HOUR: Saturday 8.00-9.00am**

**RECONCILIATION:** 10 mins before

Mass and Saturdays 8.00 – 8.55am

**BAPTISMS:** at 9.30am Mass

**BAPTISM Prep** Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018

7pm meeting room

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment.

**ANOINTING MASS:** next:

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**NOVENA OUR LADY**

**DIVINE MERCY** Tues. 6.30pm

[www.vocationcentre.org.au](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au)

**EWTTN-Kids** (internet catechism)

**CatholicNewsService**

On 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. after 9am Mass please bring billy tea, scones and damper with syrup to celebrate National Day of Australia.

We bless you, God of the Universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity. We bless you for our history, with all its struggles in adversity, its courage and hope,

Give us in our diversity tolerance and respect for each other and a passionate commitment to justice for all. Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Sat. 9 am:** For the Holy Souls **Vigil 5 pm:** Pro Populo; **Sunday 8am: +; 9.30am +** **Mon: +**  
**Tues: + ; Wed: +Souls in needs; Thurs: + ; Fri: +**

The Sydney Archdiocesan Anti-Slavery Taskforce has been commissioned by Archbishop Fisher to assist with Pope Francis' efforts to eliminate all forms of modern slavery, including forced labour and human trafficking. Catholic communities worldwide are being asked to commemorate St Bakhita's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (patron saint for victims of slavery). Priests are invited to celebrate Mass on this day with a focus on modern slavery in conjunction with parish schools who also commemorating this day. Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947) was born into a well-to-do family of the Daju tribe of south-western Sudan. Her father was the brother of the village chief. He owned a lot of land and had hired servants working for him. At the age of approximately seven years, Bakhita was kidnapped by slave traders and consequently endured many years of physical, emotional and spiritual deprivation. There were long forced marches in slave caravans from her village of Olgossa to the slave markets in El Obeid and then on to Khartoum. Bakhita was sold and re-sold four times in a ten-year period. During this time she was tattooed all over her body with over one hundred incisions. Salt was poured into the wounds to make the pattern of scars stand out. This torture left her immobile from the bleeding and pain for over a month during which time she almost bled to death. The name "Bakhita" comes from the Arabic language and means "The lucky one." This name was given to her by the slave traders since in the trauma of abduction she had forgotten her own name. Bakhita continually searched for the meaning in her experiences of life. As a young adult woman she was taken on a trip to Italy with the last family who "owned" her even though they treated her well. During her stay there Bakhita came to know the Catholic faith through the Canossian Daughters of Charity. She decided to be baptized and held firm against returning to the Sudan with her "owners". With the help of the sisters and some good friends Bakhita gained her freedom. She decided to join the sisters who had taught her about the God she had already experienced in her trials and in her wonderment at the beauty of creation. Bakhita died in Schio on 8 February 1947. She was declared "Blessed" on 17 May 1992, and proclaimed "Saint" on 1 October 2000 in Rome.

Audio-visual resource for our readers: <http://catholicreadings.org>

Aboriginal peoples had been living for more than 60,000 years on the continent we now know as Australia. At least 1600 generations of these peoples had lived and died here. Europeans from the thirteenth century became interested in details from Asia about this land to the south. From the sixteenth century European cartographers and navigators gave the continent various names, including Terra Australis (Southern Land) and New Holland. In 1770 Captain James Cook raised the Union Jack on what is now called Possession Island on 22 August to claim the eastern half of the continent as New South Wales for



## May God Bless Our Land

Great Britain. In 1788 Captain Arthur Phillip, commander of the First Fleet of eleven convict ships from Great Britain, and the first Governor of New South Wales, arrived at Sydney Cove on 26 January and raised the Union Jack to signal the beginning of the colony. In 1804 early almanacs and calendars and the Sydney Gazette began referring to 26 January as First Landing Day or Foundation Day. In Sydney, celebratory drinking, and later anniversary dinners became customary, especially among emancipists. In 1818 Governor Macquarie acknowledged the day officially as a public holiday on the thirtieth anniversary. The previous year he accepted the recommendation of Captain Matthew Flinders, circumnavigator of the continent, that it be called Australia. In 1838 Proclamation of an annual public holiday for 26 January marked the Jubilee of the British occupation of New South Wales. This was the second year of the anniversary's celebratory Sydney Regatta.