

St Joseph's Como-Oyster Bay Catholic Church – Fr. Jerzy Chrzczonowicz PP email:jerzy1junior@hotmail.com, mob.: 0411 125 357; 210 Oyster Bay Road, Como, Ph: 9528 0205.

Web: www.stjosephscomo.org.au; Email: stjoscomo@bigpond.com, Parish Secretary Anne McMaster Parish Bookkeeper Patricia Low, Parish Auditor Cesar Marmolego, Office Mon. 12:00 – 3:00pm Thur. 8:00am – 3:00pm .School Principal Mr. Allan Fagerstrom; PO Box 447, Jannali 2226. Ph. 9528 8716 info@stjcomo.catholic.edu.au

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9.30am

WEEKDAY MASS TIME:

Mon. 7am, Tues 6pm,

Wed.9am, Thurs 7am

Fri 9am Sat 9am.

HOLY HOUR: Tues.5pm–6pm

Saturday 8am – 9am Exposition

1st Friday: prayers 5.30pm 6pm Mass

CONFESSION: 10 mins prior Mass

Saturdays 8 – 8.55am

Tuesday 5.15pm – 5:45pm

BAPTISMS: 9.30am Sun. Mass

BAPTISM Prep.: Feb 6th 2020 7pm

WEDDINGS: By appointment.

ANOINTING MASS: 4th/ 5th Jan 2020

PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH: Mon. Tues.

Thurs. 5 mins before Mass

Mildred Symons House Mass 3rd

Wednesday of month at 11.00 am

Child sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Or contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

Our sick: Julia Lock, Marie Lawsen, Ian Duffy, Glennise Hall, Eliette Majdandzic; Patrick Lim Jnr., Barbara Eadie, Helen McGuirk, Amy Zuschmann, Dragica Furda, May Kenny, Carmen Camilleri, Jan Gurba, Mary Carmen Borg, Norma Cook, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Lonza Busuttill, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Thea Van Gastel, Josephine Marinilli, Joan Hagley, Steven Marinilli, Emilia Huntley and all dear friends from Mildred Symons House

We acknowledge and pay our respects to traditional custodians, past and present, of this land of the Gweagal people of the Dharawal Nation.

Country Spirit will rise from the bushfire's ashes

Sat. 9am +Angela & Tony **Sat.5pm:** +John & Praxedis; **Sun. 8am:** +Jan Jedryczak; **9am:** For the People; **Mon.:** For Relief & deliverance of Souls in Purgatory; **Tues.:** Olga & John Nasser; **Wed.:** Peter & Scholastica; **Thur.:** + Yohana Sriyanti Yahya; **Fri.:** +Dr Ten



Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. Amen

Christmas Vigil: Tue 24 Dec. 6:00 pm: Family Mass

10:30 pm: Carols in Church – 11pm: Night Mass

Christmas Day: Wed 25 Dec. Mass times: 8am, 9:30am

New Year's Eve: Tue 31 Dec: Thanksgiving Mass: 6pm

New Year's Day / Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God:

Wed. 1st Jan. Thanksgiving Mass: 9am

That God was willing to become human is amazing. But even more amazing is the *kind of human God became*. Most Jewish people alive with Jesus were expecting God to be a conquering and triumphant king. They were waiting for God to show up and make the Roman emperor his foot stool. Jesus could have had power and riches and prestige and privilege beyond our understanding. But instead, he was born to an unmarried teen girl in a barn. His birth was lauded by one of the least respected types of people alive then (shepherds), and he quickly became a refugee in a strange land. By the time Jesus grew up he was a homeless wanderer that was publicly executed in the nude by someone who knew he was innocent.

Christmas Offering envelopes are now in the pews for your kind contributions. This way we support retired and sick priests. Some of these priests are often "out of sight, out of mind" but they do need to be supported. Thank you.

Christmas Day Brunch in the church hall: Please do not stay at home on your own join us from Noon to 2.30pm for a simple meal and great company. Please bring a plate to share.

"God's Word Daily Reflections 2020" are available for the price \$20 per copy.

"Treasures of Italy" 12th May – 25th May 2020 with Fr Jerzy as a chaplain. See Notice board.

On What Day Was Jesus Really Born? No one knows for sure what month, not to mention which day, on which Jesus was born. Various theories have been raised that put Jesus' birth in April, October, and September. But no one knows for sure. Additionally, our calendar is inaccurate. It is set about 4 years too late. This is known by comparing the biblical accounts of gospels and the biblical records known about Quirinius, the governor of Syria (Luke 2:2) and Herod the Great (Matt. 2:19) who died in 4 B.C. in the year of Jesus' birth. That would make Jesus born in 4 B.C.

Most Christians celebrate December 25 as the birthday of Jesus Christ, however few in the first two centuries claimed any knowledge of the exact day or year in which he was born. The oldest existing record of a Christmas celebration is found in a Roman almanac that tells of a Christ's Nativity festival led by the Church of Rome in 336 A.D. The precise reason why Christmas came to be celebrated on December 25 remains obscure, but most researchers believe that Christmas originated as a Christian substitute for pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. To early Christians (and to many Christians today), the most important holiday on the Christian calendar was Easter, which commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, as Christianity began to take hold in the Roman world, in the early fourth century, church leaders had to contend with a popular Roman pagan holiday commemorating the "birthday of the unconquered sun" (*natalis solis invicti*) – the Roman name for the winter solstice. Every winter, Romans honored the pagan god Saturn, the god of agriculture, with a festival that began on December 17 and usually ended on or around December 25 with a winter-solstice celebration in honor of the beginning of the new solar cycle. This festival was a time of merrymaking, and families and friends would exchange gifts. At the same time, Mithraism–worship of the ancient Persian god of light – was popular in the Roman army, and the cult held some of its most important rituals on the winter solstice. After the Roman Emperor Constantine I converted to Christianity in 312 and sanctioned Christianity, church leaders made efforts to appropriate the winter-solstice holidays and thereby achieve a more seamless conversion to Christianity for the emperor's subjects. In rationalising the celebration of Jesus' birthday in late December, church leaders may have argued that since the world was allegedly created on the spring equinox (late March), so too would Jesus have been conceived by God on that date. The Virgin Mary, pregnant with the son of God, would hence have given birth to Jesus nine months later on the winter solstice.