

<p>We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land of the Gweagal People of the Dharawal Nation.</p>		<p><b>Sat: 7.30am:</b> †Souls in Purgatory; <b>Sat: 5pm:</b> Dantis; <b>Sun: 8am:</b> †For G.S.; <b>9.30am:</b> Pro Populo; <b>3pm:</b> †Dr Tan; <b>Mon:</b> For G.S.; <b>Tue:</b> Dantis; <b>Wed:</b> Dantis; <b>Thur:</b> Dantis; <b>Fri:</b> Dantis.</p> <p>The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>MASSES ONLY:</b>                  Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9am; Vigil 5pm                  Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Dec: 8am and 9:30am                  Mon 28<sup>th</sup> to Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021: 9am                  Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan: 9am; Vigil 5pm                  Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan: 8am and 9:30am</p>	<p><b>Christmas Vigil 24<sup>th</sup> Dec:</b> 4.00 pm, 6.00 pm, 11.00 pm  <b>Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:</b> 8.00 am; 9.30am; 3.00pm                  Attendance at the Masses only by registration. Please call Parish Office on 95280205 or email: stjocomo@bigpond.com.                  Note that the booking has to be done by 20<sup>th</sup> December.  <b>Penitential Service (2<sup>nd</sup> Rite) and Confessions 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. at 7pm.</b></p>
<p><b>Our COVID-19 Safety Plan :1)</b> Those with flu symptoms must not enter the church; <b>2)</b> Sanitising hands and registration are strict requirements in order to come inside the church; <b>3)</b> Congregational singing prohibited; <b>4)</b> Required sanitisation of the seats before and after each service; <b>5)</b> Social distancing 1.5m apart (<b>only 120 seats</b>); <b>7)</b> No gatherings after the Mass in the foyer or outside the door of the church.</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS OFFERING envelopes are now available in the church. Our donations go to a central fund that attends to the needs of the retired and sick priests as well as those on lesser duties. God bless.</p> <p><i>On Christmas Day – join for a meal (plate to share) in the church hall from 11.30am to 1.30pm. Most importantly, we will be sharing the Joy of being together on Christmas Day with sounds of entertaining music.</i></p>	<p>The "O Antiphons" refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, 17-23 Dec., with 24 Dec. being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil. The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury, these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the "O Antiphons" was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases, "Keep your O" and "The Great O Antiphons" were common parlance. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the "O Antiphons" have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early Church. The importance of "O Antiphons" is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.</p>	<p>Advent candles demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light, which is an important biblical image. Jesus referred to himself as the "Light of the World" that dispels the darkness of sin. Human history spanned long ages shrouded in the darkness of sin before our prophesied Saviour would finally make his appearance to free us from its dominion.</p>	
<p><b>Daily Masses:</b> 7.30am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Holy Hour, Confession and Mass); Tuesday 5.00pm: Adoration, Novena, Confession, Benediction and 6pm Mass  <b>Weekend Mass times:</b> Saturday: Vigil 5pm  <b>Sunday: 8am, 9.30am, 3pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet with Benediction and Mass.</b>                  First Fridays: Holy Hour and Mass 5pm  <b>You Tube: stjosephcomo</b></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Happy Birthday to Terry (25<sup>th</sup>Dec.) and Brian (26<sup>th</sup>). Thank you for your dedication and support.</p> </div>  </div> <p>Pope Francis on 8 Dec. decreed a special year dedicated to St. Joseph for the global Catholic Church, offering the 1.2 billion members of the faith an opportunity to obtain indulgences as the world continues to undergo the "grave tribulation" of the coronavirus pandemic. The special year, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the 1870 naming of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, will run to 8 Dec, 2021. In his letter, titled "Patris Corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Francis says he had been thinking about the move for some time but his desire to decree the special year "increased" as the pandemic unfolded. The pope compares Joseph, Jesus' foster father, to the many</p>	<p>unheralded essential workers keeping society afloat in times of social distancing and remote work. "Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," writes the pontiff. "Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."</p>	 <p>1<sup>st</sup> Sun. Prophets (Hope)                  2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. Bethlehem (Love)                  3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Shepherds (Joy)                  4<sup>th</sup> Sun. Angels (Peace)                  5<sup>th</sup> Sun. Jesus Christ</p> <p>Prayer at the Wreath: Loving God, as we light this candle, we ask you to send your blessings upon us. Be with us, guide our way, lead us to you as we await the birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>	
<p>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 at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.</p>	<p>3 ways to donate to the parish: 1) Scan the bar code on the left with your mobile phone camera and follow the instructions therein. 2) Visit our website: <a href="https://www.stjosephscomo.org.au/">https://www.stjosephscomo.org.au/</a> and click on the "DONATE NOW" button. 3) Copy following link to your web browser: <a href="https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/COMOOYSTERBAYPARISH">https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/COMOOYSTERBAYPARISH</a></p>	<p>Please help to clean the church and hall for Christmas.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Colln: \$407.10                  2<sup>nd</sup> Colln: \$207.40                  EFT: \$220.00                  PG: \$545.00</p>	<p><b>NO</b> Sun 3pm Masses from Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. to end January 2021. From February 2021 onwards, it will be celebrated on the second Sunday of each month beginning <b>Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021.</b></p>	
<p><b>Our sick:</b> Ida Melis, Katrina Marinilli, Rita Shah, Julia Lock, Marie Lawsen, Ian Duffey, Glennise Hall, Eliette Majdanzic; Barbara Eadie, Helen McQuirk, Dragica Furda, May Kenny, Carmen Camilleri, Jan Gurba, Mary Carmen Borg, Norma Cook, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Thea Van Gastel, Josephine Marinilli, Steven Marinilli and all homebound and dear friends from Mildred Symons House.</p>		<p>Saint Joseph was a <b>JUST MAN</b>, a <b>TIRELESS WORKER</b>, the <b>UPRIGHT GUARDIAN</b> of those entrusted to his care. <b>May he always Guard, Protect &amp; Enlighten our families.</b></p>	 <p><b>May you have pleasant and safe holidays. God bless you all.</b></p>	