St Joseph's Como-Oyster Bay Catholic Church – Fr. Jerzy Chrzczonowicz PP Email: jerzy1junior@hotmail.com, m: 0411 125 357; St. Joseph's Primary School Principal Mr. Allan Fagerstrom; Parish Secretaries: Anne McMaster and Brian Lane; Bookkeeper Patricia Low; **Parish** 210 Oyster Bay Road, Como, 2226; Ph: 9528 0205 Web: www.stjosephscomo.org.au; Email: stjoscomo@ bigpond.com, Office Mon. 12:00 – 3pm, (Financial enquiries Tues 9am-2pm) ; Wed. 9am – 2.30pm;Thur. 8am – 3pm; **School** PO Box 447, Jannali 2226. Ph. 9528 8716 Email: info@stjcomo.catholic.edu.au

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land of the Gweagal People of the Dharawal Nation.

Bishop Richard Umbers is an ordained clergy member who is entrusted with a position of authority and oversight in a religious institution. In traditional Christianity, bishops claim apostolic succession, a direct historical lineage dating back to the original Twelve Apostles. The bishops are by doctrine understood as those who possess the full priesthood given by Jesus Christ, and therefore may ordain other clergy. We welcome Bishop Richard to our church this weekend for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

According to the Catechism, "the sacraments of Christian initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist — lay the foundations of every Christian life. We are born anew by baptism, strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life" (No. 1212). "The holy Eucharist completes our Christian initiation" (No. 1322). So why did Confirmation end up being celebrated after first communion in the Western Church? In 1910, Pope Pius X issued the decree *Quam Singulari Christus Amore*. This decree said that Communion should not be delayed beyond when a child reaches the age of reason. The age of reason, when a child can understand right and wrong and take responsibility for his or her actions, is usually considered to be around age seven. While the Church followed Pius's decree and moved the sacrament of first Eucharist to much earlier in a child's life, Confirmation remains for adolescents.

COVID-19 Safety Plan: 1) sanitise hands; **2)** sanitise seats after each service; Masses can be viewed on YouTube: Streaming: stjosephcomo

Daily Masses: 7:30am **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday** (Saturday: Holy Hour, Confession and Mass); **Tuesday** 5:30pm: Adoration, Novena, Confession, Benediction and 6pm Mass. **First Friday** of the month: 5:30pm Holy Hour and 6pm Mass.

Weekend Mass times: Saturday: Vigil 5pm **Sunday**: 8am, 9:30am and **2nd Sunday** of the month at 3pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet with Benediction and Mass. **Baptisms after 9:30 Mass.**

Marriage and Baptism inquiries please contact Parish Office.

"Catholic SRE Learning from Home" materials:https://www.ccress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/

St. Joseph's Como is *a Community that cares* for safeguarding children. Safeguarding Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

Our sick: Drago Mikan, Steve Smith, Barbara Moore, Jimmy Chandra, David Low, Roger Minshull, Jim Hagley, Elizabeth Kinsela, Ida Melis, Katrina Marinilli, Rita Shah, Julia Lock, Marie Lawsen, Ian Duffey, Glennise Hall, Eliette Majdandzic; Dragica Furda, May Kenny, Carmen Camilleri, Mary Carmen Borg, Norma Cook, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Josephine Marinilli, Steven Marinilli, Nicholas Mircevski and all homebound and dear friends from Mildred Symons House.

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace. – It roots us more deeply in our divine filiation, (where we are sons and daughter of God). – It unites us more firmly to Christ. – It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us. – It renders our bond with the Catholic Church more perfect. – It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to SPREAD & DEFEND the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.

NEW TAP DONATION MACHINE: There is a new tap donation machine in the church foyer. You can choose the amount you wish to donate. All donations are halved between 1st and 2nd collections. Thank you for your support.

Please pray the Rosary in May for peace in the world, our region and our country.

Please sign petition against a voluntary euthanasia bill.

Our question of *Who owns us* is at the very heart of the euthanasia debate. Do we own and control our own bodies? If so, then we can do anything we want with them, regardless of the impacts upon others. However, if we do *not* own ourselves — if our bodies and our souls were brought into existence and nurtured by Someone Else — then, of course, our lives belong to *Him*, and we cannot just dispose of them as we wish, even under the most extreme of circumstances. Just as God created us for missions that only He knows, He reserves for Himself the right to call us home. We are His finest creations, we are the only creations made in His image, and we have no right to destroy ourselves. The Fifth Commandment does not refer only to acts committed against others — it prohibits the abuse and destruction of our own bodies and souls. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: "Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God Who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for His honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of."

From the very beginning, Christians have looked upon both suicide and murder as grave sins. In his great work *The City of God*, St. Augustine writes: Christians have no authority to commit suicide in any circumstance. It is significant that in the sacred canonical books there can nowhere be found any injunction or permission to commit suicide either to ensure immortality or to avoid or escape any evil. In fact, we must understand it to be forbidden by the law "You shall not kill" (Exodus 20:13), particularly as there is no addition of "your neighbour" as in the prohibition of false witness, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour" (Exodus 20:16).

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Adults will be administered at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on Pentecost Sunday, 5 June 2022 at 10.30am. Registration from Parishes to be received at Cathedral by Friday 27th May 2022.

Mass Intentions (14th - 20th May) **Sat. 7.30am** Souls in Purgatory; **Vigil 5pm** †Adrain Han; **Sun. 8am †: 9.30am:** Pro Populo; **Mon:** †Dantis; **Tue:** †For Relief & Deliverance Holy Souls in Purgatory; **Wed:** †Augustine Lim **Thurs:** †Edward Laurendet; **Fri:** + Ruby Low

Please scan the bar-code with your mobile phone camera and follow the instructions therein https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/ COMOOYSTERBAYPARIH

New resource – '**The Catholic Mass**' booklet, a companion guide, helps capture the mysteries and beauty of the Mass. Available now.

CWF May Parish Appeal.
The devastation of the last two years has especially taken its toll on the most vulnerable in Sydney: those facing unemployment, mental health concerns, and more. Special envelopes are available at the parish or you can learn more and donate securely at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf. Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

Become a Catechist. https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org "Being a catechist is the most spiritually fulfilling thing I've ever done." Tony.

Parent meeting (for next year Kindies) with Parish Priest dates are: Wednesday 18th May, Friday 20th May, Wednesday 25th May, Thursday 26th May at 7 pm, in the Church hall. Please book

Donate generously to the Caritas Ukraine Appeal: https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/ukraine-appeal/ Donations over $2 are tax deductible.

Please return all Project Compassion boxes / envelopes as soon as possible. Thank you for your, generous contributions to Charities across the world.

'Archdiocesan RCIA Certification Course' The course begins on Tuesday, the 10th of May, and continues every other week for six online sessions in total. Please register via the following Facebook invitation link - https://fb.me/e/2bXsiglQs