

**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)

**Sat. 9 am:**+Emmeline Seeto, Daphne & Les Clarke; **Vigil 5 pm:** Int. of Josephine and Family; **Sunday 8am:** + Jaroslav Kollar; **9.30am** Int. Lourise Bradley and Gemma; **Mon:** +Adrien Han **Tues:** +Souls in Purgatory; **Wed:** +Alois & Michael Choi, ; **Thurs:** For save delivery of grandson **Fri:** + Souls in Purgatory of FOSS

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

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> Feb 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)

EWTN-Kids (internet catechism)

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

**Reading Ministry:**  
<http://catholicreadings.org>

Our church needs more people involved in various ministries. Up keeping, music, counting donations and taking to the bank, reading, distribution of the Holy Communion, altar serving, acolytes & young servers, devotional shop ministry.

Ash Wednesday Mass times: 6.45am, 9am School Mass, 7.30pm Masses with ashes distribution. Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent from 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.at 6.30pm

**Finance Committee** meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7- 7.45pm in the meeting room. **Parish Council** meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7pm in meeting room.

Dear Parishioners. I have been part of this Parish for over two years (1<sup>st</sup> Feb.) and I feel that I can start to say I am close to understanding the diverse nature and some of the challenges that this Community of Faith will face in the near future. With faith and hope in Jesus Christ and His Mother Mary we take hold of the future as we build a community of the Gospel in this part of the world. Let us be excited about our Faith. Fr Jerzy, PP

**DAYS OF PENANCE 1.** Abstinence from meat, and fasting, must be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain. **2.** On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following: (a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary. (b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country. (c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

A Remembrance Service will be held in Calvary Hospital's Chapel of the Resurrection, 111 Rocky Point Road, Kogarah on **SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2017** commencing at **2.00pm**. An invitation is extended to all who have suffered grief or bereavement to attend this service, especially those whose loved ones have died at Calvary.

St. Valentine's Day was a Christian holiday celebrated to remember a priest named Valentine of Rome. He was martyred on February 14th in 269, and made into a Saint Valentine in 496. The stories indicate that Valentine was put in jail, because he organised marriages for soldiers not allowed to marry, and practiced Christianity when it was forbidden. The Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage between young couples, for he thought that unwed young men made better soldiers as they had no ties to a wife and children. Valentine defied the government's ban and married couples in secret, believing that marriage was a gift from God. In the Roman Empire the image of cupid (desire) was a legal symbol representing love. It is said that St Valentine wore a purple amethyst ring with an engraved cupid so that Roman soldiers could recognise him, and ask for his marriage services. This is probably why Valentine's Day became so popular day for marriage proposals as it traces back to the forbidden marriages facilitated by Valentine. St Valentine, Cupid, and forbidden romance all helped polishing amethyst into a stone of pure love, faithful lovers, and fidelity. It became a "couple's stone" with ability to manifest soulful and deep emotional connection between lovers

**Chinese New Year's date** is decided by the Chinese lunar calendar, and it changes every year, but it's always in the period January 21 to February 20. It's traditionally celebrated for 16 days, from the eve to Lantern Festival (March 2nd 2018). The coming 7-day **Festival** will be February 15–21, 2018. Each Chinese year is associated with an animal sign according to the Chinese zodiac. Chinese traditionally believe that years begin and end at Chinese New Year, rather than January 1. 2018 is a year of the Dog. After each weekend (17/18 Feb) Mass, as per last year, Chinese cookies will be given away.

**The theme for Project Compassion 2018 is "A Just Future".**

For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has been privileged to work together with our neighbours – our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in First Australian communities and in many other countries. Working with our partner agencies in those communities, we have developed the strength to combat poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of every person. Boxes and envelopes are available for distribution.

**Retreat Day – "The Passion of the Lord" Date:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. **Start:** 8.45am, **Mass:** 9am, **Finish:** 3pm. **Location:** Saint Raphael's Parish Hall, 84 George Street, South Hurstville Coffee, Tea & Soft Drinks will be supplied on the day. Please bring along something to share for morning tea and a sandwich for lunch. (For further info contact Gary & Ronnie Cartmer 0418781777)

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION** for all in the Archdiocese of Sydney. It is also a pre-requisite course for those men who wish to attend the Acolytes training courses. **WHEN:** Saturdays 24th February and 10th March 2018 9:00am – 12noon Registration from 8:30am **WHERE:** St Patrick's, 143 Princes Highway, Kogarah NSW 2217. Those whom the Lord calls to this Ministry are advise to take a registration form. provided in the church. and lodge in the our Parish Office.

**"Surrender" Lenten Program 2018.** Book \$10 and CDs. Please form your own groups. Group for everybody at 3.30pm on Sundays of Lent concluded with the Holy Mass at 5 pm.