

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; 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

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5pm
 Sunday: 8am, 9.30am

WEEKDAY MASS TIME:

Mon. 7.00am Tues 7.30pm
 Wed. 9.00am Thurs 7.00am
 Fri 9.00 am Sat 9.00am

HOLY HOUR: Saturday 8-9.00am

CONFESSION: 10 mins before Mass and **Saturdays** 8.00 – 8.55am

Tuesday 6.45pm – 7.25pm

BAPTISMS: at 9.30am Mass

BAPTISM Prep Thurs. 7th Feb 2019 7pm

WEDDINGS: By appointment.

ANOINTING MASS: 5th / 6th Jan 2019

DIVINE MERCY: Tues. 6.30pm

Our sick: May Kenny, Carmen Camilleri, Jan Gurba, Mary Carmen Borg, Norma Cook, Ida Dimeglio, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Lonza Busuttill, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Thea Van Gastel, Josephine Marinilli, Joan Hagley, Amy Zuschmann, Steven Marinilli and all dear friends from Mildred Symons House & house bound.

Please read Catholic Weekly, only \$2 per copy.

<http://catholicfaitheducation.blogspot.com.au/>

READING MINISTRY:

[HTTP://CATHOLICREADINGS.ORG](http://CATHOLICREADINGS.ORG)
<https://www.compellingtruth.org>
www.vocationcentre.org.au

<http://www.ibtministries.org>
 EWTN-Kids (catechism for Kids)

Catholic News Service,
 Catholica; Zenith News; **Fish Eaters**
<http://www.liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/>
www.catalystforrenewal.org.au
<https://www.cruxnow.com>
 The Catholic Thing; First Things

Sat: 9am:+ Jaroslav Kollar; **Vigil 5pm:** +Adrain Han; **Sun: 8am** Pro Populo; **9.30am:** +Marie Hage; **Mon:** Souls in Purgatory; **Tues:** + Angela and Tony Pandolfino; **Wed:**+Vincent Higgins; **Thurs:** +Eileen Shiel; **Fri:** For Souls in Purgatory

World Youth Day will take place from 22 to 27 January 2019 in Panama City, Panama. Arch. Anthony Fisher OP urged about 90 young people heading to WYD to reject the constant busyness of the world and instead be "slow pilgrims."

Christmas at St. Joseph' s: **Vigil Family Mass** 24th Dec at 6pm; **Caroling** at 10 pm till 11 pm. **Night Mass** at 11pm. 25th Dec. **Masses:** 8am and 9.30am.

The 'John Franklin Christmas Lunch' is at Sutherland Entertainment Centre. Free for all. 25th Dec. from 11.30am to 2.30pm.



Pre-Christmas caroling practice in the parish hall, with a baby on the way just for the crib.

God will meet you where you are in order to take you where He wants you to go.

At this very time as we all approach Christmas, there are 116,000 people who are homeless in our country. Launching the Australian Conference of Bishops' 2018-19 Social Justice Statement, "A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land", pointed to the high prevalence of mental health issues and addictions among the homeless population. Homeless women are the most disadvantaged. The overwhelming cause of homelessness is poverty, which is a responsibility of all of society to address.

Christmas Offerings: Envelopes are provided for the Christmas appeal to support our Diocesan retired, or 'on lesser duty' priests. Please be generous as your gift is sign of your appreciation for their life long ministry. God bless you all.

The Advent Calendar App is free on iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent

For over 30 years, the Summer School of Evangelization (in January 2019, for ages 16-35) has been empowering the lives of young people all over Australia, bringing new life and energy to the Church. A week long retreat into the powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, opening up possibilities for deepening faith, peace, healing, joy, freedom and passion for the Gospel of Jesus. The Summer School is a work of the Disciples of Jesus Community. Find out more and register online: summerschool.org.au

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around 22nd December. The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived. Early Christians took over the pagan solstice celebrations for Christmas and gave people Christian songs to sing instead of pagan ones. In 129, a Roman Bishop said that a song called "Angel's Hymn" should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Another famous early Christmas Hymn was written in 760, by Comas of Jerusalem, for the Greek Orthodox Church. Soon after this many composers all over Europe started to write 'Christmas carols'. However, not many people liked them as they were all written and sung in Latin, a language that the normal people couldn't understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether. This was changed by St. Francis of Assisi when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy. The people in the plays sang songs or 'canticles' that told the story during the plays. Sometimes, the choruses of these new carols were in Latin; but normally they were all in a language that the people watching the play could understand and join in!

The Advent Wreath Candles Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. **1. Prophecy Candle** This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. **2. Bethlehem Candle** This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger. **3. Shepherds Candle** This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle," and it represents joy. **4. Angels Candle** This one represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent. **5. Christ Candle.** On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity.

The annual Christmas Remembrance Service at St Mary's Cathedral College St Sydney on Sunday 16th December 2018 at 7:30pm.

How to have a fruitful Advent according to St. John Paul II: At times, Advent can be a difficult season to remain focused in. We may be distracted by a flurry of obligations or simply by the commercial nature of the Christmas season. The good news is that the Church has a rich treasury of resources that can help to bring the spirit of Advent alive in your heart. One such treasure is the Word of God. Other footsteps you can follow are: Prayer; Work for peace in your heart and in the world; Recognise the dignity of all human persons; Look to Mary's example of faithful obedience; Open your heart to an encounter with Jesus Christ; Look forward with hope to Christ's Second Coming.