

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; 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

Sat. 9 am: For the Holy Souls; **Vigil 5 pm:**+Irene Gorospe Gomez; **Sunday 8am:** +Holy Souls; **9.30am** Rodney, Mei & Vianney (thanksgiving); **Mon:** + For the deceased parishioners. **Tues:** +Souls in Purgatory; **Wed:** +Souls in needs; **Thurs:** Mei, Rodney & Vianney **Fri:** + Holy Sours in Purgatory

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. 1st Feb 2018

7pm meeting room

WEDDINGS: By appointment.

ANOINTING MASS: next:

7th and 8th April 2018

NOVENA OUR LADY

DIVINE MERCY Tues. 6.30pm

www.vocationcentre.org.au

EWTN-Kids (internet catechism)

CatholicNewsService

Our sick:

Grace Di Matteo, Josefa Dabu, Terry Qualey, Rita Webb, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Marko Radmil, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Andre and 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 (14th February, 2018) is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. It opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. It comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

While the Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday, it does record accounts of people in the Old Testament using dust and ashes as symbols of repentance and/or mourning (2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3). The modern tradition of rubbing a cross on a person's forehead supposedly identifies that person with Jesus Christ.

Finance Committee meeting on Thursday 15th Feb. at 7- 7.45pm in the meeting room.
Parish Council meeting on Thursday 22nd Feb. at 7pm in meeting room.

Letter from Annmarie: "I am a member of our Parish, have been involved in a children's dental charity in Haiti for a couple of years, called 'Be Happy Haiti' <http://behappyhaiti.org/>. The work was started by three teenage St. Cecilia Academy girls from Nashville Tennessee and is now an ongoing non-profit organisation that employs local Haitian dentists, nurses, and community leaders to reach over 60,000 people in need. It's currently the only source of dental care to children in that region. It's a long and good Catholic story how I came to be involved, hopefully I will tell you about it one day. In March, I am travelling there for the first time, with a group of 30 other people from Nashville to the village of LaVallee, Haiti. We will provide preventative dental care to around 3,500 children. I will also be taking care of the St Cecilia girls volunteering this year. We are all fundraising for the dental supplies for the trip. I wondered if it was possible to communicate with St Joseph's parishioners to ask for donations and, if so, what would be the best way to do so. All donations would be acknowledged with a receipt and thanks. Thank you for considering this request! God bless, Annmarie Hosie." See the poster on the notice board.

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.

Children are invited under parents' supervision to join their liturgy at the new location in the crying room during the 9.30 Mass. Some coordinators are expected. This liturgy we will try to conduct every Sunday at 9.30am.

Ash Wednesday Mass times: 6.45am, 9am School Mass, 7.30pm Masses with ashes distribution.

Now is a right time to wash our liturgical vestments. Washing can be done at the church facilities. Only volunteers are needed to help with this work. Please contact the Office.

On Thursday 8th Feb. Church celebrates the memorial of St Josephine Bakhita. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means *fortunate*. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian Consul in Khartoum, Sudan. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885. Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!" The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later. St. Bakhita is a patroness of the antislavery task force.

St. Agatha died in defence of her purity, in Catania, Sicily, where she was born. After Quintanus, the governor of Sicily, tried in vain to force her to consent to sin, she was imprisoned for a month with an evil woman. He then turn from sensuality to cruelty and had her breasts cut off; but that night Agatha was healed by St. Peter. She was then rolled over sharp stones and burning coals, and finally taken to prison where she died while praying. Her name appears in the Roman Canon. In iconography, Saint Agatha is often shown carrying her breasts on a platter, though later artists thought the breasts to be either bells or loaves of bread, leading to the custom of blessing bread on Saint Agatha's feast day and her patronage of bell makers. For Monday (5th Feb.) morning Mass please bring some bread for the blessing.

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.