

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH
OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

16th February 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your
name.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing
on those who trust in the Lord.*

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in
man,

who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.

He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the
wilderness,

a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in
the Lord,

with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Responsorial Psalm

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(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. (R.)
2. He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. (R.)
3. Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to
doom. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

*If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is
in vain.*

If Christ raised from the dead is what has
been preached, how can some of you be
saying that there is no resurrection of the
dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ
has not been raised, and if Christ has not
been raised, you are still in your sins. And
what is more serious, all who have died in

Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;

your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

‘How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. ‘Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

The blessings and woes we hear in today’s Gospel mark the perfection of all the wisdom of the Old Testament.

That wisdom is summed up with marvellous symmetry in today’s First Reading and Psalm: Each declares that the righteous—those who hope in the Lord and delight in His Law—will prosper like a tree planted near living waters. The wicked, who put their “trust in human beings,” are cursed to wither and die.

Jesus is saying the same thing in the Gospel.

The rich and poor are, for Him, more than members of literal economic classes. Their material state symbolizes their spiritual state. The rich are “the insolent” of today’s Psalm, boasting of their self-sufficiency, the strength of their flesh, as Jeremiah says in the First Reading. The poor are the humble, who put all their hope and trust in the Lord.

That’s the upside-down world of the Gospel: in poverty, we gain spiritual treasure unimaginable; in suffering and even dying “on account of the Son of Man,” we find everlasting life.

The promises of the Old Testament were promises of power and prosperity—in the here and now. The promise of the New Covenant is joy and true freedom even amid the misery and toil of this life.

But not only that. As St Paul says in today’s Epistle, we are to be pitied if our hope is “for this life only.”

The blessings of God mean that we’ll laugh with the thanksgiving of captives released from exile, feast at the heavenly table of the Lord, “leap for joy” as John the Baptist leapt in his mother’s womb, and rise with Christ.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH
OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill 0429 921 326
Parish Email: ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au
St Joseph's Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

Recent Deaths: Kellianne McMahon (nee Nihill)

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, John Moulder, Mark Weir, Mary Moloney, Lyn McIntyre, Sylvester Rudolph, Veronica Turton and Graeme Floyd.

Sunday 23rd February

Welcomer: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Reader: Susan O'Sullivan

Prayers of the Faithful:

Sally Williams

Offertory Procession: Celia Reidy & Val Latta

Eucharistic Minister:

Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 9th February

Ouyen \$220.00

Planned Giving \$280.00

February Church & Presbytery Cleaning:

Peter & Marie Shaddock

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool: February – Friday 21st @ 9:00am

Weekday Masses this week: Friday at 10:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father will be available after the 11am Mass or any time by appointment.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays 2:30 – 5:30pm

Pope's Prayer Intention for February: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray for those who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Wisdom from on high "Persevere in prayer. Persevere, even when your efforts seem barren. Prayer is always fruitful." St. Josemaría Escrivá

Our roster of priests will usually look like this for our parish until May; please see other page for more detail. 1st Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th Sunday Fr Matt.

Something to smile about . . .

Bob was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary and his wife was really angry. She told him "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in 6 seconds AND IT BETTER BE THERE!" The next morning, he got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway. Confused, the wife put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, brought the box back in the house. She opened it and found a brand-new bathroom scale. Bob is still in BIG trouble and hasn't been seen for over a week.

Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

No, they had an apple.

It was the young deacon's first homily after ordination, and he was very nervous. Halfway through his homily at Mass one Sunday he noticed that members of the congregation were fidgety and not paying attention. He stopped speaking and asked, "Can you hear me at the back?"

A parishioner sitting in the back pew replied, "Not really!"

Before he could re-start his homily, people in the front pews stood up and moved to the back of the church.

Prayer For Australia: Eternal Father, I offer you the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ offered at all the Masses throughout the world, in atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Freedom of Religious Belief: Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work openly with our faith communities, and for faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, to protect religious freedom from within our churches. We pray for the appropriate formation of children in accordance with the traditional teachings of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians. Amen.



Update on Lyn: Lyn has left the Alfred Hospital and is now in rehabilitation at the Hawthorn Epworth. Her address is room 24, Epworth Rehabilitation Hospital, 50 Burwood Rd Hawthorn, 3122.

Changes of priests within the diocese – from Bishop Paul

I am happy to announce several **appointments that will take effect from May 1, 2025.**

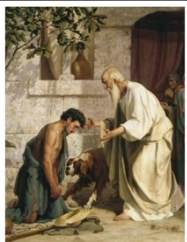
Fr Matthew Thomas, currently **Parish Priest of the Sunraysia Parish**, will also be **Parish Priest of the Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes.**

From May 1, **Fr William Lowry**, currently Assistant Priest in the South West Coast Parish, will become **Assistant Priest in the Sunraysia, Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes.**

At the same time, **Fr Shaiju Mathew MST**, currently Administrator of the Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes, will be appointed to **the Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon Parishes.**

***The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is offering formation** in the following areas. If anyone is interested, there is a possibility we could host it here. Please see Marie if you would like a refresher, or take on any of the following: Lectors/Readers; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Funeral Ministry; Scripture reflection; RCIA; Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion.

The week of the 24th –28th February Fr Shaiju will be on Retreat with the other priests of the Diocese in Halls Gap (assuming there are no fires). This means that there will be no Friday or weekday Masses during that week. Please keep them all in your prayers.



Ash Wednesday is on the 5th of March, Mass times will be available soon. Our Lenten Discussion Group is on offer again this year, of a Tuesday morning at 10:30am in the Parish Centre. The books are here and are \$5 each. They include short daily reflections, beautiful artwork and a more detailed look at the Sunday Gospel. If you are interested in taking part, we'd love to have you; it's very relaxed and informal but everyone seems to get a lot out of it. The books are also a great form of private reflection if you are unable to join with the group. Please see Marie if you would like to be a part of it – so that we can have

enough books.

Saint Valentine is associated with love, romance, and the celebration of Valentine's Day on February 14. However, the story of Saint Valentine is a mixture of legend, history, and folklore. Although he has long been associated with 'courtly love', there's much more to this third century saint. He was a clergyman, either a priest or a bishop, in the Roman Empire who tended to persecuted Christians. He was eventually martyred on the Via Flaminia in AD 269 for his beliefs. As well as his association with love, Saint Valentine is also a patron saint of epilepsy and beekeepers.

The specifics about his life are obscure, as there were several different martyrs named Valentine in early Christian history. The most widely accepted account, however, focuses on a particular Valentine who lived during the Roman Empire and was a priest or bishop in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, in the 3rd century AD.

According to legend, Emperor Claudius II, facing difficulties in maintaining an army, decided that single men made better soldiers because they were unattached and were therefore more willing to fight. So, he banned marriages for young men to encourage recruitment. However, Valentine, who believed in the sanctity of marriage, continued to secretly marry young couples despite the emperor's orders. This act of defiance ultimately led to his arrest and execution.

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