

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



First Sunday of Advent

28th November 2021

First Reading [Jer 33:14-16](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere
him;

to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2](#)

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 21:25-28. 34-36](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await

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what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

REFLECTION *adapted from: John Bergsma's "The Word of the Lord."*



Happy New Year everyone! Today we start the new liturgical calendar and are in Year C, which has some of the most creative and stimulating combinations of Lectionary readings.

We concluded the liturgical calendar by meditating on the Second Coming of Our Lord, the end of history, and the Final Judgment. We now enter the first week of advent which is also given over to contemplating the return of Christ and the Final Judgment. This Sunday's readings continue to present to us Jesus as the King, the Son of David and Son of God, who will come to bring human history to its conclusion.

Jesus warns that tribulations will precede the coming of the Son of Man “in a cloud with power and great glory.” First World Christians perhaps, don't take seriously the reality that the Christian life is a struggle that requires exertion and sacrifice. In some parts of the First World, Christianity has been part of a comfortable cultural phenomenon, and the attitude has been one that pretty much everyone goes to heaven as long as you don't do anything “really bad,” like mass murder or something.

Jesus doesn't describe the path to salvation in terms like this at all. He constantly says it is difficult and implies or states that many will try and fail to enter “the kingdom of heaven” (see Luke 13:24 and Matt 7:14, for example). We can choose to believe either Jesus or the contemporary prophets of optimism concerning the nature of the path to heaven. I would recommend taking Jesus's words with utmost seriousness since he probably has more personal experience of the realities under discussion than modern theologians and intellectuals.

Jesus's words to us are “be vigilant at all times.” That is a lifestyle of attentiveness that lives each day as if it could be our last, knowing that Jesus may come for all of us—or just for one of us personally—at an hour we do not expect. Vigilance means a lifestyle of prayer, temperance in physical pleasures, fortitude (courage in the face of persecution), and love (self-sacrificial giving). These are the “ways of the Lord” in which he instructs us and so He gives us his Spirit and grace to enable us to live in this fashion.



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ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Underbool, Walpeup
Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill 5092 1326

Recent Deaths: Kevin Barry

Anniversaries: Les Healy, Racheal Cook

Sick: Susan O'Sullivan, Chris Burns, Joan Bathgate,
Terri Scott, Mark Weir and Josephine Sciberras 🙏

**May our healing God touch the lives of our sick
bringing them comfort & peace.**

Sunday 5th December - Assembly

Ouyen: 9:00 am

Reader: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Prayers of the Faithful: Margaret Collins

Eucharistic Minister: Gerald Leach

Leader: Lorna Keam

Collections: 21st November

Ouyen: \$123.50

Planned Giving: \$159.00

Church Cleaning:

December: Celia Reidy & Cheryl Anderson

Presbytery Cleaning:

December: Ellen Bonica

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Father will be available before and after the Friday Mass for Reconciliation, after the 11:00am Masses, or at any other time by appointment.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Thursdays 2:00pm – 6:00 pm, all welcome!

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

St Joseph's Parish Masses

Wk 1	Patche	Mass	11:30am	1 st Friday
	Ouyen	Assembly	9:00am	Sunday
Wk 2	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 3	Ouyen	Mass	8:30am	Sunday
Wk 4	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
	U'Bool	Mass	3:00pm	Sunday
Wk 5	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday

MASSES: At this point, the Sunday Masses in Ouyen will be at full capacity which means that everyone can attend. Should our numbers exceed 50, those attending must be fully vaccinated and this must be visually recorded – either on your phone or else by sighting the papers themselves. Because our numbers are generally in the low 40's there is no need to record vaccination details at the present. Mass of a **Friday afternoon is at 4:00pm** and is also not recorded, it is open to all people but is limited to 50.

Wiping Down of Pews After Every Mass: In an effort to reduce spread of infection and any risk of contamination, 2 packets of sanitizing wipes will be left on both seats of the central front pews. **If the people nearest to them passes them out**, to their respective sides, each person can then wipe down their own seat and place their wipe in the bin on the way out.

LAST WEEK FOR RETIRED PRIESTS

COLLECTION *a second collection will be taken up after communion today. Let us remember and support those who supported us.

Pope's Prayer Intention for November: for People Who Suffer from Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Ordination to the Diaconate: Please remember in your prayers seminarians Matthew Restall and William Lowry who will be ordained Deacons for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, December 10, 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm.

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Columban Calendars \$10 – have arrived and can be collected and paid for at the piety stall along with copies of **Blessed** for those who have ordered them and **Christmas Cards \$6** which are great value, 8 cards for \$6 great to put with a present or in the post. The Post Office is advising that mail will take longer, so get in early.



Blessed – is a beautiful **Advent and Christmas reflection guide has arrived** and begins next week, the 28th November and follows through until 9th January. I have a spare copy if anyone is interested. This is for personal reflection not as a group discussion. Copies are \$5 and include 89 pages with beautiful artworks and commentaries; fantastic value. Collect your copy and pay at the piety stall.

Advent Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick: Father Anthony, along with Father Shaiju from Mildura, will be having Reconciliation on Friday the 3rd of December at 3:00pm in preparation for Christmas. This will be followed by Mass at 4:00pm

National Day of Prayer for Myanmar Sunday 28th November: A level of freedom that had previously been enjoyed by the people ended on the 1st of February this year when military government was imposed. This weekend, the first Sunday of Advent, as we await the coming of our Lord, we pray with the people of Myanmar who yearn to be free. We especially remember the minority communities: the Karen, Rohingyas and Chin and for the Church communities of Myanmar who are very much under pressure.

Looking Forward – Pastoral Planning for Parishes 2021 – 2025 is a draft document of proposals for the future of parishes in our diocese; this involves our parish. The Parish Leadership Team in conjunction with Fr Anthony have looked at the proposals for our region and would like to share them with the parish as a whole. As a result, we are planning on doing this immediately after an 11:00am Mass, followed by a shared luncheon where we can openly discuss any benefits and concerns. This will most likely take place in December, but watch this space

Synod of Bishops - Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”. The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Wisdom from the Saints:

“Without prayer we have neither the light nor strength to advance in the way which leads toward God.” *St Alphonsus De Ligouri*

Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre & Museum – Christmas Gifts and Accommodation With Christmas coming up, please consider supporting the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a present from the Museum Gift Shop. You can also, book your next stay at the **Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre** Accommodation in the heart of Melbourne. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300.

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