

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



Divine Mercy Sunday

16th April 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoiled or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing

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him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

The Apostles saw the Lord. He stood in their midst; He showed them His hands and sides. They heard His blessing and received His commission: to extend the Father's mercy to all peoples through the power and Spirit He conferred upon them.

We must walk by faith and not by sight, we must believe and love what we have not seen. Yet, the invisible realities are made present for us through the devotions the Apostles handed on.

Notice the experience of the risen Lord in today's Gospel is described in a way that evokes the Mass.

Both appearances take place on a Sunday. The Lord comes to be with His disciples. They rejoice, listen to His Word, and receive the gift of His forgiveness and peace. He offers His wounded body to them in remembrance of His Passion. And they know and worship Him as their Lord and their God.

In the Mass, God's mercy endures forever. This is the day the Lord has made, when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

Divine Mercy Sunday – St Marys Swan Hill

2pm Holy Hour with Rosary &
Confession available. Concluding with
Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3pm and
Benediction
All welcome!

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OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL
Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326
Parish Email: Ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd and John Nihill

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

Third Sunday of Easter, 23rd April

U'bool: 9:00am

Ouyen: 11:00am

Reader: Peter Shaddock

Prayers of the Faithful: Marie Shaddock

Offertory Procession: Merril & John Boland

Eucharistic Minister: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Projectionist: Carmel Vallance

Collections 8th April

Ouyen: \$284.60

Planned Giving: \$100.00

Holy Land: \$883.00

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2pm – 5pm, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy said at 3pm and the Rosary at 4pm; all welcome.

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

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

Mass Timetable

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am

Church Cleaning:

April: Carmel Vallance

Presbytery Cleaning:

April: Celia Reidy

Next week we welcome Fr Shaiju as Administrator of our Parish.

Fr Shaiju will be saying Mass this Friday at 10:00 am

Pope's Prayer Intention for April: For a culture of peace and non-violence - We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Holy Water: There are a few small containers available of the newly blessed Holy Water for people to take home and use. You are also welcome to bring your own small container to collect your own.

Prayer for Religious Freedom

Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, our community of faith, to protect religious freedom within our religious educational institutions. We pray for the pastorally sensitive formation of children in accordance with sound biological anthropology and the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Australia's patronesses, Our Lady Help of Christians, and St Mary of the Cross. Amen.

150th Anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat in 2024

On March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius XI issued a decree establishing the western part of Victoria as a distinct diocese, with the Murray River as the northern boundary and the sea as the southern boundary. For more information, please see the Bishop's letter.

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From the recent Leadership Team Meeting: Present – Fr Anthony, Fr Shaiju, Faye Nihill, Cheryl Anderson, Susan O’Sullivan, Peter & Marie Shaddock.

Apologies: John Nihill & Carmel Vallance.

Father Anthony shared that he will be working with the youth while living in The Brooklyn Oratory Parishes. “The Oratory” was founded by St Philip Neri in Rome and was designated as a formal institution by Pope Gregory XIII in 1575. The vision of the community in Brooklyn remains what Saint Philip Neri’s vision was – ‘the Oratory’ as a place of prayer, a people of prayer: open, loyal, orthodox, serving, seeking God’s grace, promoting peace and justice, and sharing God’s Joy!

Father Shaiju told us that he is a member of the Missionaries of St Thomas (the Apostle) which is an Indian order founded in Kerala in 1968. He is looking forward to being with us and is aiming to keep Mass times and everything else i.e. visits to the hostel & hospital the same as they were with Fr Anthony.

Discussions then centred around:

*Reviewing the closing of the Patchewollock church and what the next steps were. Bishop Paul sent an email to say thank you for the hospitality shown to him and how well the occasion went.

*A planned meeting with some of the Underbool parishioners re their plans for the future, do they need help?

* Purchase of a lawn mower. Now that John is unable to mow the lawns, we need to have our own mower with a catcher and be able to house it under cover. After some discussion and research, a mower has been purchased from Poole & Jackson and should arrive in the near future. Housing of the mower is still open to a couple of possibilities.

From the Suggestion Box: “Someone rostered on to greet people and make visitors feel welcome.” A way of initiating this may be through handing out bulletins to newcomers. If you would feel comfortable doing this, please put your name on the list at the back of the church (near the kitchen) or see Marie. The roster would be based on a monthly basis and listed with the other Mass details.

From the Bishops Easter Letter: “. . . First of all, I ask each parish to make 2023 a year when you focus on the leadership in the local community, through forming or developing further a parish pastoral council or leadership team according to your local circumstances. In 2024, as well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of our diocese, we will hold a Diocesan Assembly, bringing together representatives of the leadership teams in our parishes and schools, to consider how we might develop the leadership in our communities in the future.” **Copies of the letter are available at the back of the church on both tables; please take one home.**



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