

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



Third Sunday in Advent Yr A

11th December 2022

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

**You also must be patient; do not lose heart,
the Lord's coming will be soon.**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the
precious fruit of the ground until it has had the
autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have
to be patient; do not lose heart, because the
Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make
complaints against one another, brothers, so as
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.
For your example, brothers, in submitting with
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 11:2-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

John the Baptist questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvellous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor.

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Second Reading, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide. John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Saviour.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving.

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

**"Sometimes faith will make you
look stupid;
Until it starts to rain."**

-Noah

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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: Jean Baker

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, Laura Burns and John Nihill 🙏

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

Sunday 18th December – Mass

Ouyen: 11:00 am

Reader: Gerald Leach

Prayers of the Faithful: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Offertory Procession: Jona & Jessica Kilaton

Eucharistic Minister: Marlene O'Callaghan

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections 4th December

Ouyen: \$ 255.70

Planned Giving: \$325.00

Church Cleaning:

December: Celia Reidy & Cheryl Anderson

Presbytery Cleaning:

December: Ellen Bonica

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

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

Christmas Mass 2022 – Saturday 24th December

Carols from 5:30 with Mass at 5:45pm – there's no Christmas without Christ 😊

Beware of carpet bubbles/ripples: Due to the recent rain, large ripples of carpet have been appearing throughout the church. As the ground dries out, they will disappear but until then please watch where you put your feet as they are a real tripping hazard!

Pope's Prayer Intention for December: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations - We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

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

Summary of the New Covid Provisions:

~ QR Codes are no longer required to sign in

~ Face masks are no longer required to be worn

~ Kindness and Common Sense strictly enforced

Mass Timetable

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

This Friday (16th) at the 10 am Mass we have Anointing of the Sick & Reconciliation, in preparation for Christmas.

Side door entrance: we are asking anyone with any mobility issues, and those who use gofers, to enter via the side (north facing) door. This has a much wider opening on level ground and is ideal for dropping off/picking up or parking gofers. For those with gofers we would ask you to **please use the gravel to drive on**, rather than the pavers. If you are aware of any other potential hazards please notify: Faye, Cheryl or Marie.

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Updating Rosters: An existing list of people involved in Reading, Prayers of the Faithful, Offertory Procession etc will be on the table near the kitchen until the end of the year. If you would like to add your name to a ministry, please do so in the spaces underneath. If you are happy to continue in your existing role, nothing needs to be done. If, however you would like to take your name from a list then just put a line through it. In this way we can start fresh for the new year.

Stations of Christmas: Fr Gary Jones has put together a great prayer resource for Advent which help remind us of the journey to Christmas. The Stations of Christmas are simple reflections that allow us to keep us focused on the events that lead to the birth of Jesus. They are great way of making sure we keep Christ in our Christmas. There are a few copies on the table at the back of the church near the kitchen.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal: Our Christmas Appeal is one way in which we can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the Diocese of Ballarat. Bishop Paul thanks the people of the diocese for their generosity and support. The distributed of money was as follows:

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|--|-----------------|
| Appeal for Ukraine | \$10,000 |
| Catholic Mission | \$5,000 |
| Caritas | \$5,000 |
| Nazareth House Ballarat | \$5,000 |
| Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal | \$5,000 |
| St Vincent de Paul Victorian Flood Appeal | \$5,000 |
| At Columban's Mission, Peru | \$5,000 |
| Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans (ACRATH) | \$2,000 |
| | |
| Total donations made in 2022 | \$42,000 |

St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal: The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions can be made by: Calling 13 18 12; via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods

Visiting <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>

Or you can also: make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase.

Christmas

Mass Times

St Mary's Church, Robinvale

Christmas vigil: 8pm Carlos, 8.15pm Mass.

Christmas Day: 11am Mass.

St Patrick's, Manangatang

Christmas Day: 9am Mass.

St. Joseph's, Ouyen

Christmas vigil: 5.30 Carlos, 5.45pm Mass.

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