

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



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;  
be my help.

Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my  
Saviour!

### First Reading [Ex 19:2-6](#)

A reading from the book of Exodus

**You will be a kingdom of priests, a  
consecrated nation.**

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, “You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.”’

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** We are his people:  
the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.  
He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

### Second Reading [Rom 5:6-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

**We have been reconciled to God through the  
death of his Son; we are saved by his life.**

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The kingdom of God is near;  
repent and believe the Good News!  
Alleluia!

### Gospel [Mt 9:36 – 10:8](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew

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**He summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out.**

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.’

He summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

‘Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.’

**Communion Antiphon**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

**Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn**

The words God speaks to Israel in today’s First Reading are intended for us as well.

The Church is the fulfillment of God’s covenant promises to Israel—a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

In the Church, we have been gathered as the new “Israel of God”. He has made us His own people, the flock He tends, as we sing in today’s Psalm.

Moses was Israel’s first shepherd. With the Promised Land in view, he prayed that God would raise up a successor so that God’s people would not be left as sheep without a shepherd. These same words are used in today’s Gospel to

describe Jesus’ pity for the crowds, who are “troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Israel’s shepherds—the Pharisees and scribes—had abandoned and misled the people through their hypocrisy and spiritual blindness. But God had long before promised that He Himself would come and save His sheep—searching over the whole earth where they had been scattered “for lack of a shepherd”.

Jesus is the new Moses and new David promised by the prophets, a divine shepherd-king sent to restore God’s priestly kingdom. As Moses commissioned Joshua as his successor, so we see Jesus today giving the Twelve His powers and authority. In God’s plan, they are to seek out the lost sheep of Israel first and then bring all nations into the fold.

Together we have been saved and reconciled to God, as we hear in today’s Epistle. As He delivered Israel, He has also made us a kingdom of priests in the Church. So, we come in this Mass to serve Him with gladness, to praise His kindness, which endures forever.

The earliest Carol singers can be found on the Bayeux tapestry...and were soldiers from Western France...they were known as the Brittany Spears



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**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Kath Monaghan.

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

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

**Ouyen: 11:00am**

**Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan**

**Reader: Flora Moulder**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Margaret Collins**

**Offertory Procession: The Bosco Family**

**Eucharistic Minister: Gerald Leach**

**Projectionist: Carmel Vallance**

**Collections 11<sup>th</sup> June**

**Ouyen: \$154.50**

**Planned Giving: \$390.00**

**Mass Timetable**

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00am

**Weekday Masses this week:** Friday at 10:00

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** each

Thursday from 2:30pm – 5:30pm, 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, in atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Church Cleaning:**

**June: Merrill & John Boland**

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

**June: Faye Nihill**

**Pope's Prayer Intention for June: *For the***

*abolition of torture* - We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

**Feast Days this Week**

21<sup>st</sup> St Aloysius Gonzaga- Jesuit

22<sup>nd</sup> St John Fisher & Thomas Moore

24<sup>th</sup> Nativity of John the Baptist

**Prayer for Freedom of Religious Belief**

Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, to protect religious freedom within our 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.

**Father Shaiju will be on holidays** throughout

July. So, rather than our start and stop our social gatherings we will begin on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 12pm at the Bakery (for those who would rather not go out at night). This will be followed by an evening meal on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at the Ouyen Club. **Father will be saying Mass at 5:30 pm on both these nights,** as well as the usual Friday Mass.

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**Today we welcome Lam Tran** one of our diocesan seminarians. We hope you enjoy your time in the Robinvale and Ouyen parishes and look forward to seeing more of you in the future.

**Do you know of anyone in our community** who would like communion brought to their home on a regular basis? Father Shaiju is happy to do some home visits to the elderly/housebound and lonely. Please see either Father, Faye, Carmel or Marie if you would like to arrange something.

**Calvary Hospital – Update-** Sadly, hopes of a Senate inquiry into the ACT Government’s compulsory acquisition of Calvary Hospital were “scuttled” by ACT independent Senator David Pocock on 15 June after he declined to support a motion by Coalition senators Michaelia Cash and Matt Canavan

**This week is Refugee Week:** June 18-24, and a chance for us to pray for those who are forced to flee their homes and countries often leaving behind their language, culture and all that is familiar to them.

*Lord, no one is a stranger to you  
and no one is ever far from your loving care.  
In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers,  
those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost,  
and those who have been exiled from their homes.  
Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,  
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.*

**On Saturday we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist.** John the Baptist spent his adult life preparing the way for Jesus, and proclaiming that “the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.” He was born to Zachary/Zachariah and Elizabeth, an elderly married couple. The Angel Gabriel had visited Zachariah and told him that his wife would bear a child, even though she was well past the child-bearing age. As a baby in the womb, John recognized Jesus’ presence in Mary’s womb when Mary visited Elizabeth soon after the Annunciation. It was here that Mary gave us the *Magnificat* prayer said in evening prayer. Elizabeth was Mary’s cousin and Zachary was a priest of the Temple in Jerusalem who was struck dumb by the angel until the child’s birth, for his disbelief. It was Zachariah who, no doubt inspired by the Holy Spirit, pronounced the *Benedictus* a beautiful song of blessing and hope said in morning prayer. John was born at Ain-Karim, only a few kilometres from Jerusalem, and he and his mother Elizabeth also had to flee to escape Herod’s soldiers and the slaughter of all male babies from 0-2yrs. Legend has it that both Elizabeth and the baby John the Baptist were miraculously hidden and looked after while escaping to the nearby rocky hills. John the Baptist’s birthday also is a reminder that Christmas is only 6mths away!

**Vinnies Winter Appeal** The St Vincent de Paul Society’s annual Winter Appeal will focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Vinnies are also experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time. Donations can be made at all Vinnies Shops, on 131812 and <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal> Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

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