

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



**Feast of the Holy Family, Year C**

**29<sup>th</sup> December**

### Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in a manger.

### First Reading

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

*Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,  
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,  
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.  
Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,  
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

### Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life. (R.)

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for

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this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness.

Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord.

Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

## Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

## Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church.

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth. Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. Continued inside →

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Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068

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**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** Cora Jardine, John Moulder, Maisie Walsh, Bendigo (Nancy Pickering's sister), Mark Weir and Mary Moloney.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

**Welcomer:** Gerald Leach

**Reader:** Carmel Vallance

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

Lorna Keam

**Offertory Procession:** The

Thomas Family

**Eucharistic Minister:**

Gerald Leach

**Projectionist:** Marie

Shaddock

**Collections: 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Underbool \$60.00

Ouyen \$292.05

Planned Giving \$90.00

**January Church & Presbytery Cleaning:**

Peter & Marie Shaddock

**Mass Times:**

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool: January - to be decided**

**Weekday Masses this week:**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am

(New Year's Day) & Friday at 10:00am

**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 December: For pilgrims of hope**

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**Wisdom from on high** "If you remain in My word, you will truly be My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." *St John (the Evangelist)*

**\*New Year's Day Mass:** 10:30am

**Our roster of priests will usually look like this for our parish:** 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fr John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fr Matt.

**Wise Sayings . . .**

Prayer is not a 'spare wheel' that you pull out when in trouble, it is a 'steering wheel that directs the right path.

A car's windscreen is so big, but the rear vision mirror is so small – because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.

Friendship is like a book. It takes a few minutes to burn but years to write.

Old friends are gold, new friends are diamonds, but if you get a diamond don't neglect the gold because to hold a diamond you always need a base of gold.

When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't seem to solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.

A blind person asked St Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing your sight?" "Yes," said the saint "losing your vision."

Worrying doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

**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.**





**Continued from the back** → His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "my Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose. The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling. But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church.

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God—until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be my son."



## FEAST OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfillment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion, through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the Feast of Mary the Holy Mother of God. Father will be saying Mass at 10:30am in Ouyen, on the 1<sup>st</sup>



### The Jubilee Year 2025: A Journey of Hope

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year, a sacred event that occurs every 25 years. This time of grace follows the spirit of the Great jubilee of the year 2000 proclaimed by Pope St John Paul II, and the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2015-2016.

The theme for the Jubilee of 2025, "**Pilgrims of Hope**", invites us to embark on a journey of renewal and resilience. It offers a beacon of light in a world burdened by the shadows of war, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the mounting challenges of the climate crisis. This year will serve as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to foster hope in our hearts and communities.

The jubilee Year officially begins on **December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve)** and will conclude on **January 6, 2026 (Epiphany)**. In our Diocese of Ballarat, the celebrations will commence on **December 29, 2024**, with further details to be shared soon.

### HOPE: The heart of the Jubilee Year 2025

As we prepare to journey through this sacred year, let us embrace HOPE as our guiding principle:

- **H** stands for **Healing**- a call to mend broken hearts, fractured relationships, and wounded spirits.
- **O** represents **Optimism**- fostering a positive outlook even amidst challenges.
- **P** signifies **Patience**- allowing time for growth and understanding.
- **E** stands for **Empowerment**- strengthening one another to walk courageously in faith and love. Let these four pillars shape our lives and inspire us to become true pilgrims of hope, bringing healing, light, and joy to our families, communities, and the world. **Let us journey together with HOPE!**

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