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

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 **The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B 4th February 2024**

Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God

and bow low before the God who made us,

for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading[Job 7:1-4. 6-7](https://www.liturgyhelp.com/ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cjob#job007)

A reading from the book of Job

*I am filled with sorrow all day long.*

Job began to speak:

Is not man’s life on earth nothing more than pressed service,

his time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade,

or the workman with no thought but his wages,

months of delusion I have assigned to me,

nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, ‘When will it be day?’

Risen I think, ‘How slowly evening comes!’

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver’s shuttle my days have passed,

and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath,

and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;

sing to our God for he is loving:

to him our praise is due. (R.)

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem

and brings back Israel’s exiles,

he heals the broken-hearted,

he binds up all their wounds.

He fixes the number of the stars;

he calls each one by its name. (R.)

3. Our Lord is great and almighty;

his wisdom can never be measured.

The Lord raises the lowly;

he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

Second Reading[1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23](https://www.liturgyhelp.com/ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cco1#co1009)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness,

and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

Gospel[Mark 1:29-39](https://www.liturgyhelp.com/ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmrk#mrk001)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon’s mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, ‘Everybody is looking for you.’ He answered, ‘Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.’ And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Communion Antiphon

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,

his wonders for the children of men,

for he satisfies the thirsty soul,

and the hungry he fills with good things.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

In today’s First Reading, Job describes the futility of life prior to Christ. His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin. Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

But, as we sing in today’s Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the broken-hearted and gather those lost in exile from Him. We see this promise fulfilled in today’s Gospel.

Simon’s mother-in-law is like Job’s hopeless, toiling humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

Just as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand, Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated “help” is actually Greek for “raising up.” The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise, and it’s used again to describe His own resurrection.

What Jesus has done for Simon’s mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ.

We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence. Like Simon’s mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel, telling others that they too may share in this salvation.

St Joseph’s Parish

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

**Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068**

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**St Joseph’s Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool**

**Pope’s Prayer intention for February**: **For the terminally ill**
We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

**Next Social Gathering: Thursday 29th February**, 6:30pm at the Club following Adoration & Rosary at 5pm, Mass at 5:30pm and a talk by Fr John – all welcome.

**Father Shaiju is taking two weeks of his annual leave**.
He will be **away from January 22nd, 2024, to 9th February, 2024**. This week, **Father Francis** will be his replacement. **During this time,** there will be **No Weekday Masses.**

**Mass Changes beginning in February A rotating roster of priest’s consisting of:** Fr Shaiju, Fr Matt, and Fr John, for Masses, will recommenceon the 11th of February. Each priest will travel to Manangatang, Robinvale, Ouyen or Mildura at least once a month. This will mainly be for the Sunday Masses but may also include weekday Masses.

**Wanted: 1 or 2 people** to represent our Parish at the Mass of the Oils in Ballarat on Monday 25th March. The Mass of the Oils is at 11:30 am this year, volunteers are required to take up a photo of our Parish to be placed on a table (with those of every other Parish) and to collect our Oils. For more information, please see Marie.

**Wisdom from the Saints: "Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."** *St Thérèse of Lisieux*

**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**

***Recent Deaths****:*

***Anniversaries:***

***Sick*: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill, Renae Lanigan and Des Healy**

**Sunday 11th February**

**Welcomer: Gerald Leach**

**Reader: Marlene O’Callaghan**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Leo O’Callaghan**

**Offertory Procession: Faye Nihill & Celia Reidy**

**Eucharistic Minister: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach**

**Projectionist: Marie Shaddock**

**Collections: 28th January**

**Ouyen $204.70**

**Planned Giving $140.00**

**February Church CleaningPeter & Marie Shaddock**

**Presbytery: Marie Shaddock**

**Mass Times*:***

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays at 9am except while Father is away.**

**Weekday Masses this wee*k***

**No weekday Masses while Fr Shaiju is away.**

**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**

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**This week we welcome Fr Francis to the Mallee to say Mass for us while Father is on holiday. Father Francis is new to the diocese and our region, so we hope you feel welcome and more at home in our warmer climate.**

**Nursing Home and Hostel Church Services could be resuming next month, perhaps with a different format. If you are interested in helping out, please give your name to Lorna or Marie. A short meeting will be held after the World Day of Prayer to make a decision.**

**Wednesday the 14th of February (Valentine’s Day) is the beginning of Lent this year. Father will be saying the Ash Wednesday Mass in Ouyen at 11:00am. We will also be having a Lenten discussion group of a Friday evening (usually) for anyone that is interested. The cost of the booklet is $9.00, it is a valuable accompaniment to Lent whether you choose to join the group or just read it at home. Please see Marie if you would like a copy.**

**50 years of the Diocese of Ballarat – 2024** **On March 30 this year, the Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150. There will be a number of events held to mark this occasion.  The latest edition of ODC has a very informative article of the formation of the diocese, written by Sr Berenice Kerr rsm.  See the laminated page on the tables for the timeline of events.**

**What’s happening in the Parish . . .**

**Sunday 4th February – Fr Francis here for Mass**

**Friday 9th February - Father Shaiju Returns**

**Sunday 11th February – Fr John here for Mass – new rotation of priests begins**

**Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday – 11:00am Mass**

**Friday 16th February – 9:00 am Mass at Underbool; 10:30 Mass in Ouyen; 7:00pm Lenten Discussion group at the Shaddock’s – Weekday Masses resume**

**Sunday 18th February – Fr Shaiju here for Mass**

**Thursday 29th February – Next Social gathering with Fr John as guest speaker: Adoration from 2:30pm, Rosary 5:00pm, Mass 5:30pm, Fr John’s talk 6:00pm, Dinner at the Club 6:30pm.**

**Friday 1st March 7:00pm – World Day of Prayer, hosted by St Joseph’s**

**Something to Smile at . . .**

What school requires you to drop out to graduate?  Sky-diving school.

What’s the difference between a teacher and a train? One says, “Spit out the chewing gum!” and the other says, “Chew, Chew!”

Why did the Echo get detention on the last day of school? It kept answering back!