

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



First Sunday of Advent, Year C

1st December 2024

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Reflection adapted from Dr Scott Hahn

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in your truth and teach me. For you are God my saviour and for you I will wait all day."

We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation, knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens; roaring seas; distress among the nations and terrified people.

He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God.

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near."



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

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

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

Sunday 1st December

Welcomer: Gerald Leach

Reader: Louise Fitzpatrick
Leach

Prayers of the Faithful:

Margaret Collins

Offertory Procession: Kathy

Loxton & Cheryl Anderson

Eucharistic Minister:

Marlene O'Callaghan

Projectionist: Marie

Shaddock

Collections: 24th November

Ouyen \$222.85

Planned Giving \$150.00

December Church & Presbytery Cleaning:

Celia Reidy & Cheryl Anderson

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at
11am

Underbool 3rd Fridays at
9am

Weekday Masses this week

10:30 am

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 November: For anyone who has lost a child We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom from on high "It is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed." *Deuteronomy 31:8*

Carols by Candlelight Sunday the **8th December** at the Ouyen Lake; byo chair, drink & voice. **Christmas Mass:** 9:00am Christmas Day

Our roster of priests will usually look like this for our parish: 1st Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th Sunday Fr Matt.

Something to smile at . . . Nigel is driving home one evening, when he suddenly realises that it's his daughter's birthday and he hasn't bought her a present. He drives to the local shopping centre, runs to the toy store, and says to the shop assistant, "How much is that Barbie in the window?"

In a condescending manner, she replies, "Which Barbie? We have Barbie Goes to the Gym for \$19.95, Barbie Goes to the Ball for \$19.95, Barbie Goes Shopping for \$19.95, Barbie Goes to the Beach for \$19.95, Barbie Goes Nightclubbing for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265." Perplexed, Nigel asks, "Why is Divorced Barbie \$265 when all the others are only \$19.95?"

"That's obvious," the shop assistant says. "Divorced Barbie comes with Ken's house, Ken's car, Ken's boat, Ken's furniture . . ."

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.

Jubilee Year 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." It will be a year of hope for a suffering world suffering. In the lead-up to the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer, to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer.



From Fr Shaiju: Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year, a time to renew our spiritual journey. It is a season of waiting and watching, filled with hope and longing for the coming of Christ. In Year C of the liturgical cycle, the Church focuses on the Gospel of Luke, which portrays Jesus as the compassionate Savior who brings hope and salvation to all, especially the poor, sinners, and the outcast. In the Gospel of Luke, which guides us this year, we are invited to witness the tender mercy of our God and the joy of His salvation.

As we light the advent candles, let us open our hearts to the light of Christ, preparing ourselves through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness. Advent calls us to pause, reflect, and ready ourselves for the gift of God's love made flesh at Christmas. Let us journey together in faith, watching, waiting, and living with joy-filled anticipation of Emmanuel-God with us.

Farewell 😞 It's sad to say goodbye, but this was Emil's last week in Ouyen. He is relocating to Bendigo to manage another post office there. We will miss you Emil and wish you all the best for the future.

Parish Bequest: Kevin Healy very generously left the parish a large sum of money in his will. To recognise Kevin's generosity the Leadership Team have purchased an electronic votive candle stand as a way for the whole parish to remember and visually pray for family members or particular intentions. A brass plaque will be added to the stand to officially commemorate Kevin's kindness and generosity. Candles can be lit by inserting a coin (or token available from the piety stall) – a suggested amount would be 10 or 20 cents per candle and change can be obtained from the piety stall for either coins or tokens.

***Good News about Ruth and her baby** Ruth's baby is not out of the woods yet, but there are definite improvements so please keep the prayers going. There is a note from Ruth with all the details on the 2 tables at the back of the church.

Sale of the Patchewollock Church – After discussion with members of the local Patchewollock community the recently formed Patchewollock Hotel Group has bought the church to keep in the community and use for local events. The contents of the church, apart from the altar, have been offered to parishioners and their families with all 16 pews being bought by the families.

CWL Swan Hill Reflection Day: Thursday Dec 5, Dr Sr Mary Glowrey in the Mallee: The Catholic Women's League is helping to organise a reflection day in Swan Hill, with a special focus on Servant of God, Dr Sr Mary Glowrey. The day will start with 10:30am Mass in Swan Hill St Mary's Church, and conclude about 3pm. Morning tea and Lunch will be provided. There is no cost for the day, but donations welcome. RSVPs to northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 50324144. We hope to see you there!

Want to get more out of Advent and Christmas? Try "**The Light**" a daily short reflection guide that offers insight and perspective to deepen and renew your appreciation of this special season. We have been generously given a few copies so why not try something quiet and positive to counter the hustle and bustle around us; first in best dressed 😊 Copies are available at the piety stall – **for free**.

Columban Calendars are available for \$10. A range of "**Glory & Goodness**" Christmas and other cards, including Ordination cards, are also on sale in the piety stall. "Glory & Goodness" is a creation of Naomi Leach, her designs have been bought by people in USA, Britain, Finland, Ireland, Canada and many other countries; come and have a look.

An Invitation to parishioners to consider becoming an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist (Special/Eucharistic Minister). If you feel that this is a calling for you, please see either Father or Marie.

St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish - Parish Safety Officer: Mrs Melanie Grace 0477 846 777