

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



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

7th July 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Your merciful love, O God, we have received
in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*The people are rebellious; they shall know
there will be a prophet in their midst.*

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

Responsorial Psalm

R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords. **(R.)**

2. Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,

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so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy. **(R.)**

3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. **(R.)**

Second Reading

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

*I will glory in my infirmities so that the
power of Christ may dwell in me.*

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Communion Antiphon

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Reflection adapted from "The Word of the Lord"
by Dr John Bergsma

This Sunday's readings draw a comparison between three groups: stiff-necked Israelites in the time of the prophets, the townsfolk of Nazareth in the days of Jesus, and you and I sitting in the pew. The message to us is to repent and believe the Good News. Our first reading comes from near the beginning of the Book of Ezekiel, when that great prophet was receiving his initial call from God. If you read the entire context from which this passage comes, you will find several parallels between Moses and Ezekiel and their prophetic commissions. Both Moses

and Ezekiel are sent to hard-hearted folk. However, in Moses's day this meant Pharaoh and the Egyptians; for Ezekiel, it is the Israelites themselves who are as hard hearted as Pharaoh of old. So, there is a kind of irony running through Ezekiel that things have gotten worse over a thousand years and the Israelites are now as bad as the Pharaoh of the Exodus.

Paul reveals why God sometimes allows "bad things" in our lives—sickness, unemployment, poverty, failure, and so on—even though we pray that they be removed. God does this to teach us to depend on him, to let his life live through us. Otherwise, content with what we can do with our natural powers, we never learn to truly live a supernatural life. The townspeople of Nazareth are hard hearted and unbelieving, like the Judeans of Ezekiel's day. At stake is pride, they don't want to admit that a humble hometown boy has anything to teach them. Their lack of faith impedes Christ's work. Is this because God is not omnipotent? No, but he has chosen to make his healing power contingent on our faith.

Faith is the means by which we accept the gift of God. God may give, but we have to accept and the people of Nazareth would not accept the gift of God among them. They missed the experience of the power of God because they were overly familiar with Jesus and expected very little of him. The same can be true of us: overfamiliarity with Jesus, with the teaching of Scripture, with the Eucharist and the sacraments, can lead to a ho-hum attitude in which we no longer expect God's power to "show up" in our lives. If we are experiencing "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints" right now, let's give thanks to God for them, because it is through these things that God often wakes us up out of the stupor we've fallen into. A life of radical holiness is possible for us, today, now, starting with the very Mass when these Scriptures are read. What's holding us back is that we don't believe Jesus can do it for us.

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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 Nihill and John Moulder

Sunday 14th July

Welcomer: Lorna Keam

Reader: Marlene O'Callaghan

Prayers of the Faithful:

Leo O'Callaghan

Offertory Procession:

Merril & John Boland

Eucharistic Minister: Leo

O'Callaghan

Projectionist: Marie

Shaddock

Collections: 30th June

Ouyen \$242.00

Planned Giving \$160.00

July Church & Presbytery

Cleaning: The Grace family

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

**Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays
at 9am (none in July)**

Weekday Masses this week

**No weekday Masses while
Father 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

Pope's Prayer Intention for July: For the pastoral care of the sick. We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it, and their loved ones, the power of the Lord; and may it become an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

Father Shaiju will be on holiday in India from the 2nd to the 24th of July. In his absence he has arranged visiting priests to say Mass for us. There will be no weekday Masses while Father is away.

1st week of July (6th/7th): Fr. Francis,

2nd week of July (13th/14th): Fr. Peter Hudson,

3rd week of July (20th/21st): Fr. Matt (or Fr. John)

Wisdom from the Saints:

"It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world."

St. Aloysius de Gonzaga

Something to smile at . . . Ten-year-old Jack wanted \$300 for a new bike. He prayed for two weeks but nothing happened.

He then decided to write to God asking for the money. When the local postmaster saw his letter addressed to Dear God, Australia, he decided to send it to the prime minister's office.

The PM was so impressed, touched and amused by Jack's letter he told his secretary to send the boy \$30 to help his fund-raising efforts.

Jack was delighted when he saw the letter from the prime minister with \$30 cash. He immediately wrote a thank you letter to God. It read: "Dear God, thank you for sending the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you had to send it via Canberra. As usual, those untrustworthy crooks took most of the money."

The new roster of priests will look like this for our parish:

1st Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th Sunday Fr Matt

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.



Thank you to those people who have helped out for many years with the Reading, Prayers of the Faithful, Offertory Procession, etc., your contribution is invaluable! At present the roster needs updating. **If you aren't already involved, can you help?** Please consider adding your name to one or some of the areas. The existing sheet is on the table at the back of the church (nearest the kitchen) just add your name to the column you are interested in. The list will remain there until the end of July. The more people on the list the fewer turns needed. 😊

Petition to Retain the Lord's Prayer in Parliament – There is no indication yet of how the petition went. The official result at this stage is still - “Awaiting a response.”

Today we have the Pope's Annual Collection - This collection is for the pastoral needs of people all around the world and is taken up throughout the world

9th August is an auspicious day for our Parish for two reasons, the second of which we will get at a later date. In 1914 the first Mass was said in the newly built St Joseph's church. This year our church, although not the original, will celebrate 110 years of Masses being said. As a way paying homage to those who contributed to all that we now enjoy, and also of reminiscing, there will be little snippets each week to remind us of how we got to be 'here' and the importance our faith had to those who lived here.

114years ago, in June, the first Mass was celebrated by Fr Brazil in Ouyen in a store belonging to Mr Hughes. Father Brazil was in charge of the Parish of Sea Lake and a question arises as to how he got to Ouyen with no direct train line? The Parish of Sea Lake began in 1907. In its earliest days Sea Lake was served from Donald, but as farming land opened up, and the population grew, it was established as an independent parish. Initially the parish included the communities of Sea Lake, Watchupga, Woomelang, Berriwillock and Kaneira (now Culgoa), Nandaly, Ouyen and Manangatang/Chillingollah were also added in the years ahead. Borders shifted quickly though in those early days of settlement and six months later, in December 1911, the Parish of Woomelang was established and Ouyen was then included as a part of this parish. Father C. Kelly would travel by train to Ouyen to celebrate Mass in the New Public Hall which opened about the middle of 1911. This was a much better option than the blacksmith's shop which had been the only other place available.

Deacon Cay will begin his time in Sunraysia this week where he will serve as Deacon until November 3. He will then make final preparations for his ordination to the priesthood, which is scheduled for **Saturday, November 23** – the Sunday after the Diocesan Assembly. Please keep him in your prayers.

Bishop Paul and our significant anniversary Bishop Paul will be visiting our parish on the 28th of July to say Mass and have a chance to catch up with our community. The 9th of August is also the 110th anniversary of the first Mass said in St Joseph's, newly built church. We are planning on celebrating both events on the same day (28th July) with a barbeque lunch, salads and cake.

Formation in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November is going ahead throughout the diocese. The **Diocesan Assembly** aims to bring together representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. Every parish priest and two members of each Parish are invited to take part in this Assembly. Please consider being a part of it.



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.

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