

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



The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

10th March 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading [2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23](#)

A reading from the second book of
Chronicles

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are
revealed in the exile and liberation of his
people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is

how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm

R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. **(R.)**
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,

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'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)

3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.)

4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading [Ephesians 2:4-10](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his
only Son,
that all who believe in him might have
eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [John 3:14-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

Cont. on the inside.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH
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 Des Healy

Sunday 17th March

Welcomer: Lorna Keam

Reader: Marie Shaddock

Prayers of the Faithful:

Flora Moulder

Offertory Procession: Jona & Jessica Kilaton

Eucharistic Minister: Peter Shaddock

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 25th February

Ouyen \$194.55

Planned Giving \$395.00

March Church Cleaning

The Grace Family

Presbytery: Cheryl

Anderson

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays

Weekday Masses this week

No Mass this week

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, with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:30 & Rosary at 4:00pm except when there is a social gathering.

Pope's Prayer intention for March: For the new Martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world, inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Many thanks to EVERY one who has helped out over the last couple of days at both the funeral and World Day of Prayer. Your support has been inspirational and very greatly appreciated! 🙌🙌

Easter Mass Times:

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Last Supper 7:00pm, Ouyen

Good Friday 3:00pm, Ouyen

Holy Saturday Vigil Mass 7:30pm, Ouyen

Easter Sunday 9:00am Underbool

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is seeking interest from Parishes for Liturgy Formation in 2024. Topics that are offered by the Commission include: Funeral Ministry, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, RCIA. If you would be interested in learning more about any of the above topics, and more, please see Marie. It is possible that our parish could host some sessions.

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

Wisdom from the Saints: "Lent is a time of profound truth, which brings conversion, restores hope and, by putting everything back in its proper place, brings peace and optimism." *Pope St. John Paul II*

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



Cont. from the back page: In today's First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant, the covenant with David. His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today's Psalm. But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple.

God is rich in mercy, as today's Epistle teaches. He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations. In Jesus, God keeps that promise.

Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation. Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself.

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves, as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth. Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One and rededicate ourselves to living the "good works" that God has prepared us for.

This Weekend we welcome **Molly Kate Leach** into our Parish family. Molly is the third child of Ashlea and Dominic Leach. We pray for Molly that she will grow deeply in her faith to become a dynamic member of our community. We pray that she, and all her family will always feel welcome and a necessary part of our parish.

In preparation for Easter, Father Shaiju is offering to have a **Lenten Reconciliation Rite on Friday 22nd** at 10:00am followed by Mass at 10:30am

Nursing Home and Hostel Church Services: Please consider if you would like to take part in an **ecumenical church service to the hospital & nursing home, approximately once a month.**

The Lenten discussion group continues on a Friday evening at 7pm 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.

Mass of the Oils 2024 & 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat: The Mass of the Oils this year will incorporate acknowledgement of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat and will be held on **Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11:30am (please note change of time).** Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall. At the Mass we are inviting 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to present a symbol or photo that best represents their parish. **This year the Mass of the Oils will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivllKiHSs?feature=share>**

Something to Smile about . . .

A priest known for his lengthy homilies, especially at Christmas and Easter, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his sermon one Sunday morning. The man came back just before communion. Afterward the slightly annoyed priest asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut, Father," was the man's reply. "But," said the priest, "why didn't you do that before Mass?" The man said, "Because I didn't need one then."

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