

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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

29th January 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading [Zep 2:3; 3:12-13](#)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in
the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,

the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Cor 1:26-31](#)

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

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 5:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is
right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of
right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call
on you.

A Reflection by *Bishop Robert Baron*

Jesus’ sermon on the mount, is perhaps the most famous sermon ever preached. We read in the first verse that, “when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.” This is important. We might pass over these minor actions, but through

them Jesus is establishing himself as the new Moses.

In the Old Testament we find Moses, the great teacher, going up a mountain to receive the Law, and then coming down to teach it. Similarly, Jesus goes up a mountain and sits down to teach. However, Jesus is not receiving a law; he is giving one.

Jesus begins his primary teaching with the “Beatitudes” a title that stems from a Latin noun *beatitudo*, meaning “happiness” or “blessedness.” It can also be understood from the Greek as “happy” or even “lucky” which is used to start each of the Beatitudes.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit.” We might say, “How lucky you are if you are not addicted to material things.” Here Jesus is telling us how to realise our deepest desire, which is the desire for God, not for passing things that only bring temporary comfort.

“Blessed are those who mourn.” We might interpret it this way: “How lucky are you if you are not addicted to good feelings.” Doing the will of God sometimes involves the acceptance of enormous pain, but when you’re free from dependence on good feelings, you’re liberated for whatever life demands.

“Blessed are the meek.” One of the world’s greatest seductions is power. But what we ought to do is shun worldly power, so that the power of the will of God might reign in us.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” In other words, how lucky are you if you are not addicted to the approval of others.

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me but in me and I in Him.' St Francis de Sales

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Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068

Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326

Parish Email: Ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, Laura Burns and John Nihill 🙏

May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace.

Sunday 5th February - Mass

Ouyen: 11:00am

Reader: Marie Shaddock

Prayers of the Faithful: Merril Boland

Offertory Procession: Louise & Gerald Leach

Eucharistic Minister: Leo O'Callaghan

Projectionist: Cara Brady

Collections 22nd January

Underbool: \$40.00

Ouyen: \$ 179.00

Planned Giving: \$ 520.00

Church Cleaning:

February: Faye Nihill & Ellen Bonica

Presbytery Cleaning:

February: Marie Shaddock

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Father will be available after the Friday Mass for Reconciliation, after the 11:00am Masses, or at any other time by appointment.

Father Anthony will be away on Annual Leave from 13th February to 16th March. Father Kevin Maloney will say Mass on the 26th of February and the 12th of March; more details on the other page.

Ash Wednesday is 22nd of February this year, Father Matt Thomas has kindly offered to say Mass for us at 5pm on that day.

Pope's Prayer Intention for February: For

Parishes – We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Prayer For Australia: Eternal Father, I offer you the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ offered at all the Masses throughout the world for the Holy atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2pm-5pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm & Rosary 4pm; all welcome.

Summary of the New Covid Provisions:

~ QR Codes are no longer required to sign in

~ Kindness and Common Sense strictly enforced

~ Face masks are no longer required to be worn

Mass Timetable

Wk 1 **Ouyen** Mass 11:00am Sunday

Wk 2 **Ouyen** Mass 11:00am Sunday

Wk 3 **Ouyen** Mass 11:00am Sunday

Wk 4 **U'Bool** Mass 9:00am Sunday

Ouyen Mass 11:00am Sunday

Wk 5 **Ouyen** Mass 11:00am Sunday

No Mass next Friday 3rd February

"Have patience with all things - but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You are perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that." ~ Saint Francis de Sales

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Lenten Booklets – yes, it’s almost that time of year again, when we make a conscious effort to turn back fully to God. Reflecting on the weekly readings, prayer and sharing our thoughts is a great way of making Lent so much more meaningful. If you are interested in joining a group to do this, we would love to have you, or if you prefer to do it alone that’s fine. Booklets are \$9 and need to be ordered in the next week. Please see Marie this week if you are interested in either option.

Father Anthony is going on holidays! We wish him a wonderful time away and hope he returns to us recharged and full of vigour. In his absence we will have a visiting priest on two of the Sundays and are looking at linking up with the Wimmera-Mallee Parish for the other two weekends. Essentially, we will be watching and joining in with the Mass in Horsham as it is live-streamed. The difference is that we will still gather at the same time, take up our usual collections, receive Holy Communion, and have our own announcements - as we would during a normal Mass. This is the closest option to having a priest with us and imposes the least change and impact on our parish.

After discussions last year with the Patchewollock Community, the sad decision to close the church was made. The final Mass for the closing of the church will be on Saturday 18th of March at 3:00pm, followed by refreshments in the Hall. Bishop Paul will be here to concelebrate the final Mass in Patchewollock with Fr Anthony and will say Mass the following day – Feast of St Joseph in Ouyen. This is just a preliminary notice, more details will be available nearer the time.



Did you know that next Thursday, the 2nd of February, is the **Feast of the Presentation in the Temple**. This day celebrates both the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, as well as the Purification of Mary, which was required of all mothers, forty days after the birth of a male child (80 for a female). The new mothers would be required to wash in the pool of Siloam, in order to be “ritually clean” and able to take part again in both society and religious services. If the child born was a firstborn male an “offering” in this case of 2 turtle doves was also made. This was to ransom or buy back the child after he had been dedicated to God – as all firstborn males were. It was on this

day that both Simeon, and Anna, recognised Jesus as the Messiah “the light to enlighten the Gentiles” and prophesied that “a sword” would piercing the heart of Mary. It is also called Candlemas Day for the custom of using lighted candles in procession and is the day on which candles were blessed. In the early Church it was often celebrated on February 14th, 40 days after the Epiphany, in keeping with the practice of celebrating Christmas on that date in the East.

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