

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

### First Reading [Acts 6:1-7](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.**

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

### Second Reading [1 Pt 2:4-9](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

**You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.**

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

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But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the

Lord;

no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel Jn 14:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”?’

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’

## **Communion Antiphon**

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

## **Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn**

By His death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father’s house. His Father’s house is no longer a temple made by human hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ’s body.

As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today’s Epistle, Jesus is the “stone” destined to be rejected by men, but made the precious cornerstone of God’s dwelling on earth. Each of us is called to be a living stone in God’s building. In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be “holy priests” offering up “spiritual sacrifices” that is all of our prayer, work and intentions, to God. This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death just as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

God’s covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises. By our faith in Christ’s new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies and in our daily life. In today’s First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons, so that they can devote themselves more fully to the “ministry of the Word.” The Lord’s Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today’s Psalm. So, we can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be troubled, but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father. His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew.

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**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Kath Monaghan

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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter, 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**Ouyen: 11:00am**

**Welcomer: Gerald Leach**

**Reader: Flora Moulder**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Margaret Collins**

**Offertory Procession: Brady Family**

**Eucharistic Minister: Marlene O'Callaghan**

**Projectionist: Cara Brady**

**Mass Timetable**

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00am

**Weekday Masses this week:** Friday at 10:00

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** each Thursday from 2pm – 5pm, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy said at 3pm and the Rosary at 4pm; all welcome.

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

**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.

**Collections 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Ouyen: \$269.35**

**Planned Giving: \$310.00**

**Caritas: \$1,389.85**

**Church Cleaning:**

**May: Margaret & Leo Collins**

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

**May: Carmel Vallance**

**Pope's Prayer Intention for May: For Church movements and groups** - We pray that church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of the needy in the world.

**Feast Days this Week**

10<sup>th</sup> May St Damien of Molokai – *priest to the lepers*

13<sup>th</sup> May Our Lady of Fatima

**Prayer for Religious Freedom**

Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, our community of faith, to protect religious freedom within our religious educational institutions. We pray for the pastorally sensitive formation of children in accordance with sound biological anthropology and the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Australia's patronesses, Our Lady Help of Christians, and St Mary of the Cross. Amen.

**150th Anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat in 2024**

On March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius XI issued a decree creating two more dioceses, Ballarat and Sandhurst, to take some of the pressure away from Melbourne's Bishop and priests. Prior to this all of Victoria had all been part of the Melbourne diocese.

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**The Annual Diocesan Mass Count begins today and continues throughout May.**

**Is there anyone else interested in being a “Welcomer”?** We have four people listed at present but I would like to finalise the roster this week if possible. The sheet is on the table near the kitchen for anyone that would like to take part.

**CWL Day of Reflection, Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>** in Warracknabeal, all welcome. Please see flyer on the tables at the back and see Marie if you would like to go; car-pooling possible.

**Notes about Holy Communion:** Bishop Paul has issued the following information for people of the diocese: Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice. Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission and from a medical point of view. . . I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. . . and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

**The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage**, “In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop” commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop’s life and ministry. If you are interested there is a brochure on the table at the back and for any questions please call 02 89124818.

**‘Pondering Grief’ (in-person event), Saturday 20 May 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (AEST)** This day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Facilitated by Linda Espie a counsellor of loss, grief and bereavement for over 35 years. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost: \$80 including ‘Pondering Grief’ book (BYO lunch). Book and pay via website [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 9890 1101.

**Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture: *Aid to the Church in Need*** is launching an annual *George Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture* with the inaugural event to take place in Melbourne CBD on Sunday 21 May. The keynote speaker will be Mr David Pell, brother of the late Cardinal. For information and to register, please visit [www.trybooking.com/CGUDA](http://www.trybooking.com/CGUDA).

**Magi Pilgrimages** wish to share their Pilgrimage information with you, please see the sheet on the table at the back of the church.

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