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

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 **The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B 14th January 2024**

Entrance Antiphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you,

shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading [1 Samuel 3:3-10.19](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Csm1%23sm1003)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.*

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ He answered, ‘Here I am’. Then he ran to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ Eli said, ‘I did not call. Go back and lie down.’ So he went and lay down. Once again, the Lord called ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ He replied, ‘I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.’ Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, since you called me.’ Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, ‘Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Samuel answered, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Here am I, Lord;

I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.

and he stooped down to me;

he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,

praise of our God. (R.)

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,

but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.

Instead, here am I. (R.)

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written

that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law

in the depth of my heart. (R.)

4. Your justice I have proclaimed

in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;

you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading[1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cco1%23co1006)

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

*Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

Gospel[John 1:35-42](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cjhn%23jhn001%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.*

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, ‘Look, there is the lamb of God.’ Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, ‘What do you want?’ They answered, ‘Rabbi,’ – which means Teacher – ‘where do you live?’ ‘Come and see’ he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas’ – meaning Rock.

Communion Antiphon

You have prepared a table before me,

and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

In the call of Samuel and of the first Apostles, today’s readings shed light on our own calling to be followers of Christ.

Notice in the Gospel today that John’s disciples are prepared to hear God’s call. They are already looking for the Messiah, so they trust in John’s word and follow when he points out the Lamb of God walking by. Samuel is also waiting on the Lord—sleeping near the Ark of the Covenant where God’s glory dwells, taking instruction from Eli, the high priest.

Samuel listened to God’s word and the Lord was with him. And Samuel, through his word, turned all Israel to the Lord. The disciples too heard and followed, words we hear repeatedly in today’s Gospel. They stayed with the Lord and by their testimony brought others to the Lord.

These scenes from salvation history should give us strength to embrace God’s will and to follow His call in our lives. God is constantly calling to each of us, personally, by name. He wants us to seek Him in love, to long for His word. We must desire always, as the apostles did, to stay where the Lord stays, to constantly seek His face.

For we are not our own, but belong to the Lord, as Paul says in today’s Epistle.

As we renew our vows of discipleship in this Eucharist, let us approach the altar singing the new song of today’s Psalm: “Behold I come . . . to do your will O God.”

St Joseph’s Parish

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

**Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068**

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**St Joseph’s Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool**

**Pope’s Prayer intention for January**: **For the diversity of gifts in the Church** – Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

**Next Social Gathering: Thursday 18th January**, 6pm at the Club following Adoration & Rosary at 5pm and Mass at 5:30pm – all welcome.

**Father Shaiju is taking two weeks of his annual leave**.
He will be **away from January 22nd, 2024, to 9th February, 2024**. In his absence, **Father Jim McKay** will be his replacement. **During this time, we will only have our weekend Masses**. There will be **No Weekday Masses** during these two weeks.

**Mass Changes in February. A rotating roster of priest’s consisting of:** Fr Shaiju, Fr Matt, and Fr John, for Masses, will recommenceon the second weekend of February. Each priest will travel to Manangatang, Robinvale, Ouyen or Mildura at least once a month. This will mainly be for the Sunday Masses but may also include weekday Masses.

**Wanted: 1 or 2 people** to represent our Parish at the Mass of the Oils in Ballarat on Monday 25th March. The Mass of the Oils is at 11:30 am this year, volunteers are required to take up a photo of our Parish to be placed on a table (with those of every other Parish) and to collect our Oils. For more information please see Marie.

**Wisdom from the Saints**: "The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life." *Pope Benedict XVI*

**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**

***Recent Deaths****:*

***Anniversaries:*** **Joe Baker & Phyllis Vallance**

 ***Sick*: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Renae Lanigan**

**Sunday 21st January**

**Welcomer: Carmel Vallance**

**Reader: Susan O’Sullivan**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Peter Shaddock**

**Offertory Procession: Jona & Jessica Kilaton**

**Eucharistic Minister: Leo O’Callaghan**

**Projectionist: Marie Shaddock**

**Collections: 7th January**

**Underbool $15.00**

**Ouyen $146.15**

**Planned Giving $265.00**

**Bishop’s Appeal $457.80**

**January Church CleaningPeter & Marie Shaddock**

**Presbytery:Cheryl Anderson**

**Mass Times*:***

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays at 9am**

**Weekday Masses this wee*k* Friday at 10:30am**

***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**

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**If you are wondering about what Pope Francis actually said regarding “Blessings of Unions” Here is what it said in plain language, not to be confused with reports from the media.** The document released two weeks ago by the Vatican on the pastoral meaning of blessings insists that marriage is a union of one man and one woman in lifelong fidelity and openness to children, said Bishop Robert Barron of Winona-Rochester. “In my capacity as chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, I would like to respond to some of the questions and concerns that have emerged in the wake of the publication of the Vatican document, Fiducia Supplicans. **The statement in no way calls for a change in the Church’s teaching regarding marriage and sexuality**. In fact, it goes to great lengths to insist that, in accord with unchanging doctrine, marriage is a union of one man and one woman in lifelong fidelity and openness to children. The blessings that it allows for those in irregular relationships are not liturgical in nature and hence do not imply any approbation of such relationships. Rather, these benedictions are informal and spontaneous, designed to call upon God’s mercy to heal, guide, and strengthen. Despite some misleading coverage in the press, the declaration does not constitute a ‘step’ toward ratification of same-sex marriage nor a compromising of the Church’s teaching regarding those in irregular relationships. “Fiducia Supplicans is very much congruent with Pope Francis’s long-held conviction that those who do not live up to the full demand of the Church’s moral teaching are nevertheless loved and cherished by God and invited to accept the Lord’s offer of forgiveness.” From United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

**Peace in the Holy LandPlease continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land, remembering that this is where the Prince of Peace was born.**

**Aid to the Church in need Supporting Christians in the Holy Land The pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has committed an aid package of 190,000 AUD to support the Christians of the Holy Land during the current crisis. This aid will assist impoverished Christians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, as well as Christian migrant workers and asylum seekers in Israel. Use this link to donate** [**https://aidtochurch.org/holyland**](https://aidtochurch.org/holyland)