

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

14th May 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading [Acts 8:5-8, 14-17](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**They laid hands on them, and they received
the Holy Spirit.**

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **(R.)**
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;

shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**

3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

**In the body he was put to death, in the spirit
he was raised to life.**

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my

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Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Jn 14:15-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by the Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

Communion Antiphon

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans," this is what He assures us in today's Gospel.

He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father. We see the promised gift of His Spirit being conferred in today's First Reading.

The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the

first deacons, proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God and are baptized.

It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized—that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our Sacrament of Confirmation by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord.

We remain in this grace so long as we love Christ and keep His commandments. And, strengthened in the Spirit, whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation—to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son.

In today's Psalm, we celebrate our liberation. Just as He changed the sea into dry land to free the captive Israelites, Christ suffered that He might lead us to God, as we hear in today's Epistle.

This is the reason for our hope—the hope that sustains us in the face of a world that cannot accept His truth, the hope that sustains us when we are maligned and defamed for His name's sake.

Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit, Paul tells us today. And as He himself promises: "Because I live, . . . you will live."

Something to Smile about . . .

A judge was interviewing a woman regarding her pending divorce. He asked, "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

She replied, "About four acres with a little home in the middle of the property."

"No," said the judge. "I mean, what is the foundation of this case?"

"It's made of concrete, brick, and mortar," she responded.

"I mean," he continued, "What are your relations like?" "I have an aunt and uncle in town, as well as my husband's parents."

"But has your husband ever beat you?"

"Yes," she responded. "About twice a week he gets up earlier than I do."

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, "Madame, why do you want a divorce?"

"I've never wanted a divorce," the woman said.

"My husband does. He says he can't communicate with me."

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OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326
Parish Email: ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Recent Deaths: Gwen John, Doreen Donnelly
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. 🙏

The Ascension of the Lord, 21st May
Ouyen: 11:00am
Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan
Reader: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach
Prayers of the Faithful: Gerald Leach
Offertory Procession: Faye Nihill & Celia
Reidy
Eucharistic Minister: Leo O'Callaghan
Projectionist: Cara Brady

Mass Timetable
Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am
Underbool 4th 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 6th May

Ouyen: \$250.00
Planned Giving: \$535.00
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

10th May St Damien of Molokai – *priest to the
lepers*
13th 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.

Beginning in June, our monthly dinners restart

Father Shaiju has welcomed the opportunity of
gathering as a parish with whomever is able or
available, to have dinner and discussion. Father
is offering to give Benediction and say the rosary
of a Thursday afternoon at 5pm followed by
dinner at the Club. As noted in our Parish
Meeting, we will also look at rotating these events
to dinner & lunch options for those who find the
night time more difficult. At this stage no date
has been set but we will begin in June.

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Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers whether with us in person or watching over us from above. We thank you for the untold hours of love and devotion you have given us and the wonderful example of selflessness and self-giving.

Prayer for Mothers

May Jesus, the Son of Mary, be your Protector to give you strength and health and peace, so that you may be a refuge and haven for your family. May the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, shield you from all the powers of darkness and give you joy in being a mother to your children.

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count continues this weekend and throughout May.

Thanks to those who have put their names down to act as “Welcomers” if anyone else is interested please see Faye or Marie and we can add you to the list.

CWL Day of Reflection, Wednesday May 24th 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, email 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.

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