

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



Mary, the Mother of God

1st January 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,
who rules heaven and earth for ever.

First Reading [Nm 6:22-27](#)

A reading from the book of Numbers

**They will call down my name on the children
of Israel and I will bless them.**

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this
to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to
bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be
gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and
bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the
sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples.
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Gal 4:4-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Galatians

**When the appointed time came, God sent his
son, born of a woman.**

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to
redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us
to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are
sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into
our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father',
and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a
slave any more; and if God has made you son,
then he has made you heir.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
In the past God spoke to our ancestors through
the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 2:16-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke

**The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and
the infant lying in the crib... When the
eighth day came they gave him the name of
Jesus.**

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and
found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in
the manger. When they saw the child they
repeated what they had been told about him, and
everyone who heard it was astonished at what the

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shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

Communion Antiphon

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn



Today we give thanks to Mary, the Mother of God. Her response to the angel, born of a humble heart, brought us life and salvation in the Child conceived in her womb.

From before all ages, God had destined her for this decisive role in salvation history. She was to be the woman who in the fullness of time would bear God's only Son, as Paul tells us in today's Epistle.

In times past, God spoke to His chosen people, the Israelites, through prophets, and imparted His blessings upon them through His priests, as we hear in today's First Reading.

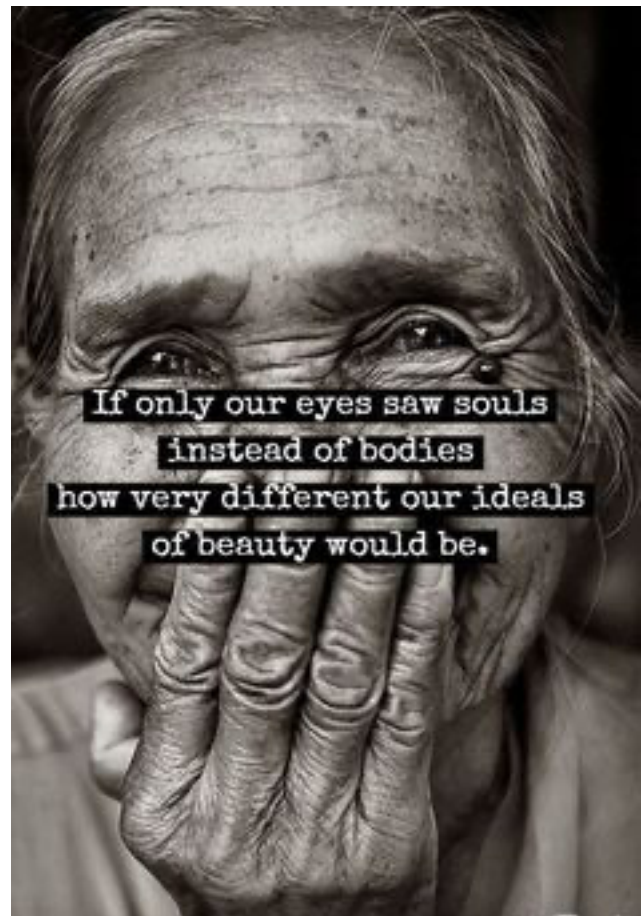
But now, He has sent His Son to reveal His glory and His kingdom, to make His way of salvation known to all nations, as we sing in today's Psalm. In the Infant lying in the manger, God has shone His face upon us.

Jesus is made a child of Israel, an heir of God's covenant with Abraham, by His circumcision in today's Gospel. And we have been made adopted sons and daughters by Baptism, which is the circumcision of Christ, the true circumcision.

As children of God, Paul says today, we are heirs of the Father's blessings, which He promised to bestow on all peoples through the descendants of Abraham. This is the blessing that Aaron imparted to Israel, the people descended from Abraham. And this blessing comes to us through Mary and the Child.

This is the good news of great joy that the shepherds make known in Bethlehem today.

Like the shepherds, we too should make haste today to find Jesus with Mary and Joseph, to glorify God for His blessings. And like Mary, we should keep His word and reflect upon it, letting it dwell richly in our hearts.



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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.

8th January – The Epiphany of the Lord

Ouyen: 11:00am

Reader: Lorna Keam

Prayers of the Faithful: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Offertory Procession: Merril & John Boland

Eucharistic Minister: Gerald Leach

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Pope's Prayer Intention for January: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations - We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

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.

Collections 25th December

Ouyen: \$ 383.30

Planned Giving: \$ 115.00

Christmas Appeal: \$ 435.40

Church Cleaning:

January: Peter & Marie Shaddock

Presbytery Cleaning:

January: Faye Nihill

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.

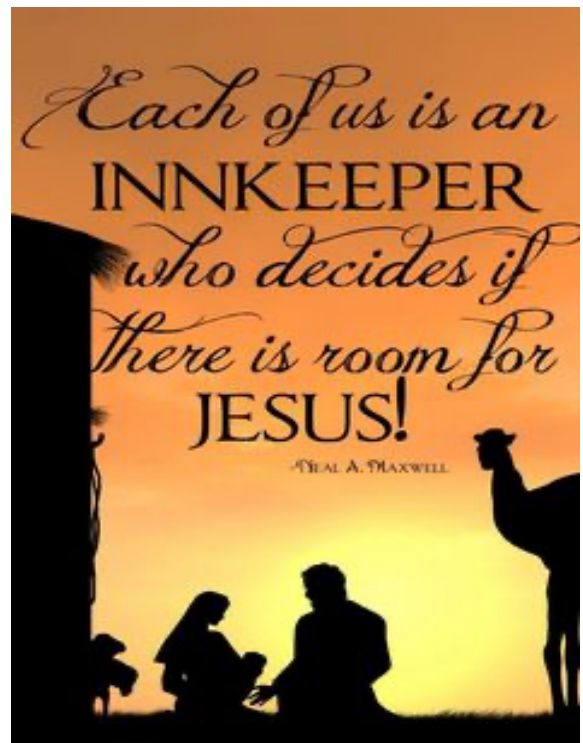
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2pm-5pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm & Rosary 4pm; all welcome.

Summary of the New Covid Provisions:

- ~ QR Codes are no longer required to sign in
- ~ Face masks are no longer required to be worn
- ~ Kindness and Common Sense strictly enforced

Mass Timetable

Wk 1 Patche	Mass	11:30am	1 st Friday
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



TOMORROW – noun

A mystical land where 99% of all human productivity, motivation and achievement is stored

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Mary, Mother of God



Our Blessed Mother is given the unique title of “Mother of God” first and foremost to express our faith in the divinity of Jesus. Jesus was both human and divine, but in Him these two natures were perfectly united. Therefore, one cannot say that Mary was only the mother of the humanity of Jesus, she was the mother of the Person. And that one Person was, at the same time, God and man. Once, when Jesus had begun His public ministry and was teaching, there was a woman in the crowd who cried out, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.” Jesus corrected her by saying, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” At first read, one could conclude that Jesus was downplaying the role of His own mother, but He was doing the opposite. Jesus was highlighting the most unifying aspect of His relationship with His mother. Mary was not His mother only in a biological sense. She wasn’t blessed only because she bore Him in her womb. Rather, her deepest union with her divine Son came from her

spiritual union with His will and that of the Father in Heaven. She heard the word of God and observed it perfectly. She did that at the Annunciation, she continued to do so as she raised her Child, and she did it most perfectly as she stood before the Cross, offering her dying Son to the Father for the salvation of the world. Mary’s motherhood was one that encompassed her whole being. It was one that united her to her Son in ways we will never fully comprehend. *Adapted from “My Catholic Life”*

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