

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



The Ascension of the Lord Year B

12^h May 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;

God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out

devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Reflection By Dr Scott Hahn

In today's first reading St Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf.

Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit".

The Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary

Cont. inside

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

Recent Deaths:
Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, John Nihill, John Moulder and Joan Pohlner

Sunday 19th May

Welcomer: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach
Reader: Leo O'Callaghan
Prayers of the Faithful: Merrill Boland
Offertory Procession: Jessica & Jona Kilaton
Eucharistic Minister: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach
Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 5th May

Ouyen \$180.20
Planned Giving \$325.00

Church/Presbytery

Cleaning: May
Margaret & Leo Collins

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am
Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays at 9am

Weekday Masses this week

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

Pope's Prayer Intention for May: **For the formation of religious and seminarians.** We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

Pentecost – the birthday of the Church and the spreading of the Gifts is **next Sunday**. This year to celebrate Pentecost, we are having an **International Day, celebrating our different cultures through food.** Come and enjoy something different for lunch after Mass, with food from the: Philippines, India, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. Anything spicy will be labelled, so come and find a new favourite and maybe try something different – and enjoy each other's company.

Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation is beginning again, if you know of anyone who is interested in their child receiving any of the sacraments please see Marie; a notice has also been placed in the school newsletter.

The new roster of priests will look like this for our parish:

1st Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th Sunday Fr Matt

Words to Inspire us - Jesus to St. Teresa of Ávila:

"I would create the universe again, just to hear you say that you love me."

Something to Smile About . . . A mother was cooking pancakes for her two sons, Andrew and Luke. The boys started to argue over who would get the first one. The mother said: "If Jesus was here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake.'" Andrew then turned to Luke and said, "Okay, Luke. You can be Jesus!"

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**



Cont. from the back: precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit, we must be purified through baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms likened to the worship in the days of King Solomon's Temple: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord". The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as the Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand. This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread to the whole world, to all nations beginning from Jerusalem at the first Ascension. It's the Good News we must spread today.



Happy Birthday to Fr Shaiju whose birthday was on Friday! A small group of Parishioners were able to come over to the Parish Centre after Friday morning Mass to sing Happy Birthday and enjoy some cake.

Happy Mothers' Day to all our Mums, let us acknowledge all that they have done for us and pray for them, whether they are with us here or have gone before us.

This Week is National Family Week and Christian Unity Week. The aim of National Families Week is to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society. It coincides with the United Nations International Day of Families on May 15. The Family, especially the natural family made up of a father, mother and children, is the foundation and basic social unit of Society without which it cannot function properly, yet it is so often under threat! It is a perfect time to remember and pray for all of our families that they will be accorded the right and freedom to form their family according to their beliefs and be given the credit for the importance they play in our lives and community. It is more than a coincidence that this week follows on from Mother's Day and is also the week of Christian Unity.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity "You shall love the Lord your God . . . and your neighbour as yourself . . ." Let us pray for all the Christian communities around us, that we may grow closer together.

Mass counts continue this weekend and last for the whole of May, so if you see someone looking at you with a strange look, you know they lost count 😊

Formation in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024: In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances, which we have done. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils/Parish Teams, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who would consider future leadership and like to participate. **Our date will be either June 12th or 13th** Please see Marie if you are interested.

Bishop Paul will be visiting our parish on Sunday 28th July. He will be here for Mass, followed by lunch, and a chance to speak with him; more details about this nearer to the time.

St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish - Parish Safety Officer: Mrs Melanie Grace 0477 846 777