

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



Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

15th December 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,
rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come
to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among
you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. *(R.)*

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his
name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the
peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. *(R.)*

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One
of Israel. *(R.)*

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone:
the Lord is very near. There is no need to
worry; but if there is anything you need, pray
for it, asking God for it with prayer and
thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is
so much greater than we can understand,

will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Reflection adapted from Dr Scott Hahn

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too. "Repentance" translates a Greek word, *metanoia* (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold "turning"—away from sin and toward God.

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance". That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath (see [Luke 3:7-9](#)) but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. **Cont. on the 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 Moulder, Maisie Walsh, Bendigo (Nancy Pickering's sister), Mark Weir and Mary Moloney.

Sunday 22nd December

Welcomer: Peter Shaddock

Reader: Marlene O'Callaghan

Prayers of the Faithful:

Gerald Leach

Offertory Procession:

Shaddock Family

Eucharistic Minister: Lorna Keam

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 8th December

Ouyen \$167.00
Planned Giving \$160.00

December Church & Presbytery Cleaning:

Celia Reidy & Cheryl Anderson

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool – Friday 20th December at 9am

Weekday Masses this week:

Friday 10:30 am

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 December: For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Wisdom from on high "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic Gods giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves." St Nicholas

***Christmas Mass:** 9:00am Christmas Day

Our roster of priests will usually look like this for our parish: 1st Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th Sunday Fr Matt.

Something to smile at . . .

A doctor was consulted by a boxer troubled with insomnia.

"Have you tried counting sheep?" asked the doctor.

"That's no good," said the boxer "as soon as I get to nine, I jump up."

During a long drought the parishioners came to the church for special prayers for rain. The parish priest watched them arrive and said. "O you of little faith! You've come to the church to pray for rain and not one of you has brought an umbrella!"

You can save yourself a lot of unnecessary bother if you remember that people are not going to take your advice unless you are a lawyer or a doctor and charge them for it.

🎄 A Christmas toast 🎄

May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you're going and the insight to know when you're going too far.

May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.

May the roof above us never fall in and the friends below it never fall out.

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 → The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare [Luke 1:28–31](#)). Mary is the Daughter Zion, the favoured one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Saviour." She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming."

Visitation of the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis: Pope Francis recently announced his intention to canonise Carlo Acutis next April, he will be the Church's first millennial saint. St Michael's, Latin Mass Community in Buronga is organising a visitation of a relic of Blessed Carlo and a display of his Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibition on the **21st of December** beginning at 8:00 am the display opens, from 8:00—8:45am Confessions available; 8:30am Rosary; 9:00—10:30am Sung Mass. An opportunity to be blessed by and venerate the relic follows Mass. The exhibition will remain open until midday. Entry is free, but donations towards the restoration of the Wentworth church are welcome.

Many thanks to all those who helped out with the funeral on Monday. Whether you were cooking, making sandwiches or serving your help was invaluable and appreciated! 🙌🙌🙌

Want to get more out of Advent and Christmas? "The Light" is a daily short reflection guide that offers insight and perspective to deepen and renew your appreciation of this special season. We have been generously given a few copies so why not try something quiet and positive to counter the hustle and bustle around us; first in best dressed 😊 Copies are available at the piety stall – **for free**.

Columban Calendars are still available for \$10 as well as a range of **Christmas cards** at varying prices, including the **Caritas global "gift" cards**.

An Invitation to parishioners to consider becoming an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist (Special/Eucharistic Minister). If you feel that this is a calling for you, please see either Father or Marie.

A letter from Bishop Paul about the recent High Court Judgement

Dear People of the Diocese,

You may have seen media coverage following a recent judgement of the High Court of Australia that involved the Diocese of Ballarat. This judgement has prompted renewed discussion about liability. I appreciate people's concern for those who have suffered abuse and people's questions about organisations accepting responsibility. I offer the following notes in response to people's concern and questions.

In cases where there is evidence that the Diocese of Ballarat has been negligent in the duty of safeguarding children, the Diocese accepts liability and provides compensation to victims.

In the case considered by the High Court, Victorian courts had found that the Diocese of Ballarat was not negligent but still held that the Diocese was liable – vicariously. The High Court set aside this decision of the Victorian courts.

I would like to make it clear that the Diocese of Ballarat will continue to accept liability and provide compensation in cases where there is evidence that the Diocese has been negligent in safeguarding. In addition, the Diocese will continue to provide compensation through the Federal Government's Redress Scheme and through the state-wide Church process called Pathways Victoria. As well as providing compensation in these ways, the Diocese will continue to provide assistance to those who have suffered abuse by funding counselling and other pastoral help.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

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