

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



**Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

### First Reading [Malachi 1:14 - 2:2. 8-10](#)

A reading from the prophet Malachi

*You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.*

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. **(R.)**
2. Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. **(R.)**
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

[1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13](#)

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

*We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.*

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

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Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

## Gospel [Matthew 23:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*They do not practise what they preach.*

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

## Communion Antiphon

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

## Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Though they were Moses' successors, the Pharisees and scribes exalted themselves, making their mastery of the law a badge of social privilege. Worse, they had lorded the law over the people. Like the priests Malachi condemns in today's First Reading, they caused many to falter and be closed off from God. In a word, Israel's leaders failed to be good spiritual fathers of God's people. Moses was a humble father figure, preaching the law but also practicing it—interceding and begging God's mercy and forgiveness of the people's sins. And Jesus reminds us today that all fatherhood—in the family or in the people of God—comes from the Father in heaven.

He doesn't mean we're to literally call no man "father." He Himself referred to Israel's founding fathers; the Apostles taught about natural fatherhood and described themselves as spiritual fathers.

The fatherhood of the Apostles and their successors, the Church's priests and bishops is a spiritual paternity given to raise us as God's children. Our fathers give us new life in Baptism and feed us the spiritual milk of the Gospel and the Eucharist. That's why Paul, in today's Epistle, can also compare himself to a nursing mother.

God's fatherhood likewise transcends all human notions of fatherhood and motherhood. Perhaps that's why the Psalm chosen for today includes one of the rare biblical images of God's maternal care. His only Son has shown us the Father coming to gather His children as a hen gathers her young. We're all brothers and sisters, our Lord tells us today. And all of us, even our spiritual fathers, are to trust in Him, humbly, like children on our mothers' laps.

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Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068  
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill 0429 921 326

*Recent Deaths:*  
*Anniversaries:*

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

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
*Welcomer:* Carmel Vallance  
*Reader:* Lorna Keam  
*Prayers of the Faithful:*  
Susan O'Sullivan  
*Offertory Procession:* Louise & Gerald Leach  
*Eucharistic Minister:*  
Marlene O'Callaghan  
*Projectionist:* Marie Shaddock

*Collections: 29<sup>th</sup> October*  
Ouyen \$224.50  
Planned Giving \$610.00

*November Church Cleaning*  
Joan Pohlner & Kathy Loxton  
*Presbytery*  
Carmel Vallance

*Mass Times*  
Ouyen each Sunday at 11am  
Underbool 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 9am (beginning November)

*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 from 2:30 – 5:30pm

*Pope's Prayer Intention for November:* For the Pope – We pray for the Holy Father as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him with the help of the Holy Spirit.

*Next Social Gathering:* Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm at the Club, following Mass at 5:30.

*Feast Days this Week:*

**9<sup>th</sup> The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** The Lateran Basilica was built by the emperor Constantine in 324. It is the oldest and highest ranking of the four basilicas in Rome. It is the official seat of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, not St Peter's as many think. The Lateran Basilica was destroyed several times throughout the centuries but was always rebuilt and is the mother church of all churches throughout the world.

**10<sup>th</sup> St Leo the Great, Pope (?-461)** He became Pope in 440 and was a true shepherd and father of souls. He is famous for riding out to meet Attila the Hun and persuading him not to march on Rome in 452 as well as preventing the Vandals from massacring the population in 455. He left many spiritual writings behind, several of which are still used today in the Office of Readings.

**11<sup>th</sup> St Martin de Tours (316-397)** Was a pagan born in the Roman province of western Hungary and educated in Pavia, Italy. He was forced into the army by his father at the age of 15. A few years later he was baptised, and after many attempts, was finally able to leave the army. A story is told of St Martin that a beggar approached him for something to keep him warm on a freezing night. Having nothing but his cloak he cut it in two giving half to the beggar. In a dream that night it was revealed to him that Christ was the beggar. It was at this point that Martin determined to leave the army and become a monk. Guided by St Hilary, he led a monastic life, was ordained and became Bishop of Tours. He was a true shepherd and founded monasteries, educated the clergy, preached the Gospel to the poor and defended the faith against all heresies.

*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 sensitive and appropriate formation of children in accordance with the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen



**Beware of scammers** – There have been a few people in the parish that have had messages claiming to be from Fr Shaiju who needs urgent help. **It is not Fr Shaiju.** Please do not reply to any messages like this as it gives them access to your contact list. The best thing to do is just delete the message. If you have any concerns, please see Marie.

**As November is the month of All Souls, Father will bless the graves in the Ouyen cemetery on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30am Mass. If you would like a Mass said for any departed souls, write their name/s on an envelope with the stipend enclosed and put it on the collection. (\$10 - 15 is a recommended amount for a Mass to be said) Masses can be said at any time throughout the year, although November is the time when we particularly remember the dead.**

**Weekday Masses in Ouyen:** As of this month, Father will be saying two Masses in Underbool on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month at 9:00am, this is to replace the one Mass time on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. As a result of this, **Mass of a Friday in Ouyen will move to 10:30 am** to allow Father time to get back from Underbool.

**Shared Table** – The most recent copy of Fr Mick McKinnon's **The Shared Table** is on the tables at the back of the church. It is well worth a read. It is also worth remembering that this is where \$1,000.00 of money earned this year through catering for funerals has gone.



**The books have arrived!!** If you put in your order, please collect them from Marie today. The 80 page booklet is only \$5. I have a couple of “spares” for those who meant to order one but didn't get around to it. For anyone interested in coming together as a group we are going to meet on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 7pm at Shaddock's;** all welcome!

**Columban Calendars** will again be available in November, at the back of the church. The cost of the Calendars is \$10:00 and can be paid upon collection.

**Remembrance Day and final viewing - Faith at War** - The Ballarat Catholic Diocesan Commission archives currently displays an exhibition which explores priests from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat who served during WWI, WWII, in Vietnam and Afghanistan. Priests that enlisted from the diocese could serve as Chaplains either in the Australian Army, Australian Royal Air Force or the Australian Royal Navy. Other priests worked at RAAF bases at Ballarat, Hamilton and Nhill where they served men and women working for the AIF. To commemorate Remembrance Day 2023, the “Faith at War” exhibit will remain on display until Monday, November 13, 2023. People wishing to visit the archives can by appointment only Monday to Friday. Alternatively, people can view the display online via the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/stewardship/diocesan-historical-commission/faith-at-war-and-the-priests-who-served-from-the-catholic-diocese-of-ballarat/> To visit the archives please contact the archivist by email [archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Significant Catholic Person from your Parish:** As part of the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from your parish for a display to be presented after the Mass of the Oils on March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please give any suggestions to Father, Faye, Cheryl or Marie.

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