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

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**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 12th November 2023**

Entrance Antiphon

Let my prayer come into your presence, Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading[Wisdom 6:12-16](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|wis%23wis006)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Wisdom is found by those who look for it.*

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.

By those who love her she is readily seen,

and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;

you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;

be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her

and graciously shows herself to them as they go,

in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm

R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;

for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you

like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.

to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,

my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,

in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,

my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. On my bed I remember you.

On you I muse through the night

for you have been my help;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

Second Reading[1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|th1%23th1004)

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

*Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord’s own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord’s coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 25:1-13](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|mtw%23mtw025)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, “The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.” At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, “Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.” But they replied, “There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.” They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. “Lord, Lord,” they said, “open the door for us.” But he replied, “I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.” So stay

awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.’

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

According to marriage customs of Jesus’ day, a bride was first “betrothed” to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together.

This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today’s Gospel.

In the parable’s symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom. In this, He fulfills God’s ancient promise to join Himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride. The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church.

We were “betrothed” to Jesus in Baptism and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time.

As St. Paul warns in today’s Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour.

We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls’ lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God— virtues that are extolled in today’s First Reading and Psalm.

We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him.

If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry.

***Recent Deaths*: Bob Hynam**

***Anniversaries*:**

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

**Sunday 19th November *Welcomer: Peter Shaddock***

***Reader: Flora Moulder***

***Prayers of the Faithful: Margaret Collins***

***Offertory Procession*: Shaddock Family**

***Eucharistic Minister*:**

**Leo O’Callaghan**

***Projectionist:* Marie Shaddock**

***Collections:5th November* Underbool:20.00**

**Ouyen$225.00**

**Planned Giving $295.00**

***November Church Cleaning***

**Joan Pohlner & Kathy Loxton**

***Presbytery***

**Carmel Vallance**

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

***Weekday Masses this week* Thursday at 5:30pm & 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 except on the 16th**

***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 16th November, 6pm at the Club, following Mass at 5:30. Rosary & Adoration will be from 5pm on the 16th only.**

***Feast Days this Week:***

**13th St Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) was born in Lombardy, Italy, the youngest of 13 children. Her frail health meant that she was refused entrance to two convents. She devoted herself to teaching and founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1889 the Pope sent her to New York where she founded an orphanage. She died in Chicago of Malaria having founded 67 institutions across the USA, South America & Europe.**

**15th St Albert the Great (1206-1280) He was born in Germany and studied at Padua and Paris before becoming a Dominican. He was one of the greatest philosophers of the Middle Ages and had a great interest in science and astronomy.**

**16th St Margaret of Scotland (1046-1093) was born in Hungary of Anglo Saxon and Hungarian parents. She married King Malcolm III of Scotland and had 8 children. She is remembered for her happy marriage, her devotion to prayer and learning and especially for her generosity to the poor.**

**17th St Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231) She was a daughter of the King of Hungary and given in marriage to Ludwig of Thuringia, with whom she had three children. When her husband died, she embraced poverty and built a hospice in which she nursed the sick herself.**

***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**

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**](mailto:ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**St Joseph’s Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool**

***Pope’s Prayer Intention for October:*** **For the Synod– We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a way of lifestyle and be guided by the Holy Spirit.**

***Next Social Gathering:* Thursday 19th October, 6pm at the Club, following Mass at 5:30.**

***Feast Days this Week:* 16th St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1701-1771) Joined the Visitation Sisters in Parayle Monial, France. She received visions of our Lord who revealed his Sacred Heart to her asking her. Along with St Claude de la Colombiere, a French priest, they worked tirelessly to spread devotion to the immense love Jesus has for us in his Sacred Heart.**

**17th St Ignatius of Antioch (?-107) He was the third bishop of Antioch, the first being St Peter until he moved to Rome. St Ignatius was arrested when he was already an old man and condemned to death. He was transported to Rome in shackles and then feed to the lions in the Coliseum. On his journey to Rome, he wrote several letters to the local churches encouraging them to be faithful and follow the teachings of their Bishops. These letters are important documents for the Church showing the already existing organisation of the Church and Christian life at the time. The letters also show Ignatius to be a deeply holy man who begged the Christians in Rome not to deprive him of the crown of martyrdom.**

**18th St Luke, Apostle Was a Greek doctor who converted to Christianity. He was a companion of St Paul and stayed with him up until his death in Rome, wrote the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles which tells the story of the early history of the Church. As a Greek he takes care to explain to other readers the Jewish customs and meaning of Hebrew words. He died a martyr at the age of 84 after being tortured and finally hung in Thebes, Greece.**

**19th Sts John de Brebeuf &Isaac Jogues, priests & companion martyrs were French Jesuits who travelled to North America from 1642-1649. They were killed by the native Huron & Iroquois tribes after suffering terrible tortures.**

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**A picture containing grass, sky, outdoor, sign

Description automatically generatedBeware 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 17th 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.**

**Fr Shaiju will be on retreat in Melbourne from Monday 20th – Friday 24th November. There will be no weekday Masses during that week; Sunday Mass remains the same.**

**Ordination to the Diaconate: Our seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St** **Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am.  This is the last step before Ordination so please keep Cay in your prayers. All are welcome to attend on the 16th.**

**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 agroup we are going to meet on **Friday 1st December 7pm at Shaddock’s**; all welcome!

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

**150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Volunteers for the Mass of the Oils**

As part of the Ballarat Diocese’s 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the working committee for the Mass of the Oils are looking for 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to attend the Mass of the Oils on Monday March 25, 2024 at 11.30am.  Volunteers would be required to present a symbol or photo that best represents their parish at the beginning of the Mass.

A parish volunteer is also required to collect the Oils for their parish.  This can be the same person or a different person. More information will be provided about this from the Bishop’s Office.  Many parishes have multiple communities, so the symbol or photo can represent the whole parish or it can be something from the different communities.  The symbol/photo framed should be 5in x 7in (12cm x 17.5cm) or for the larger parishes who may need more room, up to 8in x 10in (20cm x 25cm) size framed.

**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.**

**Reports from the first assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality** At the end of the first session of the Synod, the participants have prepared and published a “Letter to the People of God” and adopted a Synthesis Report, “A Synodal Church on Mission.”  Both documents are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>