

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



The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

20th August 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading Isaiah 56:1.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O 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 Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in

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reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

Reflection adapted from "The Word of the Lord" by *Dr John Bergsma*

The extension of God's covenant to all the "nations" or "Gentiles" (from the Latin gentes, "races, peoples") is the unifying theme of the readings for Mass this weekend.

In Jesus's day, the different sects of Judaism had varying stances toward the Gentiles. The Pharisees were at least interested in making proselytes of them (Matt 23:15), but the Essenes had no use for them.

However, the prophets of Israel foresaw a coming age where the negative attitude toward the Gentiles, based on the Mosaic Covenant, would be undone. Our First Reading is one of the more famous passages from the second half of the Book of Isaiah that anticipates such a situation.

It is a shame that this reading from Paul is so highly excerpted, such that it drops St. Paul's beautiful analogy of the Gentiles being grafted into Israel like wild olive branches grafted onto a cultured olive tree (11:17-24), strikingly, the exact reverse of usual agricultural practice!

With such a fragmentary text as we have in the liturgical reading, it is difficult to see St. Paul's argument. Nonetheless, we can summarize the main point of Romans 11 as the mysterious interrelationship of the salvation of Israel and the Nations. Though Jew and Gentile seem to have different paths to God, in reality, St. Paul points out, the salvation of both groups is inextricably united in God's plan.

"The Gospel reading tells of a Gentile woman—and not any Gentile woman, but a descendant of the Canaanites, about whom the Old Covenant as summarized in Deuteronomy had nothing

good to say at all, who finds salvation through Jesus.

Many are troubled by the Lord's apparently harsh way of dealing with this woman, at least initially. Jesus adapts his way of dealing with people to their individual situations and needs. For example, he doesn't challenge everyone to sell all that they have and give to the poor, but he knew that was what the rich young man needed to do.

So, in the case of this Sunday's Gospel, we need to understand Jesus's actions as tailored to the faith of this woman. He sees that she has faith—he puts her faith to the test to elicit more faith. Untested faith is no faith at all.

The woman has both tremendous faith and tremendous humility. Not taking insult from Jesus's words, humbly acknowledging her lack of any covenant claim on the God of Israel, she asks for unmerited mercy.

We recall that Jacob himself, father of all the sons of Israel, was not the direct heir of God's covenant but connived and struggled his way in. We recall Rahab's family and the Gibeonites, both Canaanite groups that should have been wiped out in the conquest of Jericho, but who tricked and struggled their way into the people of the covenant. We recall Ruth the Moabitess and Uriah the Hittite, who renounced their ethnicity and swore oaths to the God of Israel. And we realize that throughout salvation history, God has been finding a place in his covenant for people who, in some way or other, didn't belong there but wanted to be there. What kind of God is this who lets all the riffraff into his covenant? Our God! Thanks be to Him, he let us all in!



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Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Kath Monaghan.

May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace. 🙏

Sunday 27th August

Ouyen: 11:00am

Welcomer: Peter Shaddock

Reader: Gerald Leach

Prayers of the Faithful: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Offertory Procession: Bosco & Ann

Eucharistic Minister: Lorna Keam

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections 13th August

Ouyen: \$215.00

Planned Giving: \$400.00

Church Cleaning:

August: Shaddock Family

Presbytery Cleaning:

August: Marie Shaddock

Mass Timetable

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am

Weekday Mass this week is Friday at 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2:30pm – 5:30pm, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy said at 3pm and the Rosary at 4pm; all welcome.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Father will be available after the 11:00am Mass, or at any other time by appointment.

Pope's Prayer Intention for August: For the World Youth Day - We pray that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Feast Days this Week

21st St Pius X

22nd The Queenship of Mary follows a week after her Assumption. We remember that Our Lady reigns in heaven together with her Son. She reigns not because she is equal to God, but because she is the mother of Christ the King and made our redemption possible.

23rd St Rose of Lima

24th St Bartholomew – Apostle – was born in Cana and brought by the Apostle Philip to meet Jesus. He travelled to India but died in Armenia, skinned alive, as was the Persian tradition

25th St Louis – became Louis IX of France at the age of 12. He was noted for his spirit of prayer, penance and love of the poor. He gave not only peace and economic stability to his kingdom but spiritually as well. He founded the Sorbonne and was a friend of St Thomas Aquinas. He died on his way to the crusades near Carthage.

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 with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, to protect religious freedom within our institutions. We pray for the pastorally sensitive formation of children in accordance with sound biological anthropology and the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Australia's patronesses, Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen.

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👏 **Congratulations** 🥂 🎉 To Louise & Gerald Leach on their 40th Wedding Anniversary this weekend and welcome home to all the family!

👏 **Congratulations** 🥂 🎉 also to Carmel Shaddock & Nicholas Neville on their wedding this weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families as you celebrate these special occasions.

Please note change in date for the evening meal at the Club is now **Thursday 24th August** - Adoration 3 – 5:25pm, Mass 5:30 pm followed by **Dinner** at the Club 6pm.

New Planned Giving season starts on September 3rd. Our current Planned Giving Season comes to a close on the 27th of August. Letters with new Offering Cards have been handed out at Mass or mailed. If you could return yours by next week, it would be appreciated and will allow us to have the new envelopes out on time. Please note that the tallying of the last quarter stopped on the 16th of July so that the new Offering letters could be sent out –recording of your donation is still ongoing but won't show on the last quarter slip attached to your letter.

St Pius X – Born near Venice in 1835 Giuseppe Sarto was a farm boy, the second of ten children from a very poor family. He was ordained a priest at the age of 23 and was elected Pope in 1903 against his wishes. He is most commonly remembered for encouraging the frequent reception of Holy Communion and his revised the code of Canon Law which allowed children “who had reached the age of reason” to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. His motto as Pope was “restore all things in Christ” and he campaigned for the freedom of the Church from state control particularly in Poland where the Russian Orthodox authorities were oppressing the Catholic people. One of his first papal acts was to end the supposed right of governments to interfere by veto in papal elections. Ever mindful of his humble origin, Pope Pius stated, “I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor.” He was embarrassed by some of the pomp of the papal court. “Look how they have dressed me up,” he said in tears to an old friend. To another, “It is a penance to be forced to accept all these practices. They lead me around surrounded by soldiers like Jesus when he was seized in Gethsemane.” In 1905, when France renounced its agreement with the Holy See and threatened confiscation of Church property if governmental control of Church affairs were not granted, Pius X courageously rejected the demand. In his simplicity and goodness of heart he performed miracles even when he was alive, and the call for his canonisation started immediately after his death. Pius had foreseen the First World War, but it broke his heart. “This is the last affliction the Lord will visit on me. I would gladly give my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge.” He died a few weeks after the war began and was canonized in 1954.

St Rose of Lima is known for her piety and chastity. Born in 1586 in Lima, Peru to Spanish colonists, and named Isabel Flores de Olivia, she was exceptionally beautiful, and nick named Rose. From an early age, Rose wanted to become a nun but was not allowed. She often prayed fasted and performed secret penances, some of which were painful and severe. To deter these hopeful suitors Rose marred her face, rubbing it with pepper to make it blister and cropped her hair short much to the horror and anger of her family, who treated her very harshly. Eventually her father relented and gave her a room to herself where she kept herself isolated. At 20 she became a Lay Dominican, she cared for the sick, poor Indians and slaves. She died at 31 and was the first person in the Americas to be canonised.

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