**ST JOSEPH’S PARISH**

**OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL**

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 **Palm Sunday Year C**

 **10th April 202**

 **The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 24th September 2023**

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.

Should they cry to me in any distress,

I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading [Isaiah 55:6-9](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cisa%23isa055)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,

call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,

the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,

my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth

as my ways are above your ways,

my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day

and praise your name for ever.

the Lord is great, highly to be praised,

his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,

compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

3. The Lord is just in all his ways

and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,

who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

*Second Reading* [Philippians 1:20-24. 27](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cphi%23phi001)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*For me to live is Christ.*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,

to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 20:1-16](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmtw%23mtw020)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Why are you jealous because I am generous?*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first , and the first, last.’

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Reflection ***by Dr John Bergsma***

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard comes immediately after Peter’s request to know what the reward for the Apostles will be. Thus, it can be interpreted as a warning against thinking of the kingdom of heaven in terms of personal reward: “What’s in it for me?

In the first sense, then, the vineyard is God’s kingdom on earth, in our own age manifested as the Church. The workers in the vineyard are those the Lord calls to assist him in his labours: the Apostles first, their successors and others who work to cultivate and care for God’s kingdom, for we are all called to care for and cultivate the kingdom/Church even if the only member of that body we ever are able to help or cultivate is our own self.

The message of the parable then is clear: all who are called to work with the Lord to care for his kingdom will receive the same reward: the “denarius”. The Fathers of the Church generally held that this “denarius” represents eternal life, the basic “pay” of all who heed the Master’s call to come into his vineyard. All workers will receive this reward equally. The first wave of workers fail to see that it is a privilege to work in the vineyard and take part in the labour of the Lord. Being in the vineyard means being close to the Lord of the vineyard; this is a privilege. This first wave of workers has a legalistic concept of their relationship with the Lord. They bargained and agreed on a certain reward for a certain amount of work. The workers called later are working on trust. They have no contract, they simply have faith that the Lord will indeed give them a salary that “is just.” Let’s rejoice that we have a gracious God, overflowing in grace and mercy!

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**

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***Pope’s Prayer Intention for September:*** **For people living on the margins – We pray for those people living on the margins of society in inhumane living conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.**

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

***Feast Days this Week:***

**26th Sts Cosmos & Damian d.287, They were twin brothers who were exceptionally skilled in medicine and surgery, practising in Syria. As Christians they never charged for their service and so attracted many to the faith. Under the persecution of Diocletian they stood out because of their fame as healers and Christians. They did not recant their faith under torture and were finally beheaded.**

**27th St Vincent de Paul 1581-1660, He became a priest and devoted his whole life to the service of the poor. He founded a a group of missionary priests, groups for laymen to help paupers and galley-slaves and with St Louise de Marillac, the Sisters of Charity.**

**28th St Wenceslaus 907-935,was born into the Bohemian royal family and brought up as a Christian by his aunt. He was deeply respected as a pious, moral, and educated personality. An intelligent man who promoted the Christian faith and took care of the poor, the sick, the widowed, and the orphaned by doing charitable deeds. He was murdered by his brother while trying to strengthen the faith of his country.**

**29th Sts Michael, Gabriel & Rafael Archangels: see next page**

**30th St Jerome 340-420 He was a priest, became the pope’s secretary, but on his death returned to Bethlehem where he founded a monastery, hospice and school. He translated the bible into Latin which made it available for far more people.**

***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**

***Recent Deaths*: Arnie Franklin**

***Anniversaries*:**

***Sick*: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill,**

**& Kath Monaghan**

**Sunday 1st October**

***Welcomer:* Carmel Vallance**

***Reader:* Susan O’Sullivan**

***Prayers of the Faithful: Merril Boland***

***Offertory Procession*: Bosco & Ann Thomas**

***Eucharistic Minister*: Leo O’Callaghan**

***Projectionist:* Cara Brady**

***Collections: 17th September***

**Ouyen $210.00**

**Planned Giving $100.00**

**Retired Priests: $870.00**

***September Church Cleaning***

**Carmel Vallance & Marlene O’Callaghan**

***Presbytery* Marie Shaddock**

***Mass Times***

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool 4th Sunday at 9am**

***Weekday Masses this week***

 **Friday at 10am**

***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**

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***One of the points to come out of our Parish meeting this year was donating money to charity from the proceeds of our funeral catering. As a result of this we have given $1,000 to the Shared Table foundation. This is the ongoing project that Fr Mick McKinnon set up many years ago when he was first in Peru. The Shared Table continues to operate and grow independently of Fr Mick and every dollar sent goes directly to help the people.***

***Piety Stall*** – We are in the process of ordering more items for our Piety Stall. If you have any requests, specific or general please see Marie before the end of the month.

***Church Photos*** – For some time now we have wanted to include photos of our other churches along the back wall of the church. If you have some and would like to donate any of: either of the Tempy churches, Walpeup, Underbool or Patchewollock churches please see Faye, Cheryl, Susan or Marie.

***Marian Festival Sunday 15th October*** at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo – Beginning at 11:00am with Mass celebrated by Bishop Leslie Tomlinson and concluding at 3:4pm with afternoon tea in the colonnade. For more information please see the flyers on the table near the kitchen or see Marie. Car-pooling is a possibility.

**This Sunday is Migrant & Refugee Sunday**. Pope Francis’ message for this year is, “Freedom to choose whether to migrate or stay.” Let us pray for those who live in such situations where they must decide whether to leave all they have behind or risk continuing to live in danger, hunger or poverty.

**Michaelmas or the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Rafael** The word ‘archangel’ means ‘high-ranking angel’ in the same way that ‘archbishop’ means a high-ranking bishop.St Michael is mentioned in the book of the Apocalypse as the leader of the heavenly host, who won the battle over Satan when Satan confronted God. His name means ‘Who is like God?’ The implicit answer is that of course nobody is like God, as He is the greatest there is. St Raphael appears in the book of Tobit, he is the angel who accompanies Tobias on his journey and heals his father of blindness. His name means “God Heals.” St Gabriel whose name means “God is my warrior” appears in the book of Daniel to explain some of the prophet’s visions and was the bearer of the Annunciation message to Our Lady. Each angel has a specific mission in salvation history, but they still continue their protective help in the world. It is up to us to ask their help.

**Prayer for the Synod**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

**Something to smile about . . .**

**Film Director** – You’ve been offered a role as a husband who’s been married for 30 years.

**Actor** – I was hoping for a speaking part!