**ST JOSEPH’S PARISH**

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

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 **Palm Sunday Year C**

 **10th April 202**

 **The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 17th September 2023**

Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,

that your prophets be found true.

Hear the prayers of your servant,

and of your people Israel.

First Reading [Sirach 27:30 – 28:7](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Csir%23sir027)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Forgive your neighbour’s faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,

and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,

who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,

and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another,

can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,

can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;

who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,

remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;

remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;

slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,

all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord

and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,

who heals every one of your ills,

who redeems your life from the grave,

who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. His wrath will come to an end;

he will not be angry for ever.

He does not treat us according to our sins

nor repay us according to our faults (R.)

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth

so strong is his love for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west

so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading[Romans 14:7-9](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Crom%23rom014)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 18:21-35](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmtw%23mtw018)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me”, he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said. “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Reflection ***by Drs Scott Hahn & John Bergsma***

Mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life. Yet, as today’s First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, and refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today’s Gospel with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant who won’t forgive a fellow servant’s debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their master.

The message of the Gospel though is clear: the offenses done to us by others in this life can be serious. However, it pales in comparison with the debt of sin we owe to God, which is so great as to be incomprehensible from our standpoint. Therefore, having experienced the lavish forgiveness of God, we should be willing to excuse the offenses of our fellow human beings, and in this way become God-like, since forgiveness is a divine attribute.

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**

***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 21st September, 6pm at the Club, following Mass at 5:30.**

***Feast Days this Week:***

**19th St Januarius Bishop & Martyr – see next page.**

**20th Sts Andrew Kim Taegon, priest & Paul Chong Hasang and their companion martyrs For centuries Korea was closed to all outside influences, no missionaries went there. Nevertheless, several people wanted to find out about the outside world and in the process some books about Christianity fell into their hands and they were converted. In 1794 the first priest visited Korea, there he found a community of 4,000 Catholics who had never seen a priest. Andrew Kim Taegon (1821-1846) was the first Korean born Priest, who at 15 travelled 1,300 miles to enter the seminary in Macao China. Six years later he returned. His father had been martyred during a persecution in 1839 as was Paul Chong Hasang a married, lay apostle. Besides Andrew and Paul, Pope John Paul II canonized 98 Koreans and three French missionaries who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867. Among them were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were lay persons: 47 women and 45 men.**

**21st St Matthew was born in Galilee, and worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews**. **He who wrote the first Gospel mainly for the Jewish people, to convince them that Jesus was the Messiah.**

**23rd Padre Pio – see next page.**

***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*:**

***Anniversaries*:70th Wedding Anniversary of Mary & Denis Moloney🎊**

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

**& Kath Monaghan**

**Sunday 24th September**

***Welcomer:* Lorna Keam**

***Reader:* Lorna Keam**

***Prayers of the Faithful: Susan O’Sullivan***

***Offertory Procession*: Kathy Loxton & Cheryl Anderson**

***Eucharistic Minister*: Marlene O’Callaghan**

***Projectionist:* Marie Shaddock**

***Collections: 10th September***

**Ouyen $ 230.00**

**Planned Giving $620.00**

**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***

**Thursday 5:30pm & 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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***This week we welcome Fr John Corrigan*** *from Mildura, while Fr Shaiju has a baptism in Mildura; welcome Fr John!*

***Congratulations to Mary & Denis Moloney***who are celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary this weekend. May your love continue to grow and flourish with each new day! 💕

***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.

***From Bishop Paul – The Ballarat Diocese 150th anniversary*** occurs on March 30, which in 2024 happens to be Holy Saturday. While we will be able to mark the 150th anniversary at Easter, we could celebrate the whole of 2024 as an anniversary year. I invite parishes to mark the 150th anniversary at Masses on the weekend of April 27-28, with some special prayers and some reflections on the history of our diocese. I would encourage each parish and each school to celebrate their own history in the context of the one hundred and fifty years of the history of the diocese. I’m sure local communities will also be able to come up with creative ways of telling their local story as part of the story of the diocese. I hope to mark the anniversary year with a personal visit to each parish. Our diocese began when the Pope appointed a bishop to look after the people of Western Victoria in 1874. I would love to celebrate the 150th anniversary year as bishop by visiting people throughout the diocese in the course of 2024, and I look forward to celebrating with as many local communities as possible. Our 150th anniversary will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care that are provided in our diocese today. The anniversary will be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full.

***St Januarius*** - He is believed to have been martyred in the Emperor Diocletian’s persecution of 305. Legend has it that Januarius and his companions were thrown to the bears in the amphitheatre of Pozzuoli, but the animals failed to attack them. They were then beheaded, and Januarius’ blood ultimately brought to Naples. Each year on his feast day and on other significant dates St Januarius’ blood liquifies. Various experiments have been applied, but the phenomenon eludes natural explanation.

***Padre Pio*** – (1887-1968) He had many mystical visions as a child, involving both Our Lady and the devil, who frequently attacked him. He joined the Capuchin friars at the age of 16 and suffered many trials as well as the stigmata (the wounds of Jesus). He was greatly sought after as a spiritual advisor and confessor, with people waiting months to go to confession to him. Many miracles were credited to him during his life as well as after death. He died a few days after the 50th anniversary of receiving the stigmata, whose wounds disappeared after death.