

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



**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### 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

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I gave my body to those who struck me.*  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.  
My vindicator is here at hand.  
Does anyone start proceedings against me?  
Then let us go to court together.  
Who thinks he has a case against me?  
Let him approach me.  
The Lord is coming to my help,  
who dare condemn me?

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.

1. I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him. **(R.)**
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.  
O Lord my God, deliver me! **(R.)**
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me. **(R.)**
4. He has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears  
and my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St James  
*Faith without good works is dead.*  
Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that:

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if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.*

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of

mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

## Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

## Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

In today's Gospel, we reach a pivotal moment in our walk with the Lord. After weeks of listening to His words and witnessing His deeds, we too are asked to decide who Jesus truly is.

Peter answers for them, and for us, too, when he declares: "You are the Messiah." Many expected the Messiah to be a miracle worker who would vanquish Israel's enemies and restore the kingdom of David.

Jesus today reveals a different portrait. He calls Himself the Son of Man, evoking the royal figure Daniel saw in his heavenly visions. But Jesus' kingship is not to be of this world. And the path to His throne, as He reveals, is by way of suffering and death.

Jesus identifies the Messiah with the suffering servant that Isaiah foretells in today's First Reading. The words of Isaiah's servant are Jesus' words, as He gives Himself to be shamed and beaten, trusting that God will be His help.

As Jesus tells us today, to believe that He is the Messiah is to follow His way of self-denial, losing our lives to save them, in order to rise with Him to new life. St James also re-enforces that message when he tells us that our faith, must express itself in works of love.

Notice that Jesus questions the Apostles today "along the way." They are on the way to Jerusalem, where the Lord will lay down His life.

We, too, are on a daily journey with the Lord. How will we respond?

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**Recent Deaths:**  
**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** Cora Jardine, John Nihill and John Moulder

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**  
**Welcomer:** Carmel Vallance  
**Reader:** Merrill Boland  
**Prayers of the Faithful:**  
Flora Moulder  
**Offertory Procession:** The Thomas Family  
**Eucharistic Minister:**  
Gerald Leach  
**Projectionist:** Carmel Vallance

**Collections: 8<sup>th</sup> September**  
Ouyen \$229.30  
Planned Giving \$1,150.00

**September Church & Presbytery Cleaning:**  
Carmel Vallance & Marlene O'Callaghan

**Mass Times:**  
**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**  
**Underbool 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 9am**

**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 2:30 – 5:30pm**

**Pope's Prayer Intention for September: For our World.**

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all be responsible for the world in which we live.

**Wisdom from the Saints: "The Holy Scriptures were not given to us that we should enclose them in books, but that we should engrave them upon our hearts." St. John Chrysostom**

**September 14<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, also known as the Triumph of the Cross or the Elevation of the Cross. This is the day the Church celebrates the discovery and the recovery of the True Cross of Jesus Christ. It ties in beautifully with the question Jesus asks of us all "Who do you say I am?" The Roman Emperor Constantine's mother, St. Helena, a convert to Christianity, went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to locate where the important events in the life of Jesus Christ occurred, and to preserve the relics of the Christian faith that remained there. One of her goals was to find the place of Jesus' crucifixion and the very Cross on which he was hung. Through interviewing many locals, and with the assistance of the Bishop of Jerusalem, St. Macarius, she discovered the spot and found the True Cross which had been previously hidden by the Jews and Romans. According to the historian Rufinus, the identity of the True Cross was confirmed by a miraculous healing. The date of this discovery and miracle, according to tradition, was May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 326 A.D. St. Helena had a church built on the original site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Her son Constantine dedicated this church on September 13-14 in the year 335 A.D. Even today, the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem, or the Via Dolorosa, end at this very spot.

**Our roster of priests will usually look like this for our parish:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fr John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fr Matt.

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





**Please be vigilant.** As the temperature has begun to warm up, we have had a couple of sightings of snakes around the church. They are not usually a big problem and, like us all after winter, they like to soak up the sun; so please watch where you place your feet.



**Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal – this Sunday.** The final Collection for Retired Priests will be held after communion today. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

**Farewell to the Sisters of Mercy on Sunday 29th September.** The Catholic Community of Sunraysia will acknowledge and celebrate 119 of dedicated service, leadership, and education. 9am Mass, Sacred Heart Church; 10am Dedication of Mercy Garden; 10:30 Light Luncheon, Monaghan Centre  
RSVP: [sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or 5021 2872

**Formation in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November** is going ahead throughout the diocese. The **Diocesan Assembly** aims to bring together representatives of the parishes, to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. Every parish priest and two members of each Parish are invited to take part in this Assembly. Many thanks to Sylvester for volunteering!

**"Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" – Fr Greg Boyle SJ** The October 2024 visit to Australia of Father Greg Boyle SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles for "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" HomeBoy Industries from Los Angeles is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. The Melbourne program is: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 "Boundless Compassion: A Mission to Serve" Secondary Students Leadership Festival; Wednesday, October 9, "Courageous Encounter" School Executive Leadership Teams and Thursday, October 10, 2024 "On the Margins" an evening with Fr Greg. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.gpbs.com.au/workshops-courses-events/>

**Something to smile at . . .** A Catholic doctor, known for his successful treatment of the infirmed, had a waiting room full of people one Monday morning. One of the patients, a little old woman, turned up all bent over. She shuffled into the waiting room leaning on a cane. When her turn came, she hobbled into the doctor's office, and, amazingly, emerged several minutes later walking erect with her head held high.

Another patient who was also waiting was astonished. He went up to the old lady and proclaimed, "A miracle! It's a miracle! You walked into the doctor's office all bent over and now you're walking with a straight back. Please tell me, what did the doctor do?"

The old lady answered, "Miracle my foot. He gave me a longer cane

**Sign on the Optometrist's window** "If you can't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place"; **Sign on another Plumbers ute** "We repair what your husband fixed." 😂😂

**50th Marian Festival**  
*Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*  
11:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.  
Sunday 13 October 2024  
Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo

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