

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



The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

3rd September 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,

I could not bear it.

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. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

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Gospel [Matthew 16:21-27](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. ‘Heaven preserve you, Lord,’ he said. ‘This must not happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s.’

Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘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 will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?’

‘For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.’

Communion Antiphon

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

Reflection by *Dr Scott Hahn*

Today’s First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God’s call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach.

But God does not deceive—and Jeremiah knows this. God tests the just and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials. What Jeremiah learns is what Jesus states explicitly in today’s Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself—your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. As Paul says in today’s Epistle, we have

to join ourselves to the Passion of Christ, to offer our bodies—our whole beings—as living sacrifices to God.

By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel’s sacrifices of animals were meant to teach: we owe to God all that we have.

God’s kindness is a greater good than life itself, as we sing in today’s Psalm. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship, giving our lives to the service of His will.

Peter doesn’t yet get this in today’s Gospel. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter. This is our natural temptation, as well: to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God’s plan.

That’s how people think, Jesus tells us today. But we are called to the renewal of our minds—to think as God thinks, to will what He wills.

In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise. We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet our souls will be satisfied.

A Prayer for our Father’s

Heavenly Father, fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father’s Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways, both big and small, they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, priests, teachers, and coaches.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting.

Give them the strength to do well for their children and You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen



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Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326
Parish Email: ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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 10th September

Ouyen: 11:00am

Welcomer: Gerald Leach

Reader: Leo O'Callaghan

Prayers of the Faithful: Carmel Vallance

Offertory Procession: Beryl & Les Gregg

Eucharistic Minister: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections 27th August

Underbool: \$30.00

Ouyen: \$129.50

Planned Giving: \$100.00

Church Cleaning:

September: Carmel Vallance & Marlene O'Callaghan

Presbytery Cleaning:

September: Marie Shaddock

Mass Timetable

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am

Weekday Masses this week are Thursday at 5:30pm and Friday at 10am

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

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.

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.

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

This Friday 8th of September is Our Lady's Birthday, after Mass we will be installing a tapestry of Our Lady made by Racheal Cook and donated, just before she died, by Ellen. The family have been invited, as is the whole parish, we'd love to have you there.

Today after Mass come and join us for a "Cuppa" in the Parish Centre.

Come and join us for lunch at the Bakery this Thursday at **12:30pm**. Please note the slight change in time is for anyone who might be doing Meals on Wheels. Adoration will be from 3-5:25, followed by **Mass at 5:30pm**

Happy Father's Day to all our Dad's past and present, may God bless you and give you the strength and graces necessary to be all that God wants you to be.

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.

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New Planned Giving season starts today.

This weekend we have the: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – which will be taken up after Communion. Envelopes are still available. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is something in which we can all participate. There are seventeen retired priests currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal

Feast Days this Week

5th St Teresa of Calcutta (1910 – 1997) was born in Skopje, Albania, then part of the Ottoman Empire. At the age of eighteen, moved by a desire to become a missionary, she left her home in to join the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland. There she received the name Sister Mary Teresa after St. Thérèse of Lisieux. In 1931 she began teaching at St Mary's in Calcutta and by 1946 Sr Teresa had a received an inner "call within a call" to begin the Missionaries of Charity. Her make-up is best summed up by her "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus."

8th The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary this feast comes exactly nine months after the Immaculate Conception celebrated on the 8th of December and has been celebrated since at least the 6th Century.

9th St Peter Claver (1581 – 1654) was born in Spain and entered the Jesuits. In 1610 he left his homeland forever to be a missionary in Cartagena, a port in the Caribbean and the centre of the slave trade. Ten thousand slaves poured into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul and inhuman that an estimated one-third of the passengers died in transit. Fr. Claver's apostolate extended beyond his care for slaves. He became a moral force, the apostle of Cartagena and the "slave of slaves".



Faithful Toolkit - Majellan Media have launched "Faithful Toolkit" - a dynamic collection of smart apps on their website designed to nourish and foster your faith journey. Built with the wisdom of the church's teachings and augmented by the power of AI, these tools provide a new, interactive way to explore various aspects of faith. Scan or click on the QR code.

Our next social gathering is on Thursday 7th September for ***lunch at the bakery at 12:30pm***; all welcome! Please note the slight change in time is for anyone who might be doing Meals on Wheels.

Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4, 2023 Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change.

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