

# ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31<sup>st</sup> October 2021

## First Reading [Dt 6:2-6](#)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

**Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.**

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be to the God that saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown love for his anointed. **(R.)**

## Second Reading [Heb 7:23-28](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

**This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.**

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

## Gospel [Mk 12:28-34](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

**This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.**

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One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

### Communion Antiphon

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

**Reflection** adapted from Dr John Bergsma & Scott Hahn

The readings for this Sunday revolve around the themes of love of God and perfect priesthood. Love is only law we are to live by. And love is the fulfillment of the Law that God reveals through Moses in today's First Reading.

The unity of God—the truth that He is one God, Father, Son, and Spirit—means that we must love Him with one love, a love that serves Him with all our hearts and minds, souls and strength.

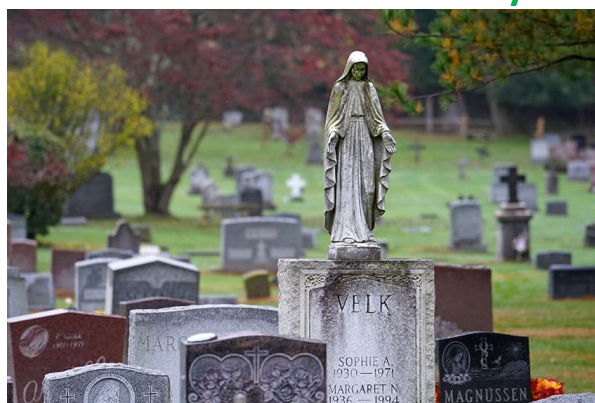
We love Him because He has loved us first. We love our neighbour because we can't love the God we haven't seen unless we love those made in His image and likeness, whom we have seen.

We are called to imitate the love that Christ showed us in laying His life down on the Cross. As we hear in today's Epistle, by His perfect sacrifice on the Cross, He once and for all makes it possible for us to approach God. There is no greater love than to lay down your life. This is perhaps why Jesus tells the scribe in today's Gospel that he is not far from the kingdom of God.

The scribe recognizes that the burnt offerings and sacrifices of the old Law were meant to teach Israel that it is love that God desires. The animals offered in sacrifice were symbols of the self-sacrifice, the total gift of ourselves, that God truly desires.

Today we are called to examine our hearts and consciences. Do we have other loves that get in the way of our love for God? Do we love others as Jesus has loved us? Do we love our enemies and pray for those who oppose and persecute us? Let us tell the Lord we love Him, as we do in today's Psalm. And let us take His Word to heart, that we might prosper and have life eternal in His kingdom.

### All Saints & All Souls Day



The Catholic Church is far bigger than people realise, because two-thirds of it is invisible to us. This is the Church in Heaven, and the Church in Purgatory. We can only see the Church on earth (a work in progress, and not always a pretty sight). But in November, the other two-thirds press in on us, reminding us of their existence. The Church in heaven explodes on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the feast day of everyone who has ever made it to heaven. Many think of the dead as no longer alive, but for Christians they are more alive than ever before. If they are in Purgatory, they need our prayers and can pray for us. In the meantime, we can – and should – pray for the intentions of all the angels and saints of heaven. As Christians we belong to the only institution in the world that exists simultaneously in time and out of it and we are all connected in one great family in prayer and grace in Jesus. Pray for the dead. Have Masses said for them. It's fine to 'celebrate their life' and think about them – but neither of these things really helps them if they're in Purgatory. *Adapted from an article by Philippa Martyr*

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## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Underbool, Walpeup  
Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068

### Recent Deaths:

### Anniversaries:

**Sick:** Susan O'Sullivan, Chris Burns, Joan Bathgate, Terri Scott, Mark Weir and Josephine Sciberras 🙏  
**May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace.**

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly - Full Attendance (for the Vaccinated)

**Patche:** 11:30 am Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

**Ouyen:** 9:00 am (Sunday)

**Leader:** John Galvin

**Reader:** Marlene O'Callaghan

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Flora Moulder

**Eucharistic Minister:** Lorna Keam

### Collections: 24<sup>th</sup> October

Ouyen: \$287.00

Planned Giving: \$800.00

### Church Cleaning:

November: Joan Pohlner & Kathy Loxton

### Presbytery Cleaning:

November: Carmel Vallance

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Father will be available before and after the Friday Mass for Reconciliation, after the 11:00am Masses, or at any other time by appointment.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Thursdays 2:00pm – 6:00 pm, all welcome!

### Online/TV Masses 6:00am Mass on Channel 10.

The **Ballarat Cathedral** has Mass every day at <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9/> or the **Horsham Eucharistic Facebook** group page (which usually live-streams at 10:30 am and can be watched at any later time) can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3eYADvV>

**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### Beginning in November: St Joseph's Parish Mass Timetable

Wk 1	<b>Patche</b>	Mass	10:00am	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday
	<b>Ouyen</b>	Assembly	9:00am	Sunday
Wk 2	<b>Ouyen</b>	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 3	<b>Ouyen</b>	Mass	8:30am	Sunday
Wk 4	<b>Ouyen</b>	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
	<b>U'Bool</b>	Mass	3:00pm	Sunday
Wk 5	<b>Ouyen</b>	Mass	11:00am	Sunday

**MASS FOR ALL SOULS:** Father Anthony will offer Mass for All Souls on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of November at 4:00pm in the church. This will then be followed by blessing of the graves out at the cemetery for anyone that is interested. We have capacity for **30** people at this Mass.

**MASSES:** Up until 5<sup>th</sup> of November we will be able to have 30 people at Mass, this will also include the Mass of a **Friday afternoon at 4:00pm** which is not allocated but works on a first come first serve basis and provides another opportunity for those who are not allotted to the coming Sunday. If you have any questions please ask either Faye or Marie. **\*Please note that if you are not in the Mass group for the week, a bulletin will be delivered to your letterbox if you are in town.**

**Wiping Down of Pews After Every Mass:** In an effort to reduce spread of infection and any risk of contamination 2 packets of sanitizing wipes will be left on both seats of the central front pews. **If the people nearest to them passes them out**, to their respective sides, each person can then wipe down their own seat and place their wipe in the bin on the way out.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for October: Intention for Evangelisation - Missionary Disciples:** We pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelisation, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel

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**As of November** (next week!) we will go back to our previous roster, which you can see on the opposite page, beginning with an Assembly on the first Sunday of the month (7<sup>th</sup> Nov). New regulations allow 30 people where vaccination status is unknown, or for those who are **fully vaccinated or have a medical exemption**, the new government regulations will permit gatherings of up to **500 people** for religious ceremonies, with 1 person per 4 square metres. Vaccination status relates to those 16 years of age and older. Essentially this means we will be back to full capacity as of the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and there will be no more group 1 & 2. We will need people to help with: registering, checking vaccination status, and doing the slideshow amongst other things. As a result, this is probably a good time to start with new rosters to cover everything; and I ask you to put your name down where you feel you can help. The lists will be on the table where you sign in.



**Blessed** – is a beautiful **Advent and Christmas reflection guide** that will be available for personal reflection not as a group discussion. Copies are \$5 and can be ordered by contacting Marie, as soon as possible due to the mail delays.

**Columban Calendars \$10** – unbelievably it is time to order calendars for next year. A sheet will be on the table where you sign in so that you can put your order in; to make it simpler, payment will be on delivery. We also have a good supply of **Christmas Cards \$6** for anyone wishing to get in early. The Post Office is advising that mail will take longer, so get in early.

### **For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission**

On Sunday, October 10, 2021 Pope Francis celebrated Mass to mark the global launch of the Synod of Bishops with the theme 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.' This ushers in a period of local consultation that will assist with the two-year process culminating in the Synod of Bishops gathering in Rome in October 2023. Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the Synod. The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch> Once we can all gather together we will look at ways we can be involved.

**21<sup>st</sup> November** is the **Feast of Christ the King**, the last Sunday of the Liturgical year and the Sunday closest to the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our new church**. To celebrate this, we are proposing to have a barbecue after Mass and invite you to be a part of our parish photo to mark the occasion – restrictions permitting. More information nearer the time.

**Looking Forward – Pastoral Planning for Parishes 2021 – 2025** is a draft document of proposals for the future of parishes in our diocese; this involves our parish. The Parish Leadership Team in conjunction with Fr Anthony have looked at the proposals for our region and would like to share them with the parish as a whole. As a result, we are planning on doing this immediately after an 11:00am Mass, followed by a shared luncheon where we can openly discuss any benefits and concerns. This will take place as soon as we can all gather together.

**Something to Smile About . . .** Man: What is a million years like to You? God: Like one second.

Man: what is a Million dollars like to You? God: Like one cent.

Man: Can I have a Million dollars? God: In a second.

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