**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** Susan O’Sullivan, Chris Burns, Joan Bathgate, Terri Scott, Mark Weir, Cate Poynton, Josephine Sciberras and Judy Dowsley 🙏

**May our healing God touch the lives of our sick** bringing them comfort & peace.

**Sunday 15th August – Mass – Wk 3**

**Ouyen:** 8:30 am

**Reader:** Marie Shaddock

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Peter Shaddock

**Offertory Procession:** Melanie Grace & Lorna Keam

**Projectionist:** Cara Brady

**Sunday 22nd August – Mass – Wk 4**

**Ouyen:** 11:00 am

**U’bool:** 3:00pm

**Reader:** John Galvin

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Carmel Vallance

**Offertory Procession:** Faye Nihill&Cheryl Anderson

**Projectionist:** Marie Shaddock

**Collections:** 1st. 8. 2021

Ouyen: $178.50

Planned Giving: $498.00

**Church Cleaning:**

August – Faye Nihill & Ellen Bonica

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

August – Marie Shaddock

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**:

After Mass (11:45am) on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month, and of a Thursday afternoon during and after Adoration and or Mass (in consultation with Father) or at any other time by appointment with Father.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Thursdays 2:00pm – 5:00 pm, usually **followed by Mass**; all welcome.

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| **St Joseph’s Parish Mass Timetable**  Wk 1 **Patche** Mass 10:00am 1stFriday  **Ouyen** Assembly 9:00am Sunday  Wk 2 **Ouyen** Mass 11:00am Sunday  Wk 3 **Ouyen** Mass 8:30am Sunday  Wk 4 **Ouyen** Mass 11:00am Sunday  **U’Bool** Mass 3:00pm Sunday  Wk 5 **Ouyen** Mass 11:00am Sunday |

**We are back – in in lockdown again 😬**  Here we go again, but hopefully it will only be for a week and we will be back for Mass on the 15th of August which is also the Feast of the Assumption! I am sure that there is a significance in that. Our Lady’s being taken to heaven body and soul is a reminder that this crazy life is not our permanent one and that we should really focus on heaven, where we hope to be, and in getting there. Maybe that could be our focus over the next 7 days. This Sunday is the feast of Mary Mackillop, who also had to endure her own “lockdown” through excommunication and suffered in many ways. Let’s ask her for guidance for ourselves and our country in these uncertain times. \***If you have any concerns or questions, please phone: 0417660893 (Marie)**

**Australian Catholic Men's Gathering 2021**

As an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Men’s Gathering aims to inspire and encourage men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world.  The online program hopes to reinforce that it is important to gather as men in the faith environment of the Church and be challenged to ensure the Gospel is alive in our homes, parishes and our communities.  The National Catholic Men’s Gathering is again being offered as a free event for registered participants and is available from Saturday, July 31st, to register go to :<https://www.nce.catholic.org.au/catholicmen>

**Social Justice Sunday – August 29, 2021**

The Bishops’ Social Justice Statement 2021-22: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, affirms that “we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour”.  It draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations. You can download the statement from the ACBC Office for Social Justice at the website below or the hard copy will be out soon.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>.

**Update on the Lord’s Prayer in Parliament**

After a week of intense campaigning, Fiona Patten’s motion to remove The Lord’s Prayer from the Victorian Parliament failed. The Government did not support the motion and both the Liberal and National parties took a strong stance on retaining The Lord’s Prayer. **Thank you to everyone that helped in any way!**

**St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**



Mary was an Australian woman, of Scottish descent, born in Melbourne in 1842.

As a young woman she became concerned that so many children in rural Australia could not afford to be educated. Mary knew that education was a key to freedom and that it was unfair that so many children should be denied access to education.

She also knew that God's love was the greatest freedom of all, and that through the right sort of education children could come to learn about God's love.

Together with her friend, Fr Julian Tennison Woods, she developed a plan for starting up schools for children caught in the poverty trap. Her dream was to tap their human potential and draw them closer to Jesus Christ.

She gathered other like-minded girls and young women and put her plan into action. These women became the community of religious sisters known as the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Their work had marvellous results. But it also aroused opposition. Like Jesus, Mary was persecuted and criticised. Sometimes by malicious gossip in the press. Sometimes by her own friends. Sometimes by people in high places. At one point, a bishop wrongfully excommunicated her! Mary and her companions were shattered. But they patiently endured the ordeal and after six months the bishop realised his mistake and withdrew the excommunication.

We honour Mary MacKillop because she was a courageous Australian who, at great cost to herself, followed her dream to spread the Good News to the children of Australia.

**This Week’s Plenary Council Reflection:** From the Gospel: “Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well.” Jesus Christ, who is himself the Good News and the “greatest Evangeliser”, draws into his mission all those who respond in faith to his Gospel and its proclamation. How can the Church deepen the identity of all the baptised as missionary disciples, sharing in the mission of Jesus to prepare the way of God’s kingdom? How can each of us deepen our relationship with: God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Do I take time out to listen to God – how much time am I willing to give Him? Is it as much as He gives me?



**Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop**

**Sunday 8th of August**

**First Reading**

A reading from the first book of Kings

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, ‘Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.’ So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, ‘Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.’ She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. ‘Please,’ he said ‘bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.’ ‘As the Lord your God lives,’ she replied ‘I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.’ But Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

“Jar of meal shall not be spent,

jug of oil shall not be emptied,

before the day when the Lord sends

rain on the face of the earth.”’

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

**Responsorial Psalm** [Ps 623:1-8](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryListPsalm|psm)

(R.) My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

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. On my bed I remember you.

On you I muse through the night

for you have been my help;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

**Second Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after him.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat,

nor about your body and what you are to wear.

Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing!

Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or

gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not worth much more than they are?

Can any of you, however much you worry,

add one single cubit to your span of life?

And why worry about clothing?

Think of the flowers growing in the fields;

they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that

not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these.

Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field

which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow,

will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith?

So do not worry; do not say, “What are we to eat?

What are we to drink? What are we to wear?”

It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things.

Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God’s saving justice,

and all these other things will be given you as well.

So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself.

Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Communion Antiphon

This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another, says the Lord.