

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



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

16th July 2023

Entrance Antiphon

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading [Is 55:10-11](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Rom 8:18-23](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 13:1-23](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

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He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the

worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Reflection – God has spoken are you listening? *By Bishop Baron*

Our first reading and our Gospel today are about the word of God, both from God's side as he speaks, and then from our side as we receive. God has spoken through creation, the prophets, the Scriptures—and, in the fullness of time, the very Word of God - Jesus. If you open your mind and heart to the power of God's word, it will change you.

God's word is not descriptive but creative – it changes things. When you allow the Word of God to come inside of you, it changes you!

The sower is Jesus, what is He sowing? He is sowing the Divine Word which is powerful. But our God respects our freedom. It is powerful but - it doesn't overwhelm us. Instead, it invites us to respond.

There is a burden on us here – how do we respond? Does the seed fall on the edge of the path, on rocky ground, among the thorns or in the rich soil? Jesus hardly ever explains the parables but this time he has; where does that fit for us?

The Word, like a seed needs to be cultivated. It needs to be watered and tended day in and day out. If our understanding has remained at what we learned in primary school then the seed will be carried away and the power of that Word will not have it's desired affect.

If you let the Word of God into your heart and mind and give it the attention it deserves by watering it and cultivating it - it will change you. It will make you more alive, more generous, more joyful.

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Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill, Kath Monaghan and Fr Shaiju's mother.
May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace. 🙏

Sunday 23rd July

Ouyen: 11:00am
Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan
Reader: Peter Shaddock
Prayers of the Faithful: Marie Shaddock
Offertory Procession: Beryl & Les Gregg
Eucharistic Minister: Marlene O'Callaghan
Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections 9th July

Ouyen: \$225.00
Planned Giving: \$240.00
Pope's collection: \$419.45

Mass Timetable

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am
Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am
No Mass at Underbool while Father is away.

No Weekday Masses while Father is away.

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.

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

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.

Church Cleaning:
July: The Grace Family
Presbytery Cleaning:
July: Faye Nihill

Pope's Prayer Intention for July: For a

Eucharistic life - We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

Feast Days this Week

16th Our Lady of Mt Carmel
20th St Elijah, father of the Carmelites
22nd St Mary Magdalene

Prayer for Freedom of Religious Belief

Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, to protect religious freedom within our institutions. We pray for the pastorally sensitive formation of children in accordance with sound biological anthropology and the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Australia's patronesses, Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen.

Please note that on the 3rd of August Father will be attending a meeting in Melbourne and will not be here for lunch at the bakery however, the **lunch will go ahead** for anyone that would like to come. Father will stay in Ouyen on the Thursday night, ready for Mass on Friday morning. More details about the Thursday nearer the time.

Something to smile about . . .

My old aunts would come and tease me at weddings, "Well Sarah? Do you think you'll be next?"

We settled this quickly once I started doing the same to them at funerals.

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This weekend we welcome Fr Ed Moloney, thanks for coming Father we appreciate your being with us.

Name change for Mildura Parishes: As the Sunraysia Catholic communities of Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Werrimul amalgamate, the Bishop has given permission for the formalisation of the New Parish of *Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia* to commence. The Feast Day of Sts Anne and Joachim is on Wednesday 26th July and to commemorate the Feast there will be Mass at 11am followed by a lunch in the Monaghan Centre for anyone interested.

The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award Entries are invited for The Good Oil 2023 Writers' Award, an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The theme for this year's award is "Finding My Voice." Entry is free and open to both emerging and published writers. For more information go

to <https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/the-good-oil-2023-writers-award-finding-my-voice>

Calvary Hospital – Update – The hospital has now had all religious symbols removed and is operating under government control. Now that the highly regarded palliative care hospice attached to Calvary, Clare Holland House, will also come under the administration of the ACT government it has announced plans for its own euthanasia and assisted suicide laws for the territory. Euthanasia in the ACT will be available for 14 year olds, and requirements of expected death timelines of six to twelve months will be removed. The government has also committed to exploring euthanasia for dementia patients!

Vinnies Winter Appeal - Vinnies are experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time. Donations can be made at all Vinnes Shops, on 131812. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

Fr Shaiju has arrived safely in India however his mother is ill with a fever and has been hospitalised; please remember her in your prayers.

Fr Anthony has received his American visa and will finish his time in Warrnambool this Sunday and then make his way to New York.

Fr Mick McKinnon has another newsletter out which is well worth a read, and can be found on the table at the back of the church.

Sunday the July 23, is the Sunday nearest the Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus, and is the day chosen as **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is "His mercy is from age to age."

16th & 20th July are great Feast Days for Carmelites around the world. Mount Carmel in the Holy Land is where the prophet Elijah (St Elijah) defended the purity of Israel's faith in God against the priests of Baal. It was near a spring in this region that a group of hermits in the 12th century, established themselves and built a small chapel in honour of Our Lady, whom they chose as their "Mother" and model in contemplative life with Elijah viewed as the patron or "Father" of the order. This was the origins of the Carmelite order we have today.

What's Happening When . . .

Sunday 16th July Fr Ed Moloney

Sunday 23rd July Fr Ed Moloney

Sunday 30th July Fr Shaiju returns for Mass; Baptism

Thursday 3rd August -12 pm **Lunch** at the Bakery, all welcome; **Adoration** 2 - 5pm; **(Father in Melb)**

Thursday 17th August - **Adoration** 3 – 5:25pm, **Mass** 5:30 pm followed by **Dinner** at the Club 6pm

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