

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



**The First Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B**

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

## First Reading [Genesis 9:8-15](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

*I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind.

And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

## Second Reading [1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small

group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

## Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the  
mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!

## Gospel [Mark 1:12-15](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark

*He was tempted by Satan, and the angels  
looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

## Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the  
mouth of God.

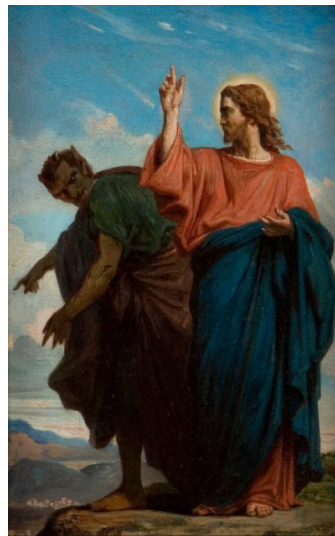
## Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Lent bids us to return to the innocence of our baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were

saved through the waters of Baptism, as Peter reminds us in today's Epistle. And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation.

We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel.

Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God, living in harmony with the wild beasts, being served by angels.



Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death, Jesus is victorious.

This is the good news, the "gospel of God" that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the

right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom.

In the waters of Baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son. We were made children of God, new creations.

But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness. We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Saviour—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm. He feeds us with the bread of angels, and cleanses our consciences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows—to repent and believe the gospel.

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH**  
**OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL**  
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068  
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill 0429 921 326  
Parish Email: [ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Des Healy**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Welcomer:** Louise

**Fitzpatrick Leach**

**Reader:** Carmel Vallance

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Lorna Keam**

**Offertory Procession:**

**Merril & John Boland**

**Eucharistic Minister:**

**Marlene O'Callaghan**

**Projectionist:** Cara Brady

**Collections: 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**Ouyen \$210.40**

**Planned Giving \$260.00**

**February Church Cleaning**

**Peter & Marie Shaddock**

**Presbytery:** Marie

**Shaddock**

**Mass Times:**

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays**

**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, with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:30 & Rosary at 4:00pm except when there is a social gathering.**

**Pope's Prayer intention for February: For the terminally ill**

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

**Next Social Gathering: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, with guest speaker, Fr John Corrigan. Adoration begins from 2:30**

**onwards with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm, Rosary at 5pm, Mass at 5:30pm followed by our speaker, Fr John. Dinner and a chance to discuss or simply say hello will follow at 6:30pm in the Copper Room at the Club; all welcome.**

**The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is seeking interest from Parishes for Liturgy Formation in 2024. Topics that are offered**

by the Commission include: Funeral Ministry, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, RCIA. If you would be interested in learning more about any of the above topics, and more, please see Marie. It is possible that our parish could host some sessions.

**The new roster of priests will 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**

**A new newsletter has just come through from Fr Mick in Peru,**

which is on the tables at the back of the church. I am sure you will enjoy catching up on his news.

**Wisdom from the Saints: "Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives!"**

*Pope St. John Paul II*

**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**

**Something to Smile about . . .**

What do you say to your single friends on Valentine's Day?

Happy Independence Day!



**This week we welcome Fr Shaiju back from his brief trip home. We hope you enjoyed your time Father and are feeling refreshed and energised.**

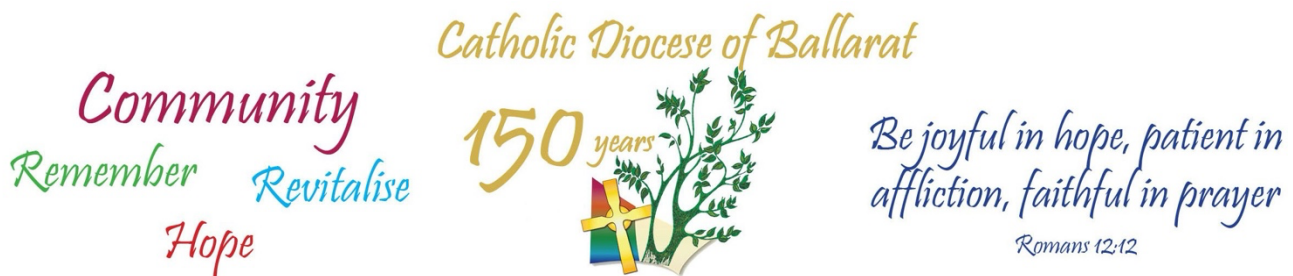
**Project Compassion Appeal.** This week we look at Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita lives in a cramped, single room dwelling in a crowded slum in the Philippines. She desperately yearned to create a better life for herself and her two young children. Together with Project Compassion we can help Ronita have a better life.

**Nursing Home and Hostel Church Services:** Please consider if you would like to take part in a ecumenical church service to the hospital & nursing home, approximately once a month. A short meeting will be held after the World Day of Prayer in Ouyen, to make a decision.

**The Lenten discussion group** continues of a Friday evening at 7pm for anyone that is interested. The cost of the booklet is \$9.00, it is a valuable accompaniment to Lent whether you choose to join the group, or just read it at home.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February – Is our next Social Gathering with Fr John as guest speaker: Adoration from 2:30pm, Rosary 5:00pm, Mass 5:30pm, Fr John’s talk 6:00pm, Dinner and Discussion at the Club 6:30pm.**

**World Day of Prayer – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of March:** 10:00am Christ the Worker Underbool, followed by light refreshments & 7:00pm St Joseph’s Ouyen, followed by light refreshments.



**Explanation of the Centenary Logo:** The design incorporates the diocesan logo and the bough of a tree drawn by Sr Anne McMillan rsm in 1985. The image was an interpretation of an old Chinese proverb to keep hope alive and a call to open our hearts to all. The bough of the tree symbolises growth, interconnectedness and life. The leaves symbolise the communities, the parishes, the people of the diocese. The text **Communities: Remember, Revitalise, Hope** reflects various aspects of the anniversary. The word “Community” highlights the fact that a diocese is essentially a community drawn together by Christ, a large community made up of many local communities. The word “Remember” refers us to the history of the diocese. In this remembering, we acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of that history, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. The word “Revitalise” calls us to invest ourselves in bringing new life to the community today. The word “Hope” encourages us to look forward to the future with confidence in God. The Scripture verse chosen for our 150th anniversary year reflects various elements of our vocation as a Christian community. **“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer”**. The words are drawn from a passage in St Paul’s letter to the Romans in which the apostle lists qualities appropriate for a community inspired by Christ. Through all their joys and trials their trust in Christ makes them joyful in hope and patient in affliction recognising that they need God’s help in all we do and so they are faithful in prayer, seeking God’s help day by day.

**St Joseph’s Parish is a Child Safe Parish - Parish Safety Officer: Mrs Melanie Grace 0477 846 777**