

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th December 2021

First Reading [Mi 5:1-4](#)

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives
birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will
extend his power
to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your
name. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Heb 10:5-10](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices
for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what
the Law lays down as the things to be offered,
that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the
holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took
no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I
am! I am coming to obey your will. He is
abolishing the first sort to replace it with the
second. And this will was for us to be made holy
by the offering of his body made once and for all
by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

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Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 1:39-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

REFLECTION *from: Scott Hahn & John Bergsma*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent marks a switch in focus from John the Baptist (as an adult on the previous two Sundays) to the events immediately leading up to the birth of Christ. The readings for this Sunday focus on Jesus's royalty: his descent from the line of Davidic kings. As we will see, this royal status also accrued to his mother Mary, and this is the basis for the practice of Marian veneration in the Catholic Church. In fact, the first instance of Marian veneration by another human being takes place in this Sunday's Gospel.

Jesus is the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom. He is "the shepherd of Israel" sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us." Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only

"begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh". He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history.

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle. Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her. Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down



through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading—"she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy—she is the mother of our Lord.

Wisdom from the Saints:

"In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved." *St John of the Cross*



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ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Underbool, Walpeup
Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill 5092 1326

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Susan O'Sullivan, Chris Burns, Joan Bathgate, Terri Scott, Mark Weir, Josephine Sciberras and Tristan Bush 🙏

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

Sunday 26th December – Mass – Wk 4

No U'bool Mass this week

Ouyen: 11:00 am

Reader: Les Gregg

Prayers of the Faithful: Carmel Vallance

Offertory Procession: The Brady Family

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 12th December

Ouyen: \$161.90

Planned Giving: \$222.00

Church Cleaning:

December: Celia Reidy & Cheryl Anderson

Presbytery Cleaning:

December: Ellen Bonica

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!

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

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal: Is one way in which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. A letter from the Bishop with a breakdown of last years donations and where they went is on the table at where you sign-in. ***We will take up a second collection at the Christmas Mass.**

Pope's Prayer Intention for December: for

Catechists - Let us pray for the Catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

St Joseph's Parish Masses

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|------|--------|----------|---------|------------------------|
| Wk 1 | Patche | Mass | 11:30am | 1 st Friday |
| | 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 |

Christmas Mass 🎄 11:00 am Christmas Morning
25th December

Carols by Candlelight, 🎄 Sunday 19th 7:30 pm at
the Lake, byo: chair, voice & Christmas spirit

Summary of the New Covid Provisions:

***We are no longer required to check the vaccination status of those attending places of worship. *Quotient requirements are no longer in force. *Masks are not mandatory. *QR code check-ins are still required. More details are on the opposite page**

Wiping Down of Pews After Every Mass: Is now a personal choice. There will still be 2 packets of sanitizing wipes, now at the sign-in table for anyone who wishes to wipe down their seat; wipes can then be left in the bin beside the table on your way out.

Apollo Bay Parish: Fr Wally Tudor will soon be retiring from his responsibilities as Parish Priest due to health concerns. Fr Michael O'Toole will become Parish Priest of Apollo Bay. This will be in addition to his responsibilities as Parish Priest of Colac and Supervising Priest for Cororooke. Fr John Pothiyittel will become Assistant Priest of Apollo Bay Parish. This will take effect on February 1, 2022.

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Columban Calendars \$10 – are available at the piety stall along with **Christmas Cards \$6** which are great value, 8 cards for \$6 great to put with a present or in the post.

😊 **Names for the Sick list:** As we are coming to the end of another year it is time to refresh. If you know of someone who would like to be prayed for via our sick list, please contact Marie. We will be clearing all the names at the end of the year and beginning afresh next year. Please note, if you would like to include someone's name on the list, it is important that you have asked them and/or their family first.

Bishop's Letter re Covid Provisions: As you may have seen, the Victorian Government has announced new Covid provisions to come into effect from 11.59pm tonight (Wednesday 15 December 2021). **We will no longer be required to check the vaccination status of those attending places of worship.**

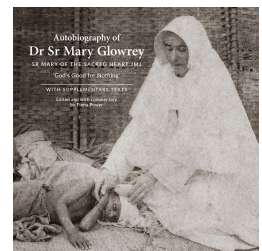
The Victorian Council of Churches has received the following response from the state government. "From tonight there are no longer vaccination check-in requirements at places of worship. We do maintain our strong recommendation that people are fully vaccinated. QR code check-ins are still required. Quotient requirements are no longer in force. Masks are not mandatory but are strongly recommended."

Ian Smith, Executive Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches, added the comment: "So it seems we can open up all services to all members of churches and community for carols and Christmas events and services."

I renew my thanks to you all for continuing to support one another through these trying times. I rejoice that we will be able to gather for worship as a whole community again. May our prayer together in these final days of Advent and throughout the Christmas season bring us Christ's joy in abundance. God bless you all.
Bishop Paul

Looking Forward – Pastoral Planning for Parishes 2021 – 2025 is a draft document of proposals for the future of parishes in our diocese which 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. Fr Matthew Thomas (Mildura) will come and join us in January to discuss any benefits and concerns. More information on dates and times will be given as soon as possible.

The Autobiography of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey is now available This 200 page book also features: photos from the Mary Glowrey Collection & commentaries providing cultural and historical background. **Cost:** \$49.95 + \$10 postage and handling per copy (Currently, Australia only). **Inquiries:** info@maryglowreymuseum.info or see in the Horizon. Please note that books will be available from the first week of December. *Delivery may be delayed due to demands on the postal system*



Immaculata Mission School 2022 You are invited to spend the first 9 days of 2022 with us as we discover what it means to *Be A Saint!* Program includes talks on the faith, praise & worship, daily Mass, Adoration & the Rosary, recreation, community & friendship. Families welcome and children's ministry available! Come and join us for an amazing time to grow in faith, and love for God and to make new friends!

When: 1-9th January, 2022 (Children's ministry available 4th-9th)

Where: New England Girls' School, Armidale, NSW

Cost: \$450 - includes accommodation, food, speakers, talks and activities. **For family rates, additional information and TO REGISTER** see <http://www.sistersoftheimmaculata.org.au/ims>

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