

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



Fourth Sunday of Easter

30th April 2023

Entrance Antiphon

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 2:14. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Pt 2:20-25**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted

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and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Jn 10:1-10](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Reflection By Dr Scott Hahn

Easter's empty tomb is a call to conversion. By this tomb, we should know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, as Peter preaches in today's First Reading. He is the "Lord," the divine Son that David foresaw at God's right hand. And He is the Messiah that God had promised to shepherd the scattered flock of the house of Israel.

As we hear in today's Gospel, Jesus is that Good Shepherd, sent to a people who were like sheep without a shepherd. He calls not only to the children of Israel but to all those far off from Him—to whomever the Lord wishes to hear His voice.

The call of the Good Shepherd leads to the restful waters of Baptism, to the anointing oil of Confirmation, and to the table and overflowing cup of the Eucharist, as we sing in today's Psalm. Again, on this Sunday in Easter, we hear His voice calling us His own. He should awaken in us the response of those who heard Peter's preaching. "What are we to do?" they cried.

We have been baptized. But each of us goes astray like sheep, as we hear in today's Second Reading. We still need daily to repent, to seek forgiveness of our sins, to separate ourselves further from this corrupt generation.

We are called to follow in the footsteps of the Shepherd of our souls. By His suffering He bore our sins in His body to free us from sin. But His suffering is also an example for us. From Him we should learn patience in our afflictions, to hand ourselves over to the will of God.

Jesus has gone ahead, has driven us through the dark valley of evil and death. His Cross has become the narrow gate through which we must pass to reach His empty tomb—the verdant pastures of life abundant.

Something to Smile About . . .

My wife and I have such a wonderful marriage. I always know what she is thinking, because she always tells me.
She always knows what I'm thinking, because she tells me that too. 😊

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OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Kath Monaghan

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter, 6th May

Ouyen: 11:00am

Welcomer: Peter Shaddock

Reader: Merril Boland

Prayers of the Faithful: Flora Moulder

Offertory Procession: Jona and Jessica

Eucharistic Minister: Louise Fitzpatrick

Leach

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Mass Timetable

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am

Weekday Masses this week: Friday at 10:00

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2pm – 5pm, 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 for the Holy atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collections 23rd April

Underbool: \$30.00

Ouyen: \$191.95

Planned Giving: \$210.00

Church Cleaning:

May: Margaret & Leo Collins

Presbytery Cleaning:

May: Carmel Vallance

Pope's Prayer Intention for May: For Church movements and groups - We pray that church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of the needy in the world.

Feast Days this Week

1st May Feast of St Joseph the Worker

3rd May Sts Philip and James, Apostles

Prayer for Religious Freedom

Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, our community of faith, to protect religious freedom within our religious educational 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.

150th Anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat in 2024

On March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius XI issued a decree creating two more dioceses, Ballarat and Sandhurst, to take some of the pressure away from Melbourne's Bishop and priests. Prior to this all of Victoria had all been part of the Melbourne diocese.

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This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS. It is also the day on which World Day of Prayer will be observed. The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest". We remember young men and women throughout our country and diocese and pray they may be open to hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, the single life, diaconate, religious life, or societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting begins on May 6-7 and continues each weekend until the end of May.

Thank You from Caritas Australia - Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have a box or envelopes at home please let Faye know, so that she can adjust the count.

From the Suggestion Box: Thank you to those who have put their names down as "welcomers." The sheet will be left there for another week or so for anyone else who may wish to put their name down. Many thanks also to the person who created the suggestion - it's great to see it being used. 🙌

Update From the recent Leadership Team Meeting

* **The mower has now arrived and is housed securely - many thanks Pud and Peter** 🙌

Prayer for Vocations . . .

Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the single and married life, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.

Inspire us daily to respond to Your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability.

Help us to remember our own baptismal call to rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to Your call.

Inspire parents, families, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service.

Nudge inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about vowed and associate commitment in apostolic life, cloistered life, evangelical life, lay ecclesial ministers, missionary life, monastic life, and societies of apostolic life.

Ignite our Church with the confident humility that there is an urgent need for all the baptized to live their vocation in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalized.

Notes about Holy Communion: Bishop Paul has issued the following information for people of the diocese: Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice. Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission and from a medical point of view. . . I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. . . and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

Prayer for Feast of St Joseph the Worker – May 1

God our Father, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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