

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



The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

13th August 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

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A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Communion Antiphon

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.


Reflection adapted from "The Word of the Lord" by Dr John Bergsma

There is so much turmoil in our world today and today's readings address the struggle of the believer to stay in relationship with God in the face of all-consuming distractions and threats. In the midst of wind, waves, and earthquakes, the voice of God still speaks to us.

In the First Reading, the whole narrative is a critique of judging reality by the external and dramatic, it's a reading of history that focuses on what gets screamed in headlines. The external, dramatic, and visible in human history does not always reveal the hand of God – as we see with the gentle breeze. God is always living and active, working in human hearts in ways that we do not recognize or notice.

Those who seek holiness in this life must train themselves not to vacillate with the headlines nor be shaken by contradictory events, but to stay faithful to their vocations, and be confident that God will preserve his little flock through the turmoil of history.

The readings this week work together to call us, as followers of Christ, away from an attitude of fear and intimidation. The wind and waves that toss around us, the personal and public turmoil of our lives and the world, are ultimately under the control of God. But gazing at all the turmoil can be a major distraction from God's call—in Latin, his "vocation"—in our lives. Jesus called to Peter— "Come"—just as he beckons to each one of us. Let's not be too hard on Peter. He was, after all, the only one of the Apostles willing to get out of the boat. So, he attempted something for Jesus; it failed, and he needed to be rescued. But Peter learned something from this attempt and eventually grew in faith. The challenge is to focus on the "still small voice" of Jesus beckoning us. Listening to a small voice needs single minded concentration there are so many blaring trumpets vying for our attention. We ought to walk toward him by concentrating on fulfilling our vocation daily, and not to capitulate to fear of the chaos that rages around us, knowing that he will always rescue us should we take our eyes off the ball and start to sink.



As the sky is above the
earth, so My ways are
above your ways.

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Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326
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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. 🙏

Sunday 20th August

Ouyen: 11:00am

Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan

Reader: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Prayers of the Faithful: Gerald Leach

Offertory Procession: the Brady Family

Eucharistic Minister: Leo O'Callaghan

Projectionist: Cara Brady

Collections 6th August

Ouyen: \$230.00

Planned Giving: \$195.00

Mass Timetable

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am

Weekday Mass this week is Friday at 10am

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:

August: Shaddock Family

Presbytery Cleaning:

August: Marie Shaddock

Pope's Prayer Intention for August: For the World Youth Day - We pray that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Feast Days this Week

14th St Maximilian Kolbe – priest & martyr. He believed the world was going through an intense spiritual crisis and that Christians must fight for the world's salvation with all the means of modern communication. He founded a newspaper, and a sodality called the Knights of Mary Immaculate which spread widely. He went to Japan (where his "Garden of the Immaculate" survived the atomic bomb). He travelled also to India and Moscow but was eventually arrested in Poland by the Nazis. He died at Auschwitz after offering his life for that of a of a married man with children.

15th Feast of the Assumption & India's Independence Day 🇮🇳

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 change in date for the evening meal at the Club is now Thursday 24th August (not 17th) - Adoration will be from 3 – 5:25pm, Mass 5:30 pm followed by Dinner at the Club 6pm.

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Anointing of the Sick - Father Shaiju will give Anointing of the Sick on the first Friday of the month at our regular 10:00am Masses. Father also visits the Hostel and Nursing Home every fortnight, if you know of someone who would like to be anointed or like a visit please see Father, Faye or Marie.

Please note change in date for the evening meal at the Club is now **Thursday 24th August** - Adoration 3 – 5:25pm, Mass 5:30 pm followed by **Dinner** at the Club 6pm.

New Planned Giving season starts on September 3rd. Our current Planned Giving Season comes to a close on the 27th of August. Letters with new Offering Cards have been handed out at Mass or mailed. If you could return yours by next week, it would be appreciated and will allow us to have the new envelopes out on time. Please note that the tallying of the last quarter stopped on the 16th of July so that the new Offering letters could be sent out –recording of your donation is still ongoing but won't show on the last quarter slip attached to your letter.



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – The Assumption is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated. It had lost its origin by the time the Emperor Constantine restored Jerusalem in 285-337, after Hadrian had levelled the city in the year 76. For 200 years, every memory of Jesus was obliterated from the city and sites made holy by his life, death and resurrection were often turned into pagan temples. After the building of the church of the Holy Sepulchre in 336, the sacred sites began to be restored and memories of the life of Our Lord began to be celebrated again by the people of Jerusalem. The “Memory of Mary” was also being celebrated at this time. Later it was to become the feast of the Assumption. For a time, the “Memory of Mary” was marked only in Palestine, but it was then extended to all the churches of the East. In the seventh century, it was celebrated in Rome under the title of the “Falling Asleep” (“Dormitio”) of the Mother of God. Soon the name was changed to the “Assumption of Mary” since there was more to

celebrate than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up body and soul into heaven. That belief was ancient, dating back to the apostles themselves. What was clear from the beginning was that there were no relics of Mary to be venerated. The feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not only look to the past. They look to the present and to the future and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption completes God's work in Mary since it was not fitting (nor was it the original intention of God for mankind) that the flesh that had given life to God himself should or could ever undergo corruption. The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we too will follow Our Lady when our life has ended. In 1950 Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption a dogma of the Catholic Church.

Something to Smile about . . .

Q: How many journalists does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

A: Three.

One to report it as an inspired government program to bring light to the people, one to report it as a diabolical government plot to deprive the poor of darkness, and one to win a Pulitzer prize for reporting that the electric company hired a lightbulb assassin to break the bulb in the first place.

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