

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



The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all  
the day long.

### First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

**I place the key of the House of David upon  
his shoulder.**

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the  
master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** Lord, your love is eternal;  
do not forsake the work of your hands.  
1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**  
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**  
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

### Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

**From him, through him, and in him are all  
things.**

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his  
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to  
penetrate his motives or understand his methods!  
Who could ever know the mind of the Lord?  
Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could  
ever give him anything or lend him anything? All  
that exists comes from him; all is by him and for  
him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my  
Church;  
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew

**You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of  
the kingdom of heaven.**

When Jesus came to the region of  
Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his

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disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

### Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work,  
O Lord;  
you bring forth bread from the earth  
and wine to cheer the heart.

### Reflection by Drs Scott Hahn & John Bergsma

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!" Paul exclaims in today's Epistle. Today's Psalm, too, takes up the triumphant note of joy and thanksgiving. Why? Because in the Gospel, the heavenly Father reveals the mystery of His kingdom to Peter. With Peter, we rejoice that Jesus is the anointed Son promised to David, the one prophesied to build God's temple and reign over an everlasting kingdom.

What Jesus calls "my Church" is the kingdom promised to David's son (see [Isaiah 9:1-7](#)). As we hear in today's First Reading, Isaiah foretold that the keys to David's kingdom would be given to a new master, who would rule as father to God's people.

Jesus, the root and offspring of David, alone holds the kingdom's keys (see [Revelation 1:18](#); [3:7](#); [22:16](#)). In giving those keys to Peter, Jesus fulfills that prophecy, establishing Peter and all who succeed him, as holy father of His Church.

His Church, too, is the new house of God, the spiritual temple founded on the "rock" of Peter

and built up out of the living stones of individual believers.

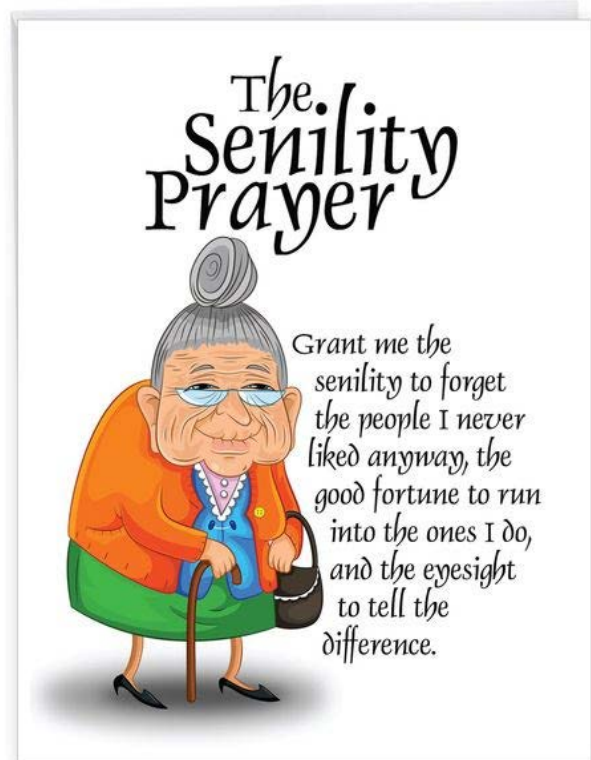
Abraham was called "the rock" from which the children of Israel were hewn (see [Isaiah 51:1-2](#)). And Peter becomes the rock from which God raises up new children of God .

The word Jesus uses, "church" (*ekklesia* in Greek) was used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament for the "assembly" of God's children after the Exodus.

His Church is the "assembly of the firstborn" (see [Hebrews 12:23](#); [Exodus 4:23-24](#)), established by Jesus' exodus (see [Luke 9:31](#)). Like the Israelites, we are baptized in water, led by the Rock, and fed with spiritual food.

Despite our sins and failings, God is continuously faithful to his Church. The gates of hell will not withstand the power of the Church. She will never be extinguished from the earth until Christ comes to fulfill all things. Moreover, Jesus has provided her with continuing leadership, especially in the successor of Peter, so that we need not debate endlessly about the application of the Gospel to the present day, but rather have authoritative guidance. May God be praised for providing for his people.

### Something to smile about . . .



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**Recent Deaths:** Flora's sister in the Philippines  
**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 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Ouyen: 11:00am**

**Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan**

**Reader: Marlene O'Callaghan**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Leo O'Callaghan**

**Offertory Procession: Merril & John Boland**

**Eucharistic Minister: Peter Shaddock**

**Projectionist: Marie Shaddock**

**Collections 20<sup>th</sup> August**

**Ouyen: \$227.50**

**Planned Giving: \$150.00**

**Mass Timetable**

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00am

**Weekday Mass this week is Friday** at 10am

**Church Cleaning:**

August: Shaddock Family

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

August: Marie Shaddock

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

**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.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> St Monica (331-387)**– was born in Thagaste in Africa to a Christian family. She married a Roman who was not a Christian and among her children was Augustine, later St Augustine. She prayed unceasingly over 30 years for his conversion, which finally did come about with spectacular results.

**28<sup>th</sup> St Augustine (354-430)**– Son of St Monica, was brought up as a Christian but left the Church early in his life. He had a brilliant mind and uncertain morals following all sorts of different spiritualities until his final conversion. He was ordained, became a Bishop and finally a Doctor of the Church

**29<sup>th</sup> Beheading of St John the Baptist** A prophet from before his birth, leaping in the womb to announce the coming of Jesus, who was his cousin. His task was to 'prepare the way' for Jesus, which he did with great courage. Not afraid to speak the truth and call out those with power, he was eventually be-headed on a rash promise to a dancing girl.

**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 sensitive and appropriate formation of children in accordance with the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen.

**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.

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**New Planned Giving season** starts on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our current Planned Giving Season comes to a close on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

***Social Justice Sunday: August 27, 2023*** Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian bishops' have launched the 2023-2024 Social Justice Statement, "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples". Copies of the statement and resources are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>.

***Next weekend we have the: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests – which will be taken up after communion.*** Envelopes will be available this week if you wish to take one home in advance. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is something in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. *Caring for those who care for us – the Church community's responsibility.*

Aid to the Church in Need is running **an emergency campaign for Pakistan**. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering visit [www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal](http://www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal)



***Faithful Toolkit - Majellan Media have launched "Faithful Toolkit"*** - a dynamic collection of smart apps on their website designed to nourish and foster your faith journey. Built with the wisdom of the church's teachings and augmented by the power of AI, these tools provide a new, interactive way to explore various aspects of faith. Scan or click on the QR code.



A social night out at the Ouyen Club was enjoyed by all who attended. Our next gathering is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September for **lunch at the bakery at 12:30pm**; all welcome!

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