

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



**Divine Mercy Sunday Year B**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

### Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

### First Reading [Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The whole group was united, heart and soul.*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

### Responsorial Psalm

**R.)** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

### Second Reading [1 John 5:1-6](#)

A reading from the first letter of St John

*Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

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

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness, since the Spirit is the truth.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

## Gospel [John 20:19-31](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he

said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

## Communion Antiphon

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia.

## Reflection By Dr Scott Hahn

Three times in today's Psalm we cry out a victory shout: "His mercy endures forever." Truly we've known the everlasting love of God, who has come to us as our Saviour. By the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' pierced side, we've been made God's children, as we hear in today's Epistle.

Yet we never met Jesus, never heard Him teach, never saw Him raised from the dead. His saving Word came to us in the Church—through the ministry of the apostles, who in today's Gospel are sent, as He was sent.

He was made a life-giving Spirit and He filled His apostles with that Spirit. As we hear in today's First Reading, they bore witness to His resurrection with great power. And through their witness, handed down in the Church through the centuries, their teaching and traditions have reached us.

We encounter Him as the apostles did—in the breaking of the bread on the Lord's day.

There is something liturgical about the way today's Gospel scenes unfold. It's as if John is

**Continued inside**

**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, John Nihill, Des Healy and John Moulder

**Third Sunday of Easter 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**April**

**Welcomer:** Louise

**Fitzpatrick Leach**

**Reader:** Flora Moulder

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Peter Shaddock**

**Offertory Procession:** Faye

**Nihill & Val Latta**

**Eucharistic Minister:**

**Gerald Leach**

**Projectionist:** Marie

**Shaddock**

**Collections: 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**Ouyen \$290.00**

**Planned Giving \$140.00**

**Holy Land \$874.00**

**April Church Cleaning**

**Carmel Vallance &**

**Marlene O'Callaghan**

**Presbytery: Celia Reidy**

**Mass Times:**

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

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

**at 9am**

**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**

**Pope's Prayer Intention for April:** For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

**Today is Divine Mercy Sunday:** Since the year 2000, the Sunday after Easter has been known as Divine Mercy Sunday, in accord with a request Jesus made to St Faustina in a series of private revelations in the 1930s: "I desire that the first Sunday after Easter solemnly celebrates My mercy. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it human or angelic, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity." **Holy Family parish, Swan Hill**, will have **Adoration with Confessions heard from 2-3pm followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm.** All welcome!

**Next Social Gathering:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm at the Club, following the rosary at 5pm & Mass at 5:30; all welcome!

**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**

**Wisdom from the Saints:** "Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins."

*St Peter*

**Something to Smile about . . .** We all know about Murphy's Law: Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. But have you heard of Cole's Law? It's thinly sliced cabbage.

**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



### **Continued from the back.**

trying to show us how the risen Lord comes to us in the liturgy and sacraments.

In both scenes it is Sunday night. The doors are bolted tight, yet Jesus mysteriously comes. He greets them with an expression, "Peace be with you," used elsewhere by divine messengers. He shows them signs of His real bodily presence. And on both nights the disciples respond by joyfully receiving Jesus as their "Lord."

Isn't this what happens in the Mass—where our Lord speaks to us in His Word, and gives himself to us in the sacrament of His body and blood?

Let us approach the altar with joy, knowing that every Eucharist is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

**Congratulations to Father Shaiju on the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of his Ordination, we thank you for your "Yes" to the Lord and wish you many more years in loving service. 🙌🙌**

**From Father Shaiju:** On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, I celebrated 22 years of Priesthood, a journey marked by countless blessings from the Almighty. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to God for His unwavering guidance throughout my priestly life. I am also deeply indebted to the individuals who have supported me along this sacred path. My parents, whose unwavering faith has been a constant source of inspiration, deserve special recognition.

To my parishioners, your enduring support and care have been invaluable to me. I am profoundly grateful for your presence in my life. As I embark on another year of service, I humbly ask for your continued prayers, that I may remain steadfast in my devotion to the Lord.

As we approach the First Sunday of Easter, let us unite in prayer, seeking the boundless mercy of our loving Savior in our daily lives. May divine Mercy Sunday be a poignant reminder of God's infinite love and compassion towards us all.



**You may have noticed** at the Easter Vigil that we had an extra candle on the altar. This is the Centenary Candle for the 150 years of our diocese which officially came into being on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1874. It will be lit at every Mass and important gathering throughout the rest of the year as a reminder of our significant milestone and of how we are all connected throughout the diocese, each parish making our diocese what it is.

**Maintenance is taking place on the St Patrick's Cathedral fence** which requires the removal of the ribbons from the fence. Bishop Paul has written a letter to give further detail about this. It is on the table near the sacristy at the back for those who wish to read it.

**Diocesan History Timeline & Parish History** As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, a timeline of significant dates and events over the past 150 years has been published on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/history-2/>

There has also been an "Our History" section added to parish pages on the website for parishes to update with their own history. If you would like to add any dates to the diocesan timeline or need assistance with adding information to the parish "Our History" section, please email [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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