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

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**Feast of the Holy Family Year B 31st December 2023**

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,

and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First Reading [Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|sir%23sir003" \t "_blank)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children,

and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,

do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten

but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,

make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;

tell all his wonderful works! (R.)

2. Be proud of his holy name,

let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.

Consider the Lord and his strength;

constantly seek his face. (R.)

3. Remember the wonders he has done,

his miracles, the judgements he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant,

O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)

4. He remembers his covenant for ever,

his promise for a thousand generations,

the covenant he made with Abraham,

the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

Second Reading [Colossians 3:12-21](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|col%23col003)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Luke 2:22-40](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|luk%23luk002)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

‘Now, Master,

you can let your servant go in peace,

just as you promised;

because my eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans

and the glory of your people Israel.’

As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth and lived among us.

**Pope’s Prayer Intention for January:** **The Gift Of Diversity In The Church** - Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

**Next Social Gathering*:* Thursday 18th January, 6pm at the Club, following Mass at 5:30 with Rosary & Adoration from 5pm.**



**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**

***Recent Deaths****:*

***Anniversaries:***

***Sick*: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Renae Lanigan**

**Sunday 7th December**

**Welcomer: Gerald Leach**

**Reader: Merril Boland**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Flora Moulder**

**Offertory Procession: Celia Reidy & Kathy Loxton**

**Eucharistic Minister: Gerald Leach**

**Projectionist: Cara Brady**

**Collections: 24th & 25th Dec.**

**Underbool (22nd) $90.00**

**Ouyen $217.35 & 179.80**

**Planned Giving $ 100.00**

**January Church CleaningPeter & Marie Shaddock**

**Presbytery:Cheryl Anderson**

**Mass Times*:***

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays at 9am**

**Weekday Masses this wee*k* Monday 1st at 10:30am & 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**

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)

**St Joseph’s Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool**

**Today’s Reflection – by Dr Scott Hahn**  Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God’s plan to make all people live as one “holy family” in His Church**A picture containing grass, sky, outdoor, sign

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In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We’re to live as His children, “chosen ones, holy and beloved,” as the First Reading puts it. Th e family advice we hear in today’s readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today’s Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today’s Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren’t identified by name, but three times are called His “parents” and are referred to separately as His “mother” and “father.” Th e emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke’s Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls “My Father’s house,” every family finds its true meaning and purpose. The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God’s house, His dwelling. But it’s also an image of the family of God, the Church. In our families we’re to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: “I shall be his God and he will be My son”.

**Peace in the Holy LandPlease continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land, remembering that this is where Christmas began.**

**Bishops Christmas Appeal:** Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Last year $44,000 was raised in the Christmas Appeal, thanks to your generosity. A break up of how the money was used is in the Bishop’s letter on the tables at the back of the church. Donations can now also be made directly via the "Parish Giving" link at the bottom of the Diocesan website home page" Our Parish will be taking up a special Collection after Communion today.

**Aid to the Church in need Supporting Christians in the Holy Land The pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has committed an aid package of 190,000 AUD to support the Christians of the Holy Land during the current crisis. This aid will assist impoverished Christians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, as well as Christian migrant workers and asylum seekers in Israel. Use this link to donate** [**https://aidtochurch.org/holyland**](https://aidtochurch.org/holyland)

**150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Volunteers for the Mass of the Oils** As part of the Ballarat Diocese’s 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the working committee for the Mass of the Oils are looking for 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to attend the Mass of the Oils on Monday March 25, 2024 at 11.30am.  Volunteers would be required to present a symbol or photo that best represents their parish at the beginning of the Mass. A parish volunteer is also required to collect the Oils for their parish.  This can be the same person or a different person. More information will be provided about this from the Bishop’s Office.  Many parishes have multiple communities, so the symbol or photo can represent the whole parish or it can be something from the different communities.  The symbol/photo framed should be 5in x 7in (12cm x 17.5cm) or for the larger parishes who may need more room, up to 8in x 10in (20cm x 25cm) size framed.

**Something to smile about . . .**

**How Does good king Wenceslas like his pizza?**

**Deep and crisp and even**