

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



Fourth Sunday in Advent Yr A

18th December 2022

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

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his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Reflection by Dr John Bergsma

As Christians, we tend to assume that the idea of God coming into one’s life is always an attractive concept. However, that’s a bit naïve. In this Sunday’s readings, we encounter situations in which people found the invasion of God into their lives to be a little bit distressing. The readings remind us that Jesus is not a passive presence within us.

The name Jesus comes from the Hebrew y’shua, meaning “salvation.” So, we can translate the angel’s words as, “You are to name him Salvation, because he will save his people from



their sins.” To “save from sin” is not the same as “save from the consequences of sin.” Jesus did not come merely to save us from hell but to save us from sinning.

Like the Old Testament Joseph, son of Jacob, who was a great dreamer and interpreter of dreams, so God communicates with this New Testament Joseph, son of Jacob through dreams.

Note that the angel calls Joseph, ‘Son of David’. Joseph was, in fact of the line of David, and here the angel is emphasising his connection to the promises and covenant attached to the House of David, including Isaiah’s promise of an “Emmanuel” to be born of a “maiden” of this dynasty.

The presence of God in Joseph and Mary’s lives means an end to business as usual and the typical comfort of ordinary life. Their lives are not going to be normal and typical. The angel guides Joseph to his next step—completing his marriage to Mary. We know that the coming months will involve more strain and stress—a long journey to Bethlehem in the late stages of pregnancy followed by a midnight flight from Bethlehem to Egypt to escape from persecution.

At Mass, we prepare to receive the “divine invasion” of the Eucharist, when God again will enter into our lives and our bodies, “Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.” Are we ready for that? Are we ready to let our lives go off course, off into a new direction, perhaps even an uncomfortable direction because God is now living in us?

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Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068

Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326

Parish Email: Ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, Laura Burns and John Nihill 🙏

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

24th December – Christmas Eve Mass

Ouyen: 5:45 pm

Reader: Marlene O'Callaghan

Prayers of the Faithful: Carmel Vallance

Offertory Procession: Shaddock Family

Eucharistic Minister: Lorna Keam

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections 11th December

Ouyen: \$ 228.95

Planned Giving: \$ 210.00

Church Cleaning:

December: Celia Reidy & Cheryl Anderson

Presbytery Cleaning:

December: Ellen Bonica

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2pm-5pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm & Rosary 4pm; all welcome.

Bishops Christmas Appeal – special collection - will be taken up on Christmas Eve: this is one way in which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance.

Beware of carpet bubbles/ripples: Due to the recent rain, large ripples of carpet have been appearing throughout the church. As the ground dries out, they will disappear but until then please watch where you put your feet as they are a real tripping hazard!

Pope's Prayer Intention for December: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations - We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

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

Summary of the New Covid Provisions:

- ~ QR Codes are no longer required to sign in
- ~ Face masks are no longer required to be worn
- ~ Kindness and Common Sense strictly enforced

Mass Timetable

Wk 1	Patche	Mass	11:30am	1 st Friday
	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 2	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 3	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 4	U'Bool	Mass	9:00am	Sunday
	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 5	Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday

Christmas Mass 2022 – Saturday 24th December
Carols from 5:30 with Mass at 5:45pm – there's no Christmas without Christ 😊

Side door entrance: we are asking anyone with any mobility issues, and those who use gofers, to enter via the side (north facing) door. This has a much wider opening on level ground and is ideal for dropping off/picking up or parking gofers. For those with gofers we would ask you to please use the gravel to drive on, rather than the pavers. If you are aware of any other potential hazards please notify: Faye, Cheryl or Marie.

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Updating Rosters: An existing list of people involved in Reading, Prayers of the Faithful, Offertory Procession etc will be on the table near the kitchen until the end of the year. If you would like to add your name to a ministry, please do so in the spaces underneath. If you are happy to continue in your existing role, nothing needs to be done. If, however you would like to take your name from a list then just put a line through it. In this way we can start fresh for the new year.

Did you know? The name 'Jesus' comes from the Hebrew *y'shua*, meaning "salvation." It's usually given as "Joshua," but the Gospels were written in Greek, and Greek has no "sh" sound. Further, men's names in Greek generally end in "s," so the transliteration ends up as Iesus, pronounced yay-soos. So, we can translate the angel's words as, "You are to name him Salvation, because he will save his people from their sins."

Nazareth was a small community settled by Davidides (descendants of the royal house) in the time after they had returned from their Babylonian exile. The name "Nazareth" means "little branch or shoot" after the promises of the Nezer or "branch" of David who was to come as Isaiah foretold 11:1.5 *"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him . . ."*

Who or what is the *nezer*? The **Nezer** was a crown or branch/line of the royal family associated with royal priesthood. It symbolized dedication to the Temple and separation from worldly things. In the Torah, when high priests were anointed, they were crowned, but this kind of crown wasn't just for priests. Saul's crown, which was returned to David after his death, was identified as a *nezer*. The significance of this is that Jesus was and is both High Priest and King.

Bethlehem means "*house of bread*" because of the fertile fields that surround the town. Here it was, and not by accident but Divine plan, that Jesus the "Bread of Life" was born and placed in a manger - a food trough for the animals.

The prophet Isaiah who wrote 700 years before Jesus was born! The prophet Zechariah wrote, 520 years before Jesus was born. In his visions and writings *Joshua*, was a keyperson of the time, he was son of Jehozadak, and was the *High Priest* of the newly rebuilt Temple. But the angel of God made something very clear to Zechariah, and that was that *Joshua* was a symbol of something yet to come... something, or someone, known as *God's Servant, the Branch*.

With thanks to Dr John Bergsma & Hebrew Word Lessons

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Christmas Mass Times
 St Mary's Church, Robinvale
 Christmas vigil: 8pm Carlos, 8.15pm Mass.
 Christmas Day: 11am Mass.
 St Patrick's, Manangatang
 Christmas Day: 9am Mass.
 St. Joseph's, Ouyen
 Christmas vigil: 5.30 Carlos, 5.45pm Mass.

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