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

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 **Second Sunday of Advent Year B 10th December 2023**

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,

the Lord will come to save the nations,

and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading [Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cisa%23isa040)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

‘Console my people, console them’

says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem

and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord

double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness

a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God

across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for his people.

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 [2 Peter 3:8-14](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cpt2%23pt2003)

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:1-8](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmrk%23mrk001)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,

and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Our God is coming. The time of exile, the long separation of humankind from God due to sin, is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today’s liturgy.

Isaiah promises Israel’s future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today’s Gospel shows, Israel’s historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God, the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus toward the promised land. And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord.

John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah’s prophecy, to show that all of Israel’s history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided humanity from Himself. He has

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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**

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

***Recent Deaths****:*

***Anniversaries:***

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

 **Sunday 17th December *Welcomer:* Lorna Keam**

**Reader: Marlene O’Callaghan**

***Prayers of the Faithful:* Carmel Vallance**

***Offertory Procession*: Margaret Collins & Cheryl Anderson**

***Eucharistic Minister*: Gerald Leach**

***Projectionist:* Marie Shaddock**

**Collections: 3rd December**

**Ouyen $253.00**

**Planned Giving $485.00**

***December Church Cleaning* Cheryl Anderson & Celia Reidy**

***Presbytery: Carmel Vallance***

***Mass Times:***

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

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

***Weekday Masses this week* No Mass this Friday**

***Sacrament of Reconciliation* Father will be available after the 11am Mass or any time by appointment.**

***Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* Thursdays from 2:30 – 5:30pm**

***Pope’s Prayer Intention for December:*** **For people with disabilities – We pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.**

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

***Christmas Mass Times*:**

**Ouyen**

**11am Christmas Day**

**Underbool**

**9am Friday 22nd Dec**

**Sunraysia, Christmas Eve** (Sun 24 Dec)

**6pm Mildura
6pm Werrimull
8pm Red Cliffs
8pm Merbein
10pm Mildura**

**Midnight Mildura**

**Christmas Day** (Monday 25 Dec)

**8:30am Irymple
9am Mildura**

**Robinvale**
**Vigil Mass 24th December**

**6pm Mass 25th December 9am**

**Manangatang**

**Vigil Mass 24th December 4pm**

**Advent Reconciliation/Confession: Friday 22nd after 10:30 Mass in Ouyen.**

 ***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 and St Mary of the Cross. Amen**

***Pope’s Prayer Intention for October:*** **For the Synod– We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a way of lifestyle and be guided by the Holy Spirit.**

***Next Social Gathering:* Thursday 19th October, 6pm at the Club, following Mass at 5:30.**

***Feast Days this Week:* 16th St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1701-1771) Joined the Visitation Sisters in Parayle Monial, France. She received visions of our Lord who revealed his Sacred Heart to her asking her. Along with St Claude de la Colombiere, a French priest, they worked tirelessly to spread devotion to the immense love Jesus has for us in his Sacred Heart.**

**17th St Ignatius of Antioch (?-107) He was the third bishop of Antioch, the first being St Peter until he moved to Rome. St Ignatius was arrested when he was already an old man and condemned to death. He was transported to Rome in shackles and then feed to the lions in the Coliseum. On his journey to Rome, he wrote several letters to the local churches encouraging them to be faithful and follow the teachings of their Bishops. These letters are important documents for the Church showing the already existing organisation of the Church and Christian life at the time. The letters also show Ignatius to be a deeply holy man who begged the Christians in Rome not to deprive him of the crown of martyrdom.**

**18th St Luke, Apostle Was a Greek doctor who converted to Christianity. He was a companion of St Paul and stayed with him up until his death in Rome, wrote the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles which tells the story of the early history of the Church. As a Greek he takes care to explain to other readers the Jewish customs and meaning of Hebrew words. He died a martyr at the age of 84 after being tortured and finally hung in Thebes, Greece.**

**19th Sts John de Brebeuf &Isaac Jogues, priests & companion martyrs were French Jesuits who travelled to North America from 1642-1649. They were killed by the native Huron & Iroquois tribes after suffering terrible tortures.**

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**Continued from the back**: reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth.

He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us personally. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today’s readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today’s Epistle. Like Jerusalem’s inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our
lives so that everything we do leads us to Him. Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

 **Christmas Cards: a range of Christmas cards of varying styles and prices will be available from next week at the piety stall. We are supporting two of our talented parishioners in Naomi Leach and Chloe Brady, as well as our regular Majellan cards. Come and see what is available at the piety stall.**

**Columban Calendars are available for $10:00 and can be paid upon collection.** Please see Marie, Cheryl or Faye.

**Ordination to the Diaconate: Congratulations to our seminarian Cay Trinh who will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat this Saturday, December 16, in St** **Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am.  Let us keep Cay particularly in our prayers this week as he embarks upon his final step towards the priesthood. All are welcome to attend on the 16th. The Mass will also be livestreamed at** <https://youtube.com/live/fy7Ze_ysi_4?feature=share>

**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.

**Significant Catholic Person from our Parish: As part of the Ballarat Diocese’s 150th year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from each parish for a display to be presented after the Mass of the Oils on March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please give any suggestions to Father, Faye, Cheryl or Marie.**

**Announcement regarding CDF Merger:** Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has made an announcement regarding themerger of our Ballarat Catholic Development Fund with the Melbourne-Sale-Bunbury Catholic Development Fund.  Details are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/new-era-for-cdf/>