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

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**The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B 7th January 2024**

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;

and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading [Isaiah 60:1-6](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|isa%23isa060)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,

the glory of the Lord is rising on you,

though night still covers the earth

and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises

and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light

and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:

all are assembling and coming towards you,

your sons from far away

and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,

your heart throbbing and full;

since the riches of the sea will flow to you;

the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,

and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;

everyone in Sheba will come,

bringing gold and incense

and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,

to a king’s son your justice,

that he may judge your people in justice

and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish

and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea,

from the Great River to earth’s bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts

shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba

shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,

all nations shall serve him. (R.)

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry

and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak

and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading[Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|eph%23eph003)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;

and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel[Matthew 2:1-12](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|mtw%23mtw002" \t "_blank)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. ‘Where is the infant king of the Jews?’ they asked. ‘We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.’ When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ‘At Bethlehem in Judaea,’ they told him, ‘for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,

for out of you will come a leader

who will shepherd my people Israel.’

**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**

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. ‘Go and find out all about the child,’ he said ‘and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.’ Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Communion Antiphon

We have seen his star in the East,

and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Today the child born on Christmas is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews. As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in today’s Gospel, He is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth.  The magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel’s beginnings. Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations. This is the star the three magi follow. Like Balaam, they too refuse to be tangled in an evil king’s scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign, that the prophesies in today’s First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God’s light, bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel’s God. We celebrate today, the fulfillment of God’s plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings. As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts, our intentions and talents, on the altar in this Eucharist.

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**Next Social Gathering: Thursday 18th January**, 6pm at the Club following Adoration & Rosary at 5pm and Mass at 5:30pm – all welcome.

**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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**Something to Smile About . .** **.**

An elderly man in Sydney calls his son in Perth and says, "I hate to ruin your day son, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of marriage. .. and I can only take so much of this misery!"

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son yells.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old bloke explains. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Adelaide and tell her!"

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who shouts. "Absolute rubbish! They're not getting divorced. I'll take care of this." She calls her elderly father immediately, and screams at him, "You are not getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be in Sydney by the end of the week. Until then, don't do a thing, you hear me?" she yells and hangs up abruptly.

The old man puts the phone down, smiles, and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says. "It's all settled. They're both coming for Christmas and paying their own air-fare."

***Recent Deaths****:*

***Anniversaries:***

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

**Sunday 14th January**

**Welcomer: Lorna Keam**

**Reader: Flora Moulder**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Susan O’Sullivan**

**Offertory Procession: Merril & John Boland**

**Eucharistic Minister: Marlene O’Callaghan**

**Projectionist: Marie Shadock**

**Collections: 31st December**

**Ouyen $207.30**

**Planned Giving $170.00**

**Bishop’s Appeal $457.80**

**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* 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**

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**If you are wondering about what Pope Francis actually said regarding “Blessings of Unions” Here is what it said in plain language, not to be confused with reports from the media.** The document released two weeks ago by the Vatican on the pastoral meaning of blessings insists that marriage is a union of one man and one woman in lifelong fidelity and openness to children, said Bishop Robert Barron of Winona-Rochester. “In my capacity as chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, I would like to respond to some of the questions and concerns that have emerged in the wake of the publication of the Vatican document, Fiducia Supplicans. **The statement in no way calls for a change in the Church’s teaching regarding marriage and sexuality**. In fact, it goes to great lengths to insist that, in accord with unchanging doctrine, marriage is a union of one man and one woman in lifelong fidelity and openness to children. The blessings that it allows for those in irregular relationships are not liturgical in nature and hence do not imply any approbation of such relationships. Rather, these benedictions are informal and spontaneous, designed to call upon God’s mercy to heal, guide, and strengthen. Despite some misleading coverage in the press, the declaration does not constitute a ‘step’ toward ratification of same-sex marriage nor a compromising of the Church’s teaching regarding those in irregular relationships. “Fiducia Supplicans is very much congruent with Pope Francis’s long-held conviction that those who do not live up to the full demand of the Church’s moral teaching are nevertheless loved and cherished by God and invited to accept the Lord’s offer of forgiveness.” From United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

**Peace in the Holy LandPlease continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land, remembering that this is where the Prince of Peace was born.**

**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** We need 1-2 volunteers for the the Mass of the Oils on Monday March 25, 2024 at 11.30am.  There is no spoken part it is simply a matter of placing a photo of our church on a table and later collecting the oils we use throughout the year.

**Wisdom from the Saints:**

**"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." – *Mother Teresa***

**“Begin now to be what you will be hereafter” – *St Jerome***

**“The Star of Bethlehem”– is a documentary researched by an American attorney Rick Larson in 2007 who found that the Star actually existed and did all that is reported in the bible. The documentary of the star tells an amazing story not just of Jesus birth, but also his death. Well worth watching, it goes for approximately 1hr 15min and can easily be found simply by going to google and typing in “The Star of Bethlehem”.**