**ST JOSEPH’S PARISH**

**OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL**

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 **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 8th October 2023**

Entrance Antiphon

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,

and there is none that can resist your will.

For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,

and all that is held within the circle of heaven;

you are the Lord of all.

First Reading [Isaiah 5:1-7](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cisa%23isa005)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

Let me sing to my friend

the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard

on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,

and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower,

he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes,

but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem

and men of Judah,

I ask you to judge

between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard

that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.

Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,

and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;

overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds

to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts

is the House of Israel,

and the men of Judah

that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed,

integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;

to plant it you drove out the nations.

It stretched out its branches to the sea,

to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)

2. Then why have you broken down its walls?

It is plucked by all who pass by.

It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,

devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,

look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

4. And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back;

let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

Second Reading [Philippians 4:6-9](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cphi%23phi004)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,

because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 21:33-43](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmtw%23mtw021)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next, he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. “They will respect my son,” he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, “This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance.” So, they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They answered, ‘He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders

that became the keystone.

This was the Lord’s doing

and it is wonderful to see?

‘I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.’

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,

to the soul that seeks him.

Reflection *by Dr Scott Hahn*

In today’s Gospel Jesus returns to the Old Testament symbol of the vineyard to teach about Israel, the Church, and the kingdom of God.

God is the owner and the house of Israel is the vineyard. A cherished vine, Israel was plucked from Egypt and transplanted in a fertile land specially spaded and prepared by God, hedged about by the city walls of Jerusalem, watched over by the towering Temple. Continued over the page.

stray,

***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 towards the peripheries of the world.**

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

***Feast Days this Week:* 9th St Denis, Bishop and his companion martyrs (?-258) St Denis was born in Italy and while still very young was noted for his virtuous life, knowledge of sacred things and firm**[**faith**](https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05752c.htm)**. This is shown by the fact that Pope Fabian (236-250) sent him with some other missionary**[**bishops**](https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02581b.htm)**to Gaul (France) on a very difficult mission, to restore the faith there after the severe persecution by the Emperor Decius. Denis with his companions, the**[**priest**](https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12406a.htm)**Rusticus and the deacon Eleutherius, settled on the island in the river Seine. His fearless and tireless preaching of the Gospel lead to countless conversions which angered the heathen priests there. After stirring up the people and convincing the governor, they seized the three, horribly tortured them and eventually beheaded them.**

**11th St John XXIII, Pope Also known as “good Pope John” was born in Northern Italy and was proud of his down to earth roots. As a stretcher bearer in WWI he saw the huge suffering that war brings and its effects on people. He was elected Pope in 1958, convoked the Roman Synod, revised Cannon law and called the Second Vatican Council which opened in 1962. He died while it was still in session in 1963.**

**14th St Callistus I, Pope and martyr (?-222) Had a rollercoaster life. He was a servant who became a slave, was sent to the mines and later freed by Pope Victor I. He became a deacon, taking care of a major Christian cemetery which still bears his name and was advisor to the Pope on many of the theological controversies of the day - eventually becoming Pope in 219. He was murdered by an anti-Christian mob 3 years later.**

***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 sensitive and appropriate formation of children in accordance with the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen**

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**

***Recent Deaths*:**

***Anniversaries*:**

***Sick*: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill,**

**& Kath Monaghan**

**Sunday 8th October**

***Welcomer:* Marlene O’Calaghan**

***Reader: Gerald* Leach**

***Prayers of the Faithful:* Louise Fitzpatrick *Leach***

***Offertory Procession*: Cheryl Anderson & Faye Nihill**

***Eucharistic Minister*: Peter Shaddock**

***Projectionist:* Marie Shaddock**

***Collections:1st October***

**Ouyen $155.00**

**Planned Giving $725.00**

***October Church Cleaning***

**Merril & John Boland**

***Presbytery* Celia Reidy**

***Mass Times***

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays at 9am (beginning November)**

***Weekday Masses this week***

 **Friday at 10am**

***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**

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***Reflection Cont.***

**But the vineyard produced no good grapes for the wine, a symbol for the holy lives God wanted for His people**.

**So, God allowed His vineyard to be overrun by foreign invaders, as Isaiah foresees in the First Reading. Jesus picks up the story where Isaiah leaves off, even using Isaiah’s words to describe the vineyard’s wine press, hedge, and watchtower. Israel’s religious leaders, the tenants in His parable, have learned nothing from Isaiah or Israel’s past. Instead of producing good fruits, they’ve killed the owner’s servants, the prophets sent to gather the harvest of faithful souls**.

**In a dark foreshadowing of His own crucifixion outside Jerusalem, Jesus says the tenants’ final outrage will be to seize the owner’s son and to kill him outside the vineyard walls. For this, the vineyard, which Jesus calls the kingdom of God, will be taken away and given to new tenants—the leaders of the Church, who will produce its fruit.**

**We are each a vine in the Lord’s vineyard, grafted onto the true vine of Christ, called to bear fruits of the righteousness in Him and to be the “first fruits” of a new creation. We need to take care that we don’t let ourselves be overgrown with the thorns and briars of worldly anxiety. As today’s Epistle advises, we need to fill our hearts and minds with noble intentions and virtuous deeds, rejoicing always that the Lord is near.**

***October is World Mission Month*** In his World Mission Day message for 2023, Pope Francis reminds us through Luke 24:13-35, “hearts on fire, feet on the move”, that the missionary journey of all disciples is that upon encountering Jesus, our hearts burn within, our eyes are opened and ultimately, our feet are set out on the way.

***Marian Festival Sunday 15th October* at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo – Beginning at 11:00am with Mass celebrated by Bishop Leslie Tomlinson and concluding at 3:4pm with afternoon tea in the colonnade. For more information please see the flyers on the table near the kitchen or see Marie. Car-pooling is a possibility.**

***Please remember and pray for those involved in the Synod as it takes place from the 4th – 29th of October. Let us also pray for truth, unity and co-operation with the Holy Spirit within the Church.***

Breathe in us O Holy Spirit, that our thoughts may all be holy.

Act in us O Holy Spirit, that our work, too, may be holy.

Draw our hearts O Holy Spirit, that we love but what is holy.

Strengthen us O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy

Guard us, then, O Holy Spirit, that we always may be holy. Amen

**Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with daily Advent and Christmas reflections. With beautiful artwork and penetrating commentaries, including from our own Fr John Corrigan, the journey to Christmas can be so much more meaningful. The 80 page booklet is only $5. Orders have to be placed in the next 2 weeks, please get in quick; it’s only $5 so you have nothing to lose. See Marie to order.**