**ST JOSEPH’S PARISH**

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

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**The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 1st October 2023**

Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord,

you have done with true judgement,

for we have sinned against you

and not obeyed your commandments.

But give glory to your name

and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading [Ezekiel 18:25-28](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|eze%23eze018)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,

he guides the humble in the right path;

he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading [Philippians 2:1-11](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|phi%23phi002)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,

yet he did not cling

to his equality with God

but emptied himself

to assume the condition of a slave,

and became as men are;

and being as all men are,

he was humbler yet,

even to accepting death,

death on a cross.

But God raised him high

and gave him the name

which is above all other names

so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,

should bend the knee at the name of Jesus

and that every tongue should acclaim

Jesus Christ as Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 21:28-32](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList|mtw%23mtw021)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

Communion Antiphon

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,

by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Reflection ***by Drs Scott Hahn & John Bergsma***

In the Gospel today the first son represents the most heinous sinners of Jesus’ day—tax collectors and prostitutes—who by their sin at first refused to serve in the Lord’s vineyard, the kingdom. At the preaching of John the Baptist, they repented and did what was right and just.

The second son represents Israel’s leaders—who said they would serve God in the vineyard but refused to believe John when he told them they must produce good fruits as evidence of their repentance.

Once again, this week’s readings invite us to ponder the unfathomable ways of God’s justice and mercy. Mother Church is raising her voice at us—yes, even yelling at us—this Sunday to wake up and not be like the Pharisees. How not to be like a Pharisee? Don’t leave Mass thinking the Gospel wasn’t speaking about you.

The Good News is the “mercies” of God, that in order to forgive the repentant, he gives himself completely for us and to us, having taken on the form of a man, then the form of a slave, then the form of bread.

St Joseph’s Parish

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

**Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068**

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***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:***

**1st St Thérèse of the Child Jesus 1873-1897. Thérèse became an enclosed Carmelite nun at the age of 15, against the mother**

**superiors wishes.** **Her “Little Way” of allowing God to work through her life has become a guiding light for countless souls. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 24, and is a Doctor of the Church.**

**2nd The Guardian Angels, This feast is that it reminds us that God cares for each of us individually. Each of us has our own personal angel looking after us, who will stay by our side until our death. Let us try to be more attentive to their promptings.**

**4th St Francis of Assisi 1181-1226, Francis was the son of a wealthy merchant in Assisi. He was a wild you man who was just like any other young person with too much money and frequently caused disturbances at night in the town ringing the church bells etc. After being captured and held prisoner in a local war, he began to settle down and his conversion started. He renounced all earthly possessions, living by begging. He preached to all the love of God and the love of the created world. Soon other joined him selling all their goods and living on the grace of God. Because Francis was wearing an old brown garment begged from a peasant, tied round his waist with string, this became the Franciscan habit.**

**5th St Faustina Kowalska, See next page**

**6th Our Lady of the Rosary, See next page**

***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**

***Recent Deaths*:**

***Anniversaries*:**

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

**& Kath Monaghan**

**Sunday 8th October**

***Welcomer:* Peter Shaddock**

***Reader:* Louise Fitzpatrick Leach**

***Prayers of the Faithful: Gerald Leach***

***Offertory Procession*: Val Latta & Carmel Vallance**

***Eucharistic Minister*: Lorna Keam**

***Projectionist:* Marie Shaddock**

***Collections: 24th September***

**Underbool:$45.00**

**Ouyen$ 227.35**

**Planned Giving $660.00**

***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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***One of the points to come out of our Parish meeting this year*** was donating money to charity from the proceeds of our funeral catering. As a result of this we have given $1,000 to the Shared Table foundation. This is the ongoing project that Fr Mick McKinnon set up many years ago when he was first in Peru. The Shared Table continues to operate and grow independently of Fr Mick and every dollar sent goes directly to help the people.

***Finalising Planned Giving* In an effort to complete and clarify our Planned Giving Program details could anyone who has received a Planned Giving Card, but who does not wish to participate at this time, please return their blank card either in the mail or in person to Faye so that we can complete our details. If you have any questions about the Planned Giving please see Faye after Mass.**

***Church Photos*** – If you have any of: either of the Tempy churches, Walpeup, Underbool or Patchewollock churches or know of someone who does could you please see Faye, Cheryl, Susan or Marie.

***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.**

***5th Oct. St Faustina Kowalska*** 1905-1938. Born Helena Kowalska near Lodz in Poland, she was the 3rd of 10 children. The family were poor and religious but were opposed to Helena’s desire to enter the convent. After rejection by the first few convents to which she applied, she was finally accepted by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1925. Here she took the name of Sr Mary Faustina, worked as a cook, gardener and porter revealing nothing of her rich mystical life. In which Jesus dictated to her his Divine Mercy. Jesus appeared to her in visions and conversations from 1931. In choosing her Jesus shows us that his strength is manifested in weakness and that the obscure, poor, weak and humble have the power to change the world. “Today I am sending you with my mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart.

***7th Oct. Our Lady of the Rosary* This feast was instituted by Pope Pius V to thank God for the miraculous defeat of the Turkish fleet at the battle of Lepanto. On 7th October 1571. This battle ended the threat of the Muslim domination of the Mediterranean*.* The story of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary focuses on the intercessory power of Mary. It shows that when Christians are in danger, they can go to Mary. And when an individual is in pain, discouraged, or having trouble accepting God’s will, he or she can also go to Mary. She will pray to her Son for anyone who calls on her. Anyone who prays to Mary no longer feels alone because she prays with them and for them.**

***Prayer for the Synod***

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.