**ST JOSEPH’S PARISH**

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

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 **Palm Sunday Year C**

 **10th April 202**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 23rd July 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon**

**See, I have God for my help.**

**The Lord sustains my soul.**

**I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,**

**and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.**

**First Reading** [**Wisdom 12:13.16-19**](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cwis%23wis012)

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

**In the place of sin, you give repentance.**

**There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,**

**to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.**

**Your justice has its source in strength,**

**your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.**

**You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned**

**and you expose the insolence of those who know it;**

**but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,**

**you govern us with great lenience,**

**for you have only to will, and your power is there.**

**By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people**

**how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,**

**and you have given your sons the good hope**

**that after sin you will grant repentance.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

**1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,**

**full of love to all who call.**

**Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer**

**and attend to the sound of my voice. (R.)**

**2. All the nations shall come to adore you**

**and glorify your name, O Lord:**

**for you are great and do marvellous deeds,**

**you who alone are God. (R.)**

**3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,**

**slow to anger, O Lord,**

**abounding in love and truth,**

**turn and take pity on me. (R.)**

**Second Reading** [**Romans 8:26-27**](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Crom%23rom008)

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

**The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.**

**The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;**

**you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.**

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** [**Matthew 13:24-43**](file:////ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmtw%23mtw013)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**Let them grow together until the harvest.**

**Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this” he answered. And the servants said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”’**

**He put another parable before them, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.’**

**He told them another parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.’**

**In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:**

**I will speak to you in parables**

**and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.**

**Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.’ He said in reply, ‘The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’**

**Communion Antiphon**

**The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,**

**has made a memorial of his wonders;**

**he gives food to those who fear him.**

**Reflection *by Bishop Robert Baron***

**God is always teaching us and, in the parables, today he shows us the emergence of the Kingdom from the seeds he has sown. Parables, like paintings or poetry have so many different layers as opposed to just plain speech which has a singular meaning. Jesus uses them to create images in our minds so that we can continually draw fresh meaning from them. Why does God permit the evil to grow alongside the good? Why does He permit some to reject the Word of His kingdom? In his goodness God gives us all until our last breath to turn back to him. But he also shows us with the darnel that in tricky or difficult situations it’s best to leave things to Him, the divine physician. Tearing up the weeds isn’t always the best answer.**

**Great things come from small beginnings with God’s providence. This is the mustard seed principle. Look at the lives of the saints, at Mother Teresa who as one person went into the worst slum in the world and now has communities all over the world; just one person. What can we learn from this? Don’t worry about doing great things, worry about being faithful. Sow the seed that has been given to you and let God worry about what will come of it.**

**The third parable is like the one before where the yeast, the Kingdom of God, influences the whole loaf which is the world. So, by our living in tune with God’s ways, the grain of yeast slowly spreads the goodness and bounty of God. In time it will come to affect the whole of society. Don’t worry about doing great things, live right now in the smallest way, in line with the Kingdom and let God, in His providence, bring it to full expression.**

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

**Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326**

**Parish Email: ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au**

**Recent Deaths:
Anniversaries: Jim Healy, Bill Monaghan**

**Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill, Kath Monaghan and Fr Shaiju’s mother.
May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace. 🙏**

Sunday 30th July

Ouyen: 11:00am

Welcomer: Gerald Leach

Reader: Marie Shaddock

Prayers of the Faithful: Merril Boland

Offertory Procession: Louise & Gerald Leach

Eucharistic Minister: Leo O’Callaghan

Projectionist: Carmel Vallance

**Collections 16th July**

**Ouyen: $231.00**

**Planned Giving: $150.00**

**Mass Timetable**

**Ouyen**  **each Sunday at 11:00am**

**Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am**

**No Mass at Underbool while Father is away.**

**Church Cleaning:**

**July: The Grace Family**

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

**July: Faye Nihill**

**Pope’s Prayer Intention for July: For a Eucharistic life** - We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

**Feast Days this Week**

**24th St Charbel -Maronite monk of Lebanon who died in 1898. He is known for his holiness, his ability to unite Christians and Muslims and his healings.**

**25th St James Apostle- brother to St John.**

**26th St Joachim & Anne- parents of Mary & grandparents of Jesus**

**29th Sts Mary, Martha & Lazarus- Beloved friends of Jesus who lived in Bethany on the other side of the mount of Olives. Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus after 4 days in the tomb.**

**No Weekday Masses while Father is away.**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Thursday from 2:30pm – 5:30pm, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy said at 3pm and the Rosary at 4pm; all welcome.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Father will be**

**available after the 11:00am Mass, or at any other time by appointment.**

**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 with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, to protect religious freedom within our institutions. We pray for the pastorally sensitive formation of children in accordance with sound biological anthropology and the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Australia's patronesses, Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen.**

**Please note** that on the 3rd of August Father will be attending a meeting in Melbourne and will not be here for lunch at the bakery however, the **lunch will go ahead** for anyone that would like to come. Father will stay in Ouyen on the Thursday night, ready for Mass on Friday morning. More details about the Thursday nearer the time.

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**This weekend we welcome Fr Ed back to the Mallee. Thanks for coming Father we appreciate your being with us.**

**This Sunday** **is** **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. It is a time when the Pope encourages us to celebrate the contribution of older people to their families and communities. In our times it is older people who contribute so much to our society through their donation of time and presence. Far from being useless, the wisdom of experience and the generosity of time, skills and storytelling is invaluable to our society. The aim of this day is not to celebrate our elderly loved ones once a year, but celebrating their contribution, past or present, and making them feel an integral part of our Christian family and society**. **The theme, "His mercy is from age to age” reminds us that God's mercy is manifested in history through the testimonies of those who have experienced it and passed it on to their children and grandchildren. Grandparents and the elderly are called to carry this mercy, to tell through words and life how God has been faithful to His promises and how He continues to love His people. They are also called to receive God's mercy, and to allow themselves to be comforted by His fatherly love that never abandons them.**

**The Good Oil 2023 Writers’ Award** Entries are invited for The Good Oil 2023 Writers’ Award, an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The theme for this year’s award is “Finding My Voice.” Entry is free and open to both emerging and published writers.  For more information go to  <https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/the-good-oil-2023-writers-award-finding-my-voice>

**Vinnies Winter Appeal -** Vinnies are experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time.  Donations can be made at all Vinnes Shops, on 131812. Donations over $2.00 are tax deductible.

**A Message from Fr Shaiju:** I am doing well here and preparing myself to travel back to Australia. My mother got discharged last Monday from the hospital and now she’s getting better and improving her health. Today just as I finished my Mass and back to my room I got a surprise chance to celebrate Mass at the tomb of Saint Alphonsa an Indian Saint. Her feast comes on the 28th of July but now the celebration of feast started with Novena and Masses. I remembered all of you and in a special way I prayed for our parish. It’s really a blessing for me and believe for our community too. Hope to see you next weekend, regards Fr Shaiju.

**Fr Anthony** is spending 7 weeks in India before flying to New York on 26th August

**St James 25th July - He was a fisherman and the first of the apostles to be martyred. After the death of Jesus, he travelled around parts of Spain spreading the Good News. In the year 40, while praying for help on the banks of the Erbo River, Our Lady bilocated from Jerusalem where she was living to advise and console him. After returning to Jerusalem where he was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I in the year 44, to please the Jewish opponents of Christianity. His martyrdom is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles(12:2) Originally buried in Jerusalem, his relics were transported (miraculously) to Santiago de Compostela. He patron of Spain & pilgrims.**

**What’s Happening When . . .**

**Sunday 23rd July** Fr Ed Moloney

**Sunday 30th July** Fr Shaiju returns for Mass; Baptism of Laney Jardine

**Thursday 3rd August** -12 pm **Lunch** at the Bakery, all welcome; **Adoration** 2 - 5pm; **(Father in Melb)**

**Thursday 17th August** - **Adoration** 3 – 5:25pm, **Mass** 5:30 pm followed by **Dinner** at the Club 6pm