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

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 **The Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B 28th January 2024**

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, O Lord our God!

And gather us from the nations,

to give thanks to your holy name,

and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading [Deuteronomy 18:15-20](https://www.liturgyhelp.com/ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cdeu#deu018)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*I will put my words into the prophet’s mouth, and he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

Responsorial Psalm

R.) If today, you hear his voice,

harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;

hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,

with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;

let us kneel before the God who made us

for he is our God and we

the people who belong to his pasture,

the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as on that day at Massah in the desert

when your fathers put me to the test;

when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ (R.)

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 7:32-35](https://www.liturgyhelp.com/ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cco1#co1007)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:

a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:21-28](https://www.liturgyhelp.com/ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmrk#mrk001)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Last week, Jesus announced the kingdom of God is at hand. This week, in mighty words and deeds, He exercises His dominion—asserting royal authority over the ruler of this world, Satan.

Notice that today’s events take place on the sabbath. The sabbath was to be an everlasting sign, both of God’s covenant love for His creation and His deliverance of His covenant people, Israel, from slavery.

On this sabbath, Jesus signals a new creation—that the Holy One has come to purify His people and deliver the world from evil.

“With an unclean spirit” is biblical language for a man possessed by a demon, Satan being the prince of demons. The demons’ question: “What have you to do with us?” is often used in Old Testament scenes of combat and judgment. And as God by His Word “rebuked” the forces of chaos in creating the world, and again rebuked the Red Sea so the Israelites could make their exodus, Mark uses the same word to describe Jesus rebuking the demons.

Jesus is the prophet foretold by Moses in today’s First Reading. Though He has authority over heaven and earth, He becomes one of our own kinsmen. He comes to rebuke the forces of evil and chaos—not only in the world, but in our lives. He wants to make us holy in body and spirit, as Paul says in today’s Epistle. And as Moses tells us today, we should listen to Him.

St Joseph’s Parish

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

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

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

**Pope’s Prayer intention for January**: **For the diversity of gifts in the Church** – Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us to recognise 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 29th February**, 6:30pm at the Club following Adoration & Rosary at 5pm, Mass at 5:30pm and a talk by Fr John – all welcome.

**Father Shaiju is taking two weeks of his annual leave**.
He will be **away from January 22nd, 2024, to 9th February, 2024**. In his absence, **Father Jim McKay** will be his replacement. **During this time,** there will be **No Weekday Masses.**

**Mass Changes in February A rotating roster of priest’s consisting of:** Fr Shaiju, Fr Matt, and Fr John, for Masses, will recommenceon the second weekend of February. Each priest will travel to Manangatang, Robinvale, Ouyen or Mildura at least once a month. This will mainly be for the Sunday Masses but may also include weekday Masses.

**Wanted: 1 or 2 people** to represent our Parish at the Mass of the Oils in Ballarat on Monday 25th March. The Mass of the Oils is at 11:30 am this year, volunteers are required to take up a photo of our Parish to be placed on a table (with those of every other Parish) and to collect our Oils. For more information, please see Marie.

**Wisdom from the Saints: "Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."** *St Thérèse of Lisieux*

**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**

***Recent Deaths****:* **Kevin Shaddock**

***Anniversaries:***

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

**Sunday 4th February**

**Welcomer: Marlene O’Callaghan**

**Reader: Gerald Leach**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Margaret Collins**

**Offertory Procession: Kathy Loxton & Cheryl Anderson**

**Eucharistic Minister: Peter Shaddock**

**Projectionist: Marie Shaddock**

**Collections: 21st January**

**Underbool $20.00**

**Ouyen $225.75**

**Planned Giving $250.00**

**January Church CleaningPeter & Marie Shaddock**

**Presbytery:Cheryl Anderson**

**Mass Times*:***

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays at 9am except while Father is away.**

**Weekday Masses this wee*k***

**No weekday Masses while Fr Shaiju is away.**

***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**

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**This week we welcome Fr Jim back to be with us while Fr Shaiju is on holiday. We hope the weather, and maybe the fishing, are better here than in Ballarat?**

**Thank you from the Immaculata Community**: Please see the email received from the Immaculata Community on the table with the bulletins. Over the years we have been able to donate items from some of our churches that were needed by the Community.

**Last chance for a Columban Calendar, see Marie today if you would like one.**

**Lenten Discussion books** will be available next week, they are $9.00

**Wednesday the 14th of February (Valentine’s Day) is the beginning of Lent this year. Father will be saying the Ash Wednesday Mass in Ouyen at 11:00am. We will also be having a Lenten discussion group of an evening for anyone that is interested. The cost of the booklet is $9.00, it is a valuable accompaniment to Lent whether you choose to join the group or just read it at home. Please see Marie if you would like a copy.**

**What’s happening in the Parish . . .**

**Monday 22nd January - Father Shaiju away on holidays**

**Sunday 28th January - Fr Jim here for Mass**

**Sunday 4th February – Fr Jim here for Mass**

**Friday 9th February - Father Shaiju Returns**

**Sunday 11th February – Fr John here for Mass – new rotation of priests begins**

**Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday – 11:00am Mass**

**Friday 16th February – 9:00 am Mass at Underbool; 10:30 Mass in Ouyen; 7:00pm Lenten Discussion group at the Shaddock’s – Weekday Masses resume**

**Sunday 18th February – Fr Shaiju here for Mass**

**Thursday 29th February – Next Social gathering with Fr John as guest speaker: Adoration from 2:30pm, Rosary 5:00pm, Mass 5:30pm, Fr John’s talk 6:00pm, Dinner at the Club 6:30pm.**

**Friday 1st March 7:00pm – World Day of Prayer, hosted by St Joseph’s**

**Something to Smile at . . .**

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter. There were 10 men and one woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to let go, otherwise they were all going to fall. No one could decide who that person should be until the woman gave a very touching speech. She said she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband, her kids and for people in general, and was used to making sacrifices with little in return. As soon as she finished her speech, all the men starting clapping.