



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Underbool, Walpeup

Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu in Robinvale: (03) 5026 3068

Ouyen Parish Office: 5092 1330; Parish Contact Person: Mrs Faye Nihill 5092 1326

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Les Healy

Sick: Susan O'Sullivan, Kate Walsh, Chris Burns, Joan Bathgate, Terri Scott, Mark Weir, Cate Poynton, Josette Sultana, Josephine Sciberras, Laura Burns and Denis Poynton.

May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace.

6th December - Assembly Week 1

Ouyen: 9:00 am

Reader: Marlene O'Callaghan

Prayers of the Faithful: Margaret Collins

Eucharistic Minister: Leo O'Callaghan

Leader: Louise Leach

13th December - Mass Week 2

Ouyen: 11:00 am

Reader: Margaret Prentice

Prayers of the Faithful: Flora Moulder

Offertory Procession: Merril & John Boland

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 22.11. 2020

Ouyen: \$172.80

Planned Giving: \$159.00

Church Cleaning:

December – Cheryl Anderson and Celia Reidy

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Thursday from 2-6pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm & Rosary at 4pm for the needs and intentions of the Parish

Procedures and Precautions for Mass:

~Face masks are to be worn at all times except when receiving Communion or Reading from the lectern.

~Hand sanitizer must be used (before signing in)

~You will be required to fill in tracing details prior to Mass

~Social distancing of must be adhered to

~The "Sign of Peace" will be via a gesture

~There will be one line for receiving Communion, distance needs to be kept within the line

~Communion is only under one species

~Seats used in Mass need to be wiped down after Mass.

Thank-You to all those who helped with the

Sleep funeral on Tuesday. The family was very impressed with the food and so grateful for the service provided. Well done everyone - again!

CWL – Extra-ordinary Meeting after Mass

A very short meeting outside under the vines (north side) for those concerned to decide our future. A simple Yes or No is all we need to make the decision.

Christmas Mass this year will be at 8:30am

Christmas Morning (25th December)

A new directive resulting from the Royal

Commission means that **ALL PARISH**

VOLUNTEERS require a Working With

Children Check and/or Police Check. These

(WWCC) can be completed online, are free and

can be done in the parish office. For more

information, please see Marie.

Get More out of Advent Discussion Groups –

in the flesh! Beginning Wednesday 2nd at

10:00am in the Parish Centre, booklets are \$4

each and have reflections for each day. Please

contact Marie if you are interested or would just

like a booklet.

St Mary MacKillop Commemorative Rosary

beads have arrived for those who were/are

interested. A pair will be hanging on our Lady's statue in the parish centre; cost is \$40.

Aid to the Church in Need Christmas cards

have arrived. A pack of 12 cards is \$15 and

proceeds go to help those Christians around the

world who are in urgent need as well as: priests,

seminarians and religious in countries where there is poverty and persecution.

Columban Calendars have arrived for those

who ordered them. Please see Margaret or Cheryl

for yours. Calendars are \$9.00 and we do have a

couple of spares if you would like one.

Catholic Care Victoria: Victoria's bishops have

announced the merging of CatholicCare

Melbourne and Gippsland, and Sandhurst as well

as Centacare Ballarat, to form a single, new entity,

'CatholicCare Victoria' from January 1, 2021.

Further information is available from the diocesan website.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH IS A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Parish Safety Officer: Mrs Marie Shaddock 0417 660 893

December is the Month of the Divine Infancy

Watch For Him: Scott Hahn reflects on the First Sunday in Advent

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading. In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people.

Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today—as the people of Israel recognise their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

In this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father. The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning—repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel—to be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

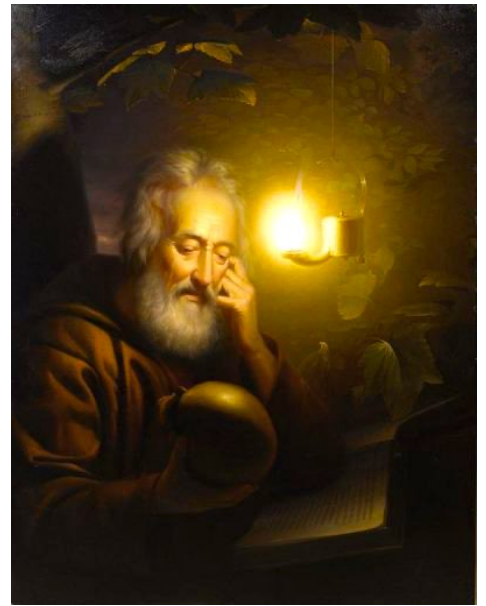
The symbolism of the Advent wreath

The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolise life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolise the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time, as well as the four virtues that Jesus brings us: Hope Peace Joy and Love. The rose candle, a symbol of Joy, is lit on the third Sunday. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolises the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Plenary Council Update

The journey to the Plenary Council 2021 continues slowly. While it is in a context more different and difficult than we could have ever expected, the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever. The six discernment papers have been released and are available to read at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/ead>, however we as a parish will be waiting until the next year before doing anything more.

What have you done for your Faith today?



St Jerome, translator of the bible, contemplating the inevitability of death