

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent

26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### First Reading

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is  
faithless.

From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

### First Reading Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

**I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. **(R.)**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.

(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

### Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

**If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from  
the dead is living in you, then he will give life  
to your own mortal bodies.**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

### Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel Jn 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John

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### **I am the resurrection and the life.**

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied:

‘Are there not twelve hours in the day?  
A man can walk in the daytime without  
stumbling  
because he has the light of this world to see by;  
but if he walks at night he stumbles,  
because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.  
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies  
he will live,

and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.

Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.  
I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand  
round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent  
me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

### **Communion Antiphon**

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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Parish Administrator: Fr Anthony Nagothu (03) 5026 3068  
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**Recent Deaths:** Stella Greer (Patche)  
**Anniversaries:** Kate Walsh  
**Sick:** Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Eleanor Healy 🙏

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

**Palm Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Ouyen: 11:00am**  
**Reader: Marie Shaddock**  
**Prayers of the Faithful: Flora Moulder**  
**Offertory Procession: Bosco Family**  
**Eucharistic Minister: Leo O'Callaghan**  
**Projectionist: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach**

**Collections 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**Ouyen: \$279.70**  
**Planned Giving: \$195.00**  
**Church Cleaning:**  
**April: Carmel Vallance**  
**Presbytery Cleaning:**  
**April: Celia Reidy**

**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 for the Holy atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Mass Timetable**

Wk 1 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 2 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 3 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 4 U'Bool	Mass	9:00am	Sunday
Wk 4 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday
Wk 5 Ouyen	Mass	11:00am	Sunday

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** each Thursday from 2pm-5pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm & Rosary 4pm; all welcome.

**Next week is Palm Sunday** and as usual we will start outside on the front steps with the blessing of the palms and process inside after the commemoration of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. We will need extra readers for the Passion, as well as volunteers throughout Holy Week. If you can help, please see Marie after Mass.

**Proposed Easter Mass Times:**

Holy Thursday 7pm  
Good Friday 3pm  
Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil -7pm

**Pope's Prayer Intention for March: For victims of abuse** - We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**Prayer for Religious Freedom**

Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, our community of faith, to protect religious freedom within our religious educational 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.

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."  
Mother Teresa*

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### *Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn*

As we draw near to the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' passion and death in view. That's why John gives us the detail about Lazarus' sister, Mary - that she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial. His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will "die with Him" if they go back. When Lazarus is raised, John notices the tombstone being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering - these are all details he later notices in Jesus' empty tomb. Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity. He stands for "dead men" - for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death.

**Parish Appointments:** Fr Anthony Nagothu has asked to spend twelve months with the Oratorian Community in New York. In view of Fr Anthony's move, Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Shaiju Mathew MST as Administrator of Robinvale and Ouyen. His appointment to Robinvale and Ouyen will take effect on April 20. As a result of Fr Shaiju's move, Fr John Corrigan has been appointed as Assistant Priest in the Parishes of Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs. Fr Corrigan is currently serving in the South West Coast Parish. His appointment to Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs will take effect on April 20.



**Lenten discussion group** – this is our final week on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at the home of Peter & Marie, 7:30pm; all welcome!

**25<sup>th</sup> March Feast of the Annunciation:** The Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel came to ask Mary to be the mother of God is the central point of human history. All of the Old Testament pointed to Christ entering the world. This was only possible because Mary said "Yes." She agreed not only with bearing Jesus but raising Him and with enduring the pain, suffering and confusion associated with this. God willed to entrust His plan of salvation into the hands of a woman. This is also our role whenever we are open to God's will. God does not need us, but He wants us to work with Him. What a privilege! In the Annunciation we see the great things that God can bring about when we co-operate with Him.

**Aid the Church in Need** has opened an emergency appeal for the people in Northern Syria. They have already mobilised over \$770,000 of immediate aid to Christians in Syria in the wake of the earthquake that killed more than 30,000 people in that country and in neighbouring Turkey. The charity is working with local project partners to firm up an emergency aid package with a focus on two key areas- minor & major repairs in Aleppo and secondly blankets and food packages. To donate call: 1800101201 this is a free call within Australia.

### **What's Happening When**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April – Palm Sunday** – Fr Anthony to say Mass - **Father's farewell will now be on the 16th.**

**6<sup>th</sup> April – Holy Thursday** – Fr Jim McKay – 7:00pm Mass

**7<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday** – Fr Jim McKay – 3:00pm

**8<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Vigil** – Fr Jim McKay – 7:pm

**16<sup>th</sup> April – Divine Mercy Sunday** – **Fr Anthony's last Mass & Farewell**, please bring a plate to share.

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