

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



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

25th June 2023

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.

First Reading [Jer 20:10-13](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*He has delivered the soul of the needy from
the hands of those who are evil.*

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be
theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with
justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. **(R.)**
2. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. **(R.)**
3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Rom 5:12-15](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against
him.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and
through sin death, and thus death has spread
through the whole human race because everyone
has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before
the Law was given. There was no law and so no
one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking',
yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses,
even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was
not a matter of breaking a law.

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Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

Gospel Acclamation [Jn 15:26. 27](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witnesses.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 10:26-33](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Our commitment to Christ will be put to the test. We will hear whispered warnings and denunciations, as Jeremiah does in today's First Reading. Even so-called friends will try to trap and trip us up. For His sake we will bear insults

and be made outcasts—even in our own homes, we hear in today's Psalm.

Jeremiah tells us, we must expect that God will challenge our faith in Him, and probe our minds and hearts, to test the depths of our love.

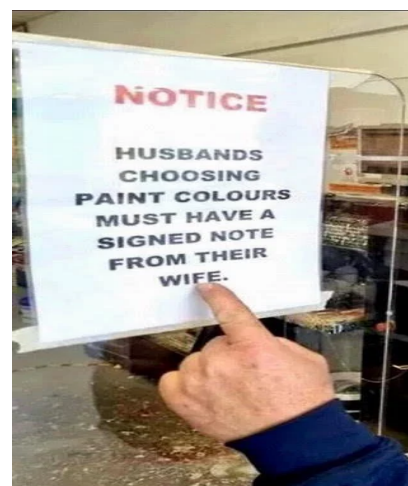
"Do not be afraid," Jesus assures us three times in today's Gospel. Though He may permit us to suffer for our faith, our Father will never forget or abandon us. As Jesus assures us today, everything unfolds in His providence, under His watchful gaze—even the falling of the tiniest sparrow to the ground. Each one of us is precious to Him.

Steadfast in this faith, we must resist the tactics of Satan. He is the enemy who seeks the ruin of our soul in Gehenna, or hell.

We are to seek God, as the Psalmist says. Zeal for the Lord's house, for the heavenly kingdom of the Father, should consume us, as it consumed Jesus. As Jesus bore the insults of those who blasphemed God, so should we.

By the gracious gift of Himself, Jesus bore the transgressions of the world, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. In rising from the dead, He has shown us that God rescues the life of the poor, that He does not spurn His own when they are in distress. In His great mercy, He will turn toward us, as well. He will deliver us from the power of the wicked.

That is why we proclaim His name from the housetops, as Jesus tells us. That is why we sing praise and offer thanksgiving in every Eucharist. We are confident in Jesus' promise—that we who declare our faith in Him before others will be remembered before our heavenly Father.



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OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Kath Monaghan.

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

Sunday 2nd July

Ouyen: 11:00am

Welcomer: Lorna Keam

Reader: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Prayers of the Faithful: Gerald Leach

Offertory Procession: Jona & Jessica Kilaton

Eucharistic Minister: Peter Shaddock

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections 18th June

Ouyen: \$ 183.00

Planned Giving: \$110.00

Mass Timetable

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4th Sunday at 9:00am

Weekday Masses this week: Friday at 10:00

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.

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

27th St Cyril of Alexandria

28th St Irenaeus

29th Sts Peter & Paul

Next weekend we have the Pope's Collection – which will be taken up after Communion and is for the pastoral care of people throughout the world.

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.

Father Shaiju will be on holidays throughout July. So, rather than our start and stop, our social gatherings we will begin on Thursday 3rd of August, 12pm at the Bakery (for those who would rather not go out at night). This will be followed by an evening meal on Thursday 17th, 6pm at the Ouyen Club. Father will be saying Mass at 5:30 pm on both these nights, as well as the usual Friday Mass.

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Do you know of anyone in our community who would like **communion** brought to their home on a regular basis? Father Shaiju is happy to do some **home visits to the elderly/housebound and lonely**. **Please see either Father, Faye, Carmel or Marie if you would like to arrange something.**

Calvary Hospital – Update - Calvary hospital is taking legal action against the ACT compulsory acquisition.

Vinnies Winter Appeal The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal will focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Vinnies are also experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time. Donations can be made at all Vinnies Shops, on 131812 and <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal> Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

The Power of One Hail Mary – The following is a true story that happened this year and is taken from the National Catholic Register (an American publication) and is also reprinted in “The Two Hearts” On a Saturday morning early this year, a man was running, as usual, in a Pittsburgh neighbourhood. On his route, he passed a house where there was an ambulance in the driveway. The house's front door and garage doors were open. “Growing up, every time you heard any type of siren — ambulance or police car — you made the Sign of the Cross and said a prayer for those in need and protection for those involved. That was second nature to me,” the man told the National Register. “One thing different on that occasion was I always said that prayer but never felt compelled to say a [particular] prayer. That was the one thing that was different than anything else. And the first prayer that came to mind [that day] was the Hail Mary.” The man thought of stopping and helping, but since he has no first-aid training, he decided to keep running, although he wondered if he was wrong not to stop. Yet he prayed: “God, if that ambulance is still parked in that driveway, I will stop and see if I can give assistance.” On his run back, he reported, “The ambulance was not there, there were no lights in house, the garage door was shut, and the front door was shut.” The following Thursday, after work, the man was running in the same neighbourhood. Approaching the house where he had seen the ambulance, he saw a lady “at the edge of the driveway of that house, and she started waving her hand, and she said, ‘Stop. Please stop,’” the man recalled. “So, I came to the edge of the driveway, and she said, ‘Thank you for stopping, sir. I need to talk to you. I have to thank you because you saved my life.’” Puzzled, he asked, “How did I save your life?” Then, she told him “Let me tell you what happened to me last week.” Alone at home, she suddenly started feeling strange and blacked out. She knew she was dying. She told him how, before finding herself in a hospital bed and about to regain consciousness, “she got a vision of Jesus who came to her, and said, ‘It's okay. Everything is going to be fine. You're going to be fine because this person prayed for you.’” “On the palm of Jesus' hand was your face — on Jesus' hand,” she told him, recounting what went through her mind. “And I thought, ‘I have to thank you for saving my life.’” “And how do you react to something like that?” the man told the National Register. “I was speechless. I didn't know what to say, except, Thank you.” The man's parish priest commented, “One of the things I love about the story is that “X” told me was, **as he was jogging**, he didn't fold his hands, didn't kneel down, and that's how attentive our Blessed Mother is and Our Lord is to us. St. Thérèse talked about prayer as turning one's heart to God. Prayer with full intention and with the heart is the way God wants us to pray.” He reminds us that although we know God doesn't always answer a prayer when we want and how we want, “No prayer, no sigh of the heart isn't heard and acted upon by God.”

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