

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



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

30<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his  
people.

### First Reading [1 Kings 3:5.7-12](#)

A reading from the first book of the Kings

**You have asked for wisdom.**

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me

than silver and gold. **(R.)**

2. Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live  
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light  
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

### Second Reading [Romans 8:28-30](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

**He predestined us to become true images of his Son.**

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

### 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!

St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish  
Parish Safety Officer: Mrs Melanie Grace 0477 846 777

## **Gospel** [Matthew 13:44-52](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**He sells everything he owns and buys the field.**

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

## **Communion Antiphon**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.

## **Reflection** *adapted from Bishop Robert Barron & Dr Scott Hahn*

What would you choose if God were to ask you what you wanted as he did with the young Solomon? What we answer reveals a lot about our soul.

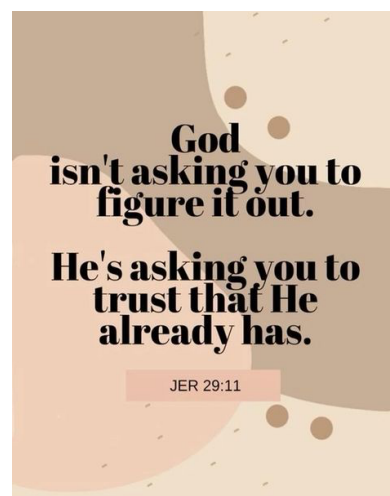
Solomon could have asked for all the usual things, as God points out, such as wealth, long life etc. but without the wisdom to know how to use those things best, they wouldn't amount to anything good. As in the case of King Midas who wanted everything he touched to turn to gold and in turn ended up losing the very things/people he

loved the most as he turned them into gold. So what is our "treasure"? And

The background for today's Gospel, as it has been for the past several weeks, is the rejection of Jesus' preaching by Israel. The kingdom of heaven has come into their midst; yet, many cannot see that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, a gift of divine compassion given so that they, and we, might live.

Sometimes we chance upon a treasure, sometimes we search diligently for that treasure. When you find that treasure you must sell everything you have - you abandon all your preoccupations. The demand of the Gospel is that you can't leave it alone it has to be first in your life not second or third. The third parable is a bit more sobering. In the first two parables we either stumble across God as in finding a hidden treasure or search Him out as if looking for a perfect pearl. The third parable shows us that at the end of the day God will find us. Whether we are ready or not, whether we are saints and sinners for all of us there will be a day of judgement. And Jesus' message to us is "get ready."

The final image we are left with is that of the scribe, who is us - since we have received God's word. To bring out 'old and new' implies that we reverence things that are old, that is the history and traditions of the Church. Jesus is saying to us that we need to love the old, but balance that with the "new" or the Holy Spirit who is alive and active in the church, particularly in the Word of God. The two work together.



**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH**  
**OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL**  
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068  
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill Ph: 0429 921 326  
Parish Email: [ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**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 6<sup>th</sup> August**

**Ouyen: 11:00am**

**Welcomer: Lorna Keam**

**Reader: Merrill Boland**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Flora Moulder**

**Offertory Procession: Margaret Collins & Cheryl Anderson**

**Eucharistic Minister: Lorna Keam**

**Projectionist: Marie Shaddock**

**Collections 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

**Ouyen: \$183.00**

**Planned Giving: \$100.00**

**Mass Timetable**

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00am

**Weekday Masses resume Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August.**

**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:**

**August: Shaddock Family**

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

**August: Marie Shaddock**

**Pope's Prayer Intention for August: For the World Youth Day -** We pray that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

**Feast Days this Week**

**31<sup>st</sup> St Ignatius Loyola – founder of the Jesuits**

**1<sup>st</sup> St Alphonsus Ligouri – founder of the Redemptorists**

**3<sup>rd</sup> St Dominic – founder of the Dominicans**

**4<sup>th</sup> St Jean Vianney/ Curé of Ars – patron of parish priests**

**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.

**Welcome back Fr Shaiju!** We hope you had a good break and have recovered from the flight back.

**Please note** that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

**St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish**  
**Parish Safety Officer: Mrs Melanie Grace 0477 846 777**



**This weekend** we welcome Laney Jardine into our parish family. Laney is the third child of Megan and Dean Jardine of Ouyen. May God bless you all and fill you with his love, peace and joy. We pray especially for Laney that, filled with the Holy Spirit, she will grow to be a vibrant and active member of our parish.

**World Youth Day 2023 starts this Tuesday in Portugal** from August 1-6. More than 3000 Australian pilgrims will attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. **Please pray for the five people from the Diocese of Ballarat attending:** Grace Doherty and Anna Whiting (St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill students); Gerry Vytilingam (St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill staff member); John-Paul Walker (Linton & Sebastopol Parishes); Laura Bruty (Linton Parish & Australian Catholic University Ballarat Campus).

**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 Vinnies Shops, on 131812. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

### **Something to Smile About . . .**

An elderly man had had serious hearing problems for a number of years which often resulted in squabbles with his wife. He finally went to a specialist and had a set of hearing aids fitted that resulted in almost 100% hearing. He went back in a month for a check-up.

The specialist said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

---

An elderly woman prepared her will and told her local priest she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over the local shopping centre. "Shopping centre" the priest exclaimed. "Why, for heaven's sake?" "That way I can be sure my daughter will visit me twice a week."

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

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July** Fr Shaiju returns for Mass; Baptism of Lainey Jardine

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

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August** – Mass at 10:00 am

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

**St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish**  
**Parish Safety Officer: Mrs Melanie Grace 0477 846 777**