

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



**The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

### Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### First Reading [Ezekiel 33:7-9](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.)** O that today you would listen to 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 bow 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 [Romans 13:8-10](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

### Gospel Acclamation

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

## Gospel [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

## Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

## Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

As Ezekiel is appointed watchman over the house of Israel in today's first Reading, so Jesus in the Gospel today establishes His

disciples as guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church.

He also puts in place procedures for dealing with sin and breaches of the faith, building on rules of discipline prescribed by Moses for Israel. The heads of the new Israel, however, receive extraordinary powers—similar to those given to Peter (see [Matthew 16:19](#)). They have the power to bind and loose, to forgive sins and to reconcile sinners in His name (see [John 20:21-23](#)).

But the powers He gives the Apostles, and their successors depend on their communion with Him. As Ezekiel is only to teach what he hears God saying, so the disciples are to gather in His name and to pray and seek the will of our heavenly Father.

Today's readings are more than a lesson in Church order. They also suggest how we're to deal with those who trespass against us, a theme that we'll hear in next week's readings as well.

Notice that both the Gospel and the First Reading presume that believers have a duty to correct sinners in our midst. Ezekiel is even told that he will be held accountable for their souls if he fails to speak out and try to correct them.

This is the love that Paul in today's Epistle says we owe to our neighbours. To love our neighbours as ourselves is to be vitally concerned for their salvation. We must make every effort, as Jesus says, to win our brothers and sisters back, to turn them from the false paths.

We should never correct out of anger or a desire to punish. Instead, our message must be that of today's Psalm—urging the sinner to hear God's voice, not to harden their hearts, and to remember that He is the one who made us, the rock of our salvation.

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH**  
**OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL**  
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068  
Parish Contact Person: Faye Nihill 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,  
& Kath Monaghan

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

***Welcomer:*** Louise  
Fitzpatrick Leach

***Reader:*** Carmel Vallance

***Prayers of the Faithful:***  
Lorna Keam

***Offertory Procession:*** Val  
Latta & Margaret Collins

***Eucharistic Minister:*** Gerald  
Leach

***Projectionist:*** Marie  
Shaddock

***Collections 3<sup>rd</sup> September***

Ouyen \$246.00

Planned Giving \$2045.00

***September Church Cleaning***

Carmel Vallance & Marlene  
O'Callaghan

***Presbytery*** Marie Shaddock

***Mass Times***

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

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

***Weekday Masses this week***

Friday at 10am

***Sacrament of Reconciliation***

Father will be available after  
the 11am Mass or any time  
by appointment.

***Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament***

Thursdays from 2:30 –  
5:30pm

***Pope's Prayer Intention for September:*** For people living on the margins – We pray for those people living on the margins of society in inhumane living conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

***Next Social Gathering:*** Thursday 21st September, 6pm at the Club

***Feast Days this Week:***

**12th Most Holy Name of Mary**

**13th St John Chrysostom (349-407) Bishop & Doctor of the Church.** He was born in Antioch, his eloquence gained him his name which means "golden mouth." He was sent into exile twice by the Emperor and died while being sent even further away so dangerous/powerful did his preaching seem.

**14th The Exaltation of the Cross** celebrates the finding of the true Cross in 320 by St Helena. More than that it celebrates the victory gained by Jesus over death and the redemption of the whole human race.

**15th Our Lady of Sorrows** This feast commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels.

**16th Sts Cornelius & Cyprian:** St Cornelius became Pope in 251 during the persecutions of the Emperor Decius. A great controversy that arose as a result of the Decian persecution was whether or not the Church could pardon and receive back into the Church those who had apostatised in the face of martyrdom. St Cyprian was a close friend of the Pope and supported him in his attempt to readmit those who had denied their faith. Cornelius was exiled in 253 and died as a result of his harsh treatment.

***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 sensitive and appropriate formation of children in accordance with the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen





***Piety Stall*** – We are in the process of ordering more items for our Piety Stall. If you have any requests, specific or general please see Marie before the end of the month.

***Church Photos*** – For some time now we have wanted to include photos of our other churches along the back wall of the church. If you have some and would like to donate any of: either of the Tempy churches, Walpeup, Underbool or Patchewollock churches please see Faye, Cheryl, Susan or Marie.

***From Bishop Paul – The Ballarat Diocese 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary*** occurs on March 30, which in 2024 happens to be Holy Saturday. While we will be able to mark the 150th anniversary at Easter, we could celebrate the whole of 2024 as an anniversary year. I invite parishes to mark the 150th anniversary at Masses on the weekend of April 27-28, with some special prayers and some reflections on the history of our diocese. I would encourage each parish and each school to celebrate their own history in the context of the one hundred and fifty years of the history of the diocese. I'm sure local communities will also be able to come up with creative ways of telling their local story as part of the story of the diocese. I hope to mark the anniversary year with a personal visit to each parish. Our diocese began when the Pope appointed a bishop to look after the people of Western Victoria in 1874. I would love to celebrate the 150th anniversary year as bishop by visiting people throughout the diocese in the course of 2024, and I look forward to celebrating with as many local communities as possible. Our 150th anniversary will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care that are provided in our diocese today. The anniversary will be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full.

***This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday***, a time when we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance and our Diocese makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people.

***Sacred Heart College Ballarat Reunion*** A reunion of SHC Ballarat East class of 1965 plus anyone who attended SHC, will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at GC's Ballarat from 11.00am – 3.00pm. To attend email [loisknights345@hotmail.com](mailto:loisknights345@hotmail.com) or ph. 0419 902538.



***On Friday, the feast of Our Lady's Birthday***, the tapestry made by Racheal Cook and donated by Ellen Bonica was installed in the church after Mass. Many thanks Pud for your help 😊