

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



First Sunday of Advent Year B

3rd December 2023

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading [Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart
and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would
melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,

all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your
face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your
name. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 13:33-37](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

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, we also 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 recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

This Advent season, as we examine our consciences, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel - that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him. God is faithful, He is our Father. He has heard 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, who has let His face shine upon us. 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, and pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul tells us, 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: be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

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

Recent Deaths: Daryl Bush
Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Renae Lanigan

Sunday 10th December

Welcomer: Louise

Fitzpatrick Leach

Reader: Gerald Leach

Prayers of the Faithful: Leo O'Callaghan

Offertory Procession: Jona & Jessica Kilaton

Eucharistic Minister: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 26th November

Ouyen \$285.00

Planned Giving \$220.00

December Church Cleaning

Cheryl Anderson & Celia Reidy

Presbytery: Carmel Vallance

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays at 9am

Weekday Masses this week

Friday at 10:30am

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 December: For people with disabilities – We pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Next Social Gathering: Thursday 14th/21st December, 6pm at the Club, following Mass at 5:30. Rosary & Adoration.

Feast Days this Week: 6th St Nicholas was the bishop of Myra in 4th century Asia Minor, during the time of the Roman Empire. He was known for his great piety, love of the poor especially children, charity and zeal. He was also known as a wonder-worker because of the many miracles attributed to him. He suffered and survived torture and imprisonment for his faith and was later present at the Council of Nicaea.

7th St Ambrose was a theologian and statesman who served as Bishop of Milan from 374 to 397. He fiercely promoted Christianity against Arianism and paganism. He was known for his scholarship, service to the poor, oratory skills, leadership of the people, and defense of the Church. He was also the reason for St Augustine's conversion.

8th Immaculate Conception was formally defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854 but was universally believed throughout the centuries prior to this. The doctrine confirms that Our Lady was conceived without *Original Sin*, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered "Yes" to the request to be the Mother of God.

9th St Juan Diego was born about 1474 in the kingdom of Texcoco, part of present day Mexico. As an adult he and his wife embraced Christianity and were Baptised. In 1531 Our Lady appeared to him on the hill called Tepeyac near Mexico City and told him to ask the Bishop to have a church built on the spot. After a miracle with the imprinting of an image of Our Lady on Juan Diego's cloak the church was built in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He was known for the purity of his faith and humility. ***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 appropriate formation of children in accordance with the traditional teachings of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross. Amen



Christmas Cards: a range of Christmas cards of varying styles and prices will be available from next week at the piety stall. We are supporting two of our talented parishioners in Naomi Leach and Chloe Brady, as well as our regular Majellan cards. Come and see what is available at the piety stall.

Columban Calendars are available for \$10:00 and can be paid upon collection. Please see Marie, Cheryl or Faye.

Blessing of the graves will be 8th December (in Ouyen)

Christmas Mass Times: Underbool December 22nd at 9am;

Ouyen 11am Monday 25th December.

Advent Reconciliation/Confession: Friday 22nd after 10:30 Mass in Ouyen.

Ordination to the Diaconate: Our seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am. This is the last step before Ordination so please keep Cay in your prayers. All are welcome to attend on the 16th. The Mass will be livestreamed at https://youtube.com/live/fy7Ze_ysi_4?feature=share

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Volunteers for the Mass of the Oils As part of the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the working committee for the Mass of the Oils are looking for 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to attend the Mass of the Oils on Monday March 25, 2024 at 11.30am. Volunteers would be required to present a symbol or photo that best represents their parish at the beginning of the Mass. A parish volunteer is also required to collect the Oils for their parish. This can be the same person or a different person. More information will be provided about this from the Bishop's Office. Many parishes have multiple communities, so the symbol or photo can represent the whole parish or it can be something from the different communities. The symbol/photo framed should be 5in x 7in (12cm x 17.5cm) or for the larger parishes who may need more room, up to 8in x 10in (20cm x 25cm) size framed.

Significant Catholic Person from our Parish: As part of the Ballarat Diocese's 150th year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from each parish for a display to be presented after the Mass of the Oils on March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please give any suggestions to Father, Faye, Cheryl or Marie.

Announcement regarding CDF Merger: Bishop Paul Bird CSSR has made an announcement regarding the merger of our Ballarat Catholic Development Fund with the Melbourne-Sale-Bunbury Catholic Development Fund. Details are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/new-era-for-cdf/>

December 5, is International Volunteers Day: We remember especially all who help in our Parish 😊
God of glory, your beloved Son has shown us that true worship comes from humble and contrite hearts. Bless our volunteers who have responded to the needs of our parish and wish to commit themselves to your service. Grant that their ministry may be fruitful and our worship pleasing to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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