

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



The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

11th February 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your
name.

First Reading [Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46](#)

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone,
outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm

R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and
you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1](#)

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

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink,
whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of
God. Never do anything offensive to anyone
– to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God;
just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all
times, not anxious for my own advantage but
for the advantage of everybody else, so that
they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:40-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they
craved.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

In the Old Testament, leprosy is depicted as punishment for disobedience of God's commands.

Considered "unclean"—unfit to worship or live with the Israelites, lepers are considered "stillborn," the living dead. Indeed, the requirements imposed on lepers in today's First Reading—rent garments, shaven head,

covered beard—are signs of death, penance, and mourning.

So there's more to the story in today's Gospel than a miraculous healing.

When Elisha, invoking God's name, healed the leper, Naaman, it proved there was a prophet in Israel. Today's healing reveals Jesus as far more than a great prophet—He is God visiting His people.

Only God can cure leprosy and cleanse from sin, and only God has the power to bring about what He wills.

The Gospel scene has an almost sacramental quality about it.

Jesus stretches out His hand—as God, by His outstretched arm, performed mighty deeds to save the Israelites. His ritual sign is accompanied by a divine word ("Be made clean"). And, like God's word in creation ("Let there be"), Jesus' word "does" what He commands.

The same thing happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the sacrament of penance. On our knees like the leper, we



confess our sins to the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm. And through

the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin.

Like the leper we should rejoice in the Lord and spread the good news of His mercy. We should testify to our healing by living changed lives. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we should do even the littlest things for the glory of God and that others may be saved.

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: Maureen Bathgate (Harold Bathgate family)

Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Des Healy

Sunday 18th February

Welcomer: Louise

Fitzpatrick Leach

Reader: Leo O'Callaghan

Prayers of the Faithful:

Marlene O'Callaghan

Offertory Procession:

Shaddock Family

Eucharistic Minister:

Gerald Leach

Projectionist: Marie

Shaddock

Collections: 4th February

Ouyen \$234.40

Planned Giving \$150.00

February Church Cleaning

Peter & Marie Shaddock

Presbytery: Marie

Shaddock

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays

at 9am except while Father is away.

Weekday Masses this week

No weekday Masses while Fr Shaiju is away.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays 2:30 – 5:30pm

Pope's Prayer intention for February: For the terminally ill
We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Next Social Gathering: Thursday 29th February, with guest speaker, Fr John Corrigan. Adoration begins from 2:30 onwards with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm, Rosary at 5pm, Mass at 5:30pm followed by our speaker, Fr John. Dinner and a chance to discuss or simply say hello will follow at 6:30pm in the Copper Room at the Club; all welcome.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is seeking interest from Parishes for Liturgy Formation in 2024. Topics that are offered by the Commission include: Funeral Ministry, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, RCIA. If you would be interested in learning more about any of the above topics, and more, please see Marie. It is possible that our parish could host some sessions.

Mass Changes beginning in February A rotating roster of priest's consisting of: Fr Shaiju, Fr Matt, and Fr John, for Masses, will recommence on the 11th of February. Each priest will travel to Manangatang, Robinvale, Ouyen or Mildura at least once a month. This will mainly be for the Sunday Masses but may also include weekday Masses.

Wanted: 1 person to represent our Parish at the Mass of the Oils in Ballarat on Monday 25th March; no speaking involved The Mass of the Oils is at 11:30 am this year, volunteers are required to take up a photo of our Parish to be placed on a table (with those of every other Parish) and to collect our Oils. For more information, please see Marie.

Wisdom from the Saints: "Charity and devotion differ no more, the one from the other, than the flame from the fire." *St Francis de Sales*

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. Amen



This week we welcome Fr John Corrigan from Mildura who is starting off our new rotation of priests. Welcome Father, we hope you feel at home here in Ouyen and we look forward to getting to know you and our other priests a bit better.

This week we launch our Project Compassion Appeal. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal which helps thousands around the world. **Nursing Home and Hostel Church Services** could be resuming next month, perhaps with a different format involving all churches together. If you are interested in helping out, please give your name to Lorna or Marie. A short meeting will be held after the World Day of Prayer in Ouyen, to make a decision.

Wednesday the 14th of February (Valentine's Day) is the beginning of Lent this year. Father will be saying the Ash Wednesday Mass in Ouyen at 11:00am. We will also be having a Lenten discussion group of a Friday evening (usually) for anyone that is interested. The cost of the booklet is \$9.00, it is a valuable accompaniment to Lent whether you choose to join the group or just read it at home. Please see Marie if you would like a copy.

50 years of the Diocese of Ballarat – 2024 On March 30 this year, the Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150. There will be a number of events held to mark this occasion. The latest edition of ODC has a very informative article of the formation of the diocese, written by Sr Berenice Kerr rsm. See the laminated page on the tables for the timeline of events.

World Day of Prayer – Friday 1st of March: 10:00am Christ the Worker Underbool, followed by light refreshments & 7:00pm St Joseph's Ouyen, followed by light refreshments.

What's happening in the Parish . . .

Friday 9th February - Father Shaiju Returns to Australia

Sunday 11th February – Fr John here for Mass – new rotation of priests begins

Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday – 11:00am Mass Ouyen

Friday 16th February – 9:00 am Mass at Underbool; 10:30 Mass in Ouyen; 7:00pm Lenten Discussion group at the Shaddock's – Weekday Masses resume

Sunday 18th February – Fr Shaiju here for Mass

Thursday 29th February – Next Social gathering with **Fr John as guest speaker:** Adoration from 2:30pm, Rosary 5:00pm, Mass 5:30pm, Fr John's talk 6:00pm, Dinner and Discussion at the Club 6:30pm.

Friday 1st March – World Day of Prayer 10:00am Underbool & 7:00pm Ouyen

Something to Smile at . . . Two old men had been best friends for years. Now in their early 90's, one of them suddenly falls very ill. His friend comes to visit him during his final hours. They're reminiscing about their long friendship, when the dying man's friend asks, "Listen, when you pass on, do me a favour. I want to know if there's cricket in heaven." The dying man said, "We've been friends for years. Sure, it's the least I can do." and dies a few hours later. The following week the surviving friend is having a snooze when he hears his departed friend's voice. "I've got some good news and some bad news. First the good news, you'll be thrilled to know that there is cricket in heaven." "What's the bad news?" "The bad news is that you're opening the bowling on Wednesday."