

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

28th April 2024

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*He explained how the Lord appeared to
Saul and spoke to him on his journey.*

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R.)**
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **(R.)**
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St John
*His commandments are these: that we
believe and that we love one another.*

My children, our love is not to be just words
or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his
presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience
and he knows everything.
My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own
conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus
Christ and that we love one another
as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that
he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the
Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John

*All who live in me, and I in them, bear much
fruit.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the
word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in
you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine, neither
can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me
you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me is like a
branch that has been thrown away – he
withers;
these branches are collected and thrown
on the fire, and they are burnt.
If you remain in me and my words remain
in you, you may ask what you will and you
shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you
should bear much fruit, and then you will
be my disciples.'

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Reflection By Dr Scott Hahn

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that He is the
true vine that God intended Israel to be—the
source of divine life and wisdom for the
nations.

In Baptism, each of us was joined to Him by
the Holy Spirit. As a branch grows from a
tree, our souls are to draw life from Him,
nourished by His word and the Eucharist.
Paul in today's First Reading seeks to be
grafted onto the visible expression of Christ
the true vine—His Church. Once the chief
persecutor of the Church, Paul encounters
initial resistance and suspicion. But he is
known by his fruits, by his powerful witness
to the Lord working in his life. We too are
commanded today to bear good fruits

Continued inside

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

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:
Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, John Nihill, and John Moulder

Sunday 5th May

Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan

Reader: Gerald Leach
Prayers of the Faithful:

Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Offertory Procession:

Bosco, Tincy & Anne

Eucharistic Minister:

Lorna Keam

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 21st April

Underbool \$50.00

Ouyen \$304.00

Planned Giving \$110.00

Caritas \$1149.85

May Church/Presbytery Cleaning:

Margaret & Leo Collins

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 2:30 – 5:30pm

Pope's Prayer Intention for May: For the formation of religious and seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation is beginning again, if you know of anyone who is interested in their child receiving any of the sacraments please see Marie; a notice will also be placed in the school newsletter.

Some Outcomes from Leadership Team Meeting, held 19th April

~ **Ministry to our sick and bereaved parishioners.** We would like to establish a small group of 3-4 people who visit those at home or in hospital/hostel or help those who have lost a family member with their funeral preparations and bereavement. If you would like to be a part of this team please see one of the Leadership Team. Guidance and training can be done in our parish.

~ **Combining of the Presbytery and church cleaning rosters** so that cleaning the presbytery becomes a part of the church cleaning roster. Presbytery cleaning mostly involves emptying the bin and at the end of the month changing the sheets and vacuuming. This will begin next month. Please see Marie, Cheryl or Carmel if you have any questions or concerns about this.

~ **Parish meeting toward the middle of the year** to keep everyone updated.

The new roster of priests will look like this for our parish:

1st Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th Sunday Fr Matt

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



Continued from the back. as His disciples so that our lives give glory to God. Like Paul's life, our lives must bear witness to His goodness.

Jesus cautions us, however, that if we're bearing fruit, we can expect that God will "prune" us - as a gardener trims and cuts back a plant so that it will grow stronger and bear even more fruit. He is teaching us today how to look at our sufferings and trials with the eyes of faith. We need to see our struggles as pruning, by which we are being disciplined and trained so that we can grow in holiness and bear fruits of righteousness.

We need to always remain rooted in Him, as today's Epistle tells us. We remain in Him by keeping His commandment of love, by pondering His words, letting them dwell richly in us, and by always seeking to do what pleases Him. In everything we must be guided by humility, remembering that apart from Him we can do nothing.

This Sunday we officially welcome Silvester into our parish community as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary of the Diocese. Come and join us straight after Mass for a barbecue and the cutting of the cake. Here's a few dates of significance. Our diocese is 150 years old however the parish of Portland is 175 years old. The first Mass in Ouyen was in June 1910. St Joseph's Church was finished in 1914, our first Mass in the church was celebrated on the 9th of August 1914. In 1921 the foundation stone for the Walpeup church was laid by Bishop Foley. Walpeup was intended to be the principal church of the parish but . . . in 1922 the Parish of Ouyen was officially established. In 1926 the first Tempy church was built. In 1957 the Patchewollock church was opened and in 1958 the Underbool church was opened.

Bishop Paul will be visiting our parish on Sunday 28th July. He will be here for Mass, followed by lunch, and a chance to speak with him; more details about this nearer to the time.

Diocesan History Timeline & Parish History As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, a timeline of significant dates and events over the past 150 years has been published on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/history-2/> There has also been an "Our History" section added to parish pages on the website for parishes to update with their own history. If you would like to add any dates to the diocesan timeline or need assistance with adding information to the parish "Our History" section, please email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Words of Wisdom "Hold your eyes on God and leave the doing to Him. That is all the doing you have to worry about." St. Jane Frances de Chantal

Something to Smile About . . .

During a priest's homily at Mass one Sunday morning, one of the parishioners got up and walked out the door.

After Mass, the man's wife went up to the priest and apologised profusely. "I hope it didn't upset you too much," she said. "And please don't take it personally. My husband's been walking in his sleep for years."

And this one, more true than funny 😊

These days, carrying health insurance is like wearing a hospital gown – you only think you're covered.

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