

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



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

16th June 2024

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.

Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I have made the small tree great.

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a shoot
and plant it myself on a very high
mountain.

I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade of
its branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that I,
the Lord, am the one
who stunts tall trees and makes the low
ones grow,
who withers green trees and makes the
withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

Responsorial Psalm

R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord

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to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the
night. **(R.)**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

Second Reading

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

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled
from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we
remember that to live in the body means to
be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by
faith and not by sight – we are full of
confidence, I say, and actually want to be
exiled from the body and make our home
with the Lord. Whether we are living in the
body or exiled from it, we are intent on
pleasing him. For all the truth about us will
be brought out in the law court of Christ, and
each of us will get what he deserves for the
things he did in the body, good or bad.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;

all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

Communion Antiphon

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Reflection By Dr Scott Hahn

In today's Gospel Jesus has just been healing and casting out demons in Galilee.

In the cryptic message of the prophet Ezekiel, long centuries before the Lord's coming, God gave his people reason to hope.

Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the people of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as he solemnly promises.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams.

And so, we express our gratitude in the Psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good, and better still to give thanks with praise.

The Psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the Cross as the measure of righteousness. The Cross is a sign of contradiction to those who would rather "flourish" in worldly terms. As St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians, we need courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. He reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifests itself in works: "so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

God himself will empower the works he expects from us, though we freely choose to correspond to his grace. In the prophetic oracles, he scattered the seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had seen. He gave this doctrine to his disciples in terms they were able to understand and he provided a full explanation. **Cont. on the inside**

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: Joan Pohlner
Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, John Nihill and John Moulder

Sunday 23rd June

Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan

Reader: Peter Shaddock

Prayers of the Faithful:

Marie Shaddock

Offertory Procession: Beryl & Les Gregg

Eucharistic Minister: Lorna Keam

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 9th June

Ouyen \$222.50

Planned Giving \$140.00

June Church & Presbytery

Cleaning: Merril & John Boland

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 June: For those fleeing their own countries: Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

New Parish appointments as of July 1st. Fr Gary Jones is finishing as parish priest of Hampden due to ill health. **Fr Neville Stanislaus** will be Parish Administrator of Hampden Parish, in addition to his current responsibilities as Parish Priest of Camperdown and Timboon. **Fr Jim McKay**, currently Assistant Priest at the Cathedral Parish, will be Visiting Priest for the Hampden Parish. **Fr Abraham Thomas MST** will move from Assistant Priest in the South West Coast Parish to the role of Assistant Priest in the Cathedral Parish.

Father Shaiju will be on holiday in India from the 2nd to the 24th of July. In his absence he has arranged visiting priests to say Mass for us. There will be no weekday Masses while Father is away.

1st week of July (6th/7th): Fr. Francis,

2nd week of July (13th/14th): Fr. Peter Hudson,

3rd week of July (20th/21st): Fr. Matt or Fr. John

Wisdom from the Saints:

"Take a good look at yourself. Inside, you've got heaven and earth, and all of creation. You're a world- everything is hidden in you." *St. Hildegard of Bingen*

"Without the grace of God, I could do nothing." *St. Joan of Arc*

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



Cont from the back: He gave this doctrine to his disciples in terms they were able to understand and he provided a full explanation. In the sacraments he provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as the children of God.

Petition to Retain the Lord's Prayer in Parliament – (Again) There is a constant effort on the part of some members to rid all reference to God; this is another attempt. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has joined representatives of Victoria's faith communities in writing to each member of the Victorian Parliament expressing 'the fundamental and ongoing importance of prayer in Parliament'. Please sign the petition to retain the saying of the Lord's Prayer at the start of sittings of the Victorian Parliament. You can find the petition at <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/retain-the-lords-prayer-in-legislative-council-proceedings/>. This is a very simple but important one, just click on the link and put in your name and address.

Deacon Xuan Cay Trinh is due to conclude his studies at Corpus Christi Seminary at the end of this semester. **Deacon Cay will be appointed to the Sunraysia Parish for the coming months.** He will serve as Deacon in the Sunraysia Parish from July 1 till November 3. He will then make final preparations for his ordination to the priesthood, which is scheduled for **Saturday, November 23.**

National Refugee Week: June 17-23 In a world marked by displacement and the search for refuge, this year's Refugee Week theme "Finding Freedom" has a focus on family –capturing the profound journey of resilience, strength, and unity that defines the refugee experience. This Refugee Week, we aim to shed light on the transformative power of family bonds as well as those bonds chosen in the face of adversity and emphasise the crucial role families play in providing solace, support, and a sense of belonging to those forced to flee their homelands. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/national-refugee-week-june-17-23-2024/>



Formation in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024: In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. The **Diocesan Assembly** will bring together representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. Every parish priest and two members of each Parish are invited to take part in this Assembly.

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.



Jubilee Year 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of hope for a suffering world suffering. In the lead-up to the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer, to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer.

Something to Smile About - Notes to the Milkman continued

~Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.

~Will you tell your horse not to poo outside my house. It's better at number 17, he puts it on his strawberries.

~Cancel one pint after the day after today.

~My back door is open. Please put milk in fridge, get money out of cup in drawer and leave change on kitchen table in pence, because we want to play bingo tonight.

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