

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



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

18th August 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Proverbs

*Come and eat my bread; drink the wine I
have prepared.*

Wisdom has built herself a house,
she has erected her seven pillars,
she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her
wine,
she has laid her table.
She has despatched her maidservants
and proclaimed from the city's heights:
'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.'
To the fool she says,
'Come and eat my bread,
drink the wine I have prepared!
Leave your folly and you will live,
walk in the ways of perception.'

Responsorial Psalm

R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Revere the Lord, you his saints.

They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no
blessing. **(R.)**

3. Come children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? **(R.)**
4. Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians

*Be watchful that you may know the will of
God.*

Be very careful about the sort of lives you
lead, like intelligent and not like senseless
people. This may be a wicked age, but your
lives should redeem it. And do not be
thoughtless but recognise what is the will of
the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine,
this is simply dissipation; be filled with the
Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the
psalms and hymns when you are together,
and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in
your hearts, so that always and everywhere
you are giving thanks to God who is our
Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
live in me and I in them, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come
down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for
ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one
another: 'How can this man give us his flesh
to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of
Man
and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink
my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me
and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for
ever.'

Communion Antiphon

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With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

Reflection an excerpt from "The Word of the Lord" by Dr John Bergsma

In this passage, Jesus moves from talking about himself in a general way as the "Bread of Life" to making specific application to the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

Jesus introduces the idea of "drinking his blood," which has no basis in the story of the manna (Exodus 16) that has dominated the discussion to this point. The only reason for introducing this image of "blood drinking" is that Jesus is moving the discussion toward the gift of his body and blood in the Eucharist.

We can see that Jesus is not trying to win over the people by giving them easy words and attractive promises; he is testing their faith, seeing if they will trust him enough to accept a "hard saying". Most of them will not accept it, but Jesus knew that from the beginning—this crowd only came to have their bellies filled, and Jesus pointed that out several verses earlier. This crowd, interested only in physical satisfaction, has become only a distraction from Jesus's ministry.

Jesus offers his body as a kind of new fruit of the tree of life, as well as a new Feast of Wisdom from which one can eat and live. Love is the highest wisdom and surpasses wisdom itself (see 1 Cor 13). In the Eucharist, our Lord sets us the example of giving up his life for us, his friends. This is the greatest love, not to cling to our life but to give it in love.

While we still cling to our life, we cannot have any joy in the midst of suffering. It is only in becoming Eucharistic people, and freely giving our lives, that we begin to experience the freedom, the joy, and the thanksgiving that are proper to those united to Christ.

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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, John Moulder and Fr Matt Thomas

Sunday 25th August

Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan

Reader: Gerald Leach

Prayers of the Faithful:

Margaret Collins

Offertory Procession: Kathy

Loxton & Faye Nihill

Eucharistic Minister:

Marlene O'Callaghan

Projectionist: Louise

Fitzpatrick Leach

Collections: 11th August

Ouyen \$202.60

Planned Giving \$140.00

August Church &

Presbytery Cleaning: Faye

Nihill & the Shaddocks

(sounds like a good band)

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool 1st & 3rd Fridays

at 9am (16th August)

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 August: For Political Leaders. Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

Wisdom from the Saints: "Faith is what gets you started. Hope is what keeps you going. Love is what brings you to the end."

Mother Angelica

Something to smile at . . . from Noel Coward

Never trust a man with short legs. His brain is too near his bottom.



Familiarity breeds contempt, but without a little familiarity it is difficult to breed anything.



I love criticism, just as long as it's unqualified praise.



I like long walks especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

Our roster of priests will usually look like this for our parish: 1st

Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th

Sunday TBD

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.

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.



The Assumption commemorates the belief that when Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, died, her body was "assumed" into heaven to be reunited with her soul, instead of going through the natural process of physical decay upon death. It is still a Holy Day of Obligation, one of only two left in what used to be a string of Holy Days to be observed and so it is clearly very important. On The Feast of the Assumption, in 1976, Our Lady says in her book "To the Priests Our Lady's Beloved Sons" a book for all people not just priests, "I love you with this mother's Heart of mine which has never ceased to beat with love for you. Beloved sons (and laity), you also should be living there where I am; *live in paradise with me.*" We all hope to live in heaven or paradise one day after our death but how can we live there now which is what Our Lady seems to be saying? St Paul explains it a little when he says, "This corruptible body must put on incorruption and this mortal body must put on immortality." In other words, if our aim is to be in heaven one day then our hearts and minds should be there now. In order to achieve this, we need to put away all that keeps us from heaven, in other words start putting on, just as you would clothing, immortality and incorruption by doing things that release us from the grasp of this world which is full of corruption and death. The more we can remove ourselves from what ties us to the "world" the more we can live in paradise even now.

The final episode of our Parish history in conjunction with Australian and World events has now been placed on the noticeboard at the back of the church. It will remain there for a few weeks before being taken down.

Diocesan Social Justice Commission Reflection Day – Saturday, September 7, 2024 The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Registration will be required to attend through trybooking.

ACU Big Sing for a Big Cause - August 25, 2024 The Australian Catholic University, in partnership with St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne) and St Patrick's College (Ballarat) is hosting "Big Sing for a Big Cause", which will see singers, choirs and instrumentalists combine for a special performance, raising funds for those affected by homelessness. The concerts will be in Ballarat and Melbourne, performing Street Requiem, a piece co-composed by Dr Kathleen McGuire, a renowned composer and ACU senior lecturer in Music Education. Donations will be raised for Peplow House (a ministry of CatholicCare Victoria) and ACU's Urgent Financial Hardship Grant. For more information go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/acus-big-sing-for-a-big-cause/>

Formation in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November is going ahead throughout the diocese. The **Diocesan Assembly** aims to 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. Please consider being a part of it and please pray for it's success.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. Cycle 6 begins September 2. There are 40 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now.

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