

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



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

25th August 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all
the day long.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Joshua

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is
our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes
of Israel together at Shechem; then he called
the elders, leaders, judges and scribes
of Israel, and they presented themselves
before God. Then Joshua said to all the
people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose
today whom you wish to serve, whether the
gods that your ancestors served beyond the
River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose
land you are now living. As for me and my
House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention
of deserting the Lord and serving other gods!
Was it not the Lord our God who brought us
and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt,
the house of slavery, who worked those great
wonders before our eyes and preserved us
all along the way we travelled and among all
the peoples through whom we journeyed.
We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm

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

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. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the
earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will
save. (R.)
4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his
servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be
condemned. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this

upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Communion Antiphon

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

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

This Sunday's Mass readings conclude a four-week meditation on the Eucharist.

The Twelve Apostles in today's Gospel are asked to make a choice—either to believe and accept the New Covenant He offers in His Body and Blood or return to their former ways of life.

Their choice is prefigured by the decision Joshua asks the Twelve Tribes to make in today's First Reading.

Joshua gathers them at Shechem, and issues a blunt challenge: either renew their covenant with God or serve the alien gods of the surrounding nations.

We too are being asked today to decide whom we will serve. For four weeks we have been presented in the liturgy with the mystery of the Eucharist, a daily miracle far greater than those performed by God in

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: Fred Shaddock

Sick: Cora Jardine, John Nihill, John Moulder and Fr Matt Thomas

Sunday 1st September

Welcomer: Gerald Leach

Reader: Marlene O'Callaghan

Prayers of the Faithful:

Carmel Vallance

Offertory Procession:

Cheryl Anderson & Val Latta

Eucharistic Minister: Peter Shaddock

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 18th August

Underbool \$20

Ouyen \$252.50

Planned Giving \$110

September Church & Presbytery Cleaning:

Carmel Vallance & Marlene O'Callaghan

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: "Hatred is not a creative force. Love alone creates." St. Maximilian Kolbe

Something to smile at . . .

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.
Oscar Wilde



Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it? *Mark Twain*



Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.
Oscar Wilde



"He has Van Gogh's ear for music. *Billy Wilder*

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.



Cont. from the back . . . bringing the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. He has promised us a new homeland and eternal life, offering us bread from heaven to strengthen us on our journey. He has told us that unless we eat His Flesh and drink His Blood we will have no life in us. It is a hard saying, as many murmur in today's Gospel. Yet He has given us the words of eternal life. We must believe, as Peter says today, that He is the Holy One of God, who handed Himself over for us, who gave His flesh for the life of the world.

As we hear in today's Epistle, Jesus did this that we might be sanctified, made holy, through the water and word of Baptism by which we enter into His new covenant. Through the Eucharist, He nourishes and cherishes us, making us His own flesh and blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Let us renew our covenant today, approaching the altar with confidence that, as we sang in today's Psalm, 'the Lord will redeem the lives of His servants'

Planned Giving: This Sunday marks the end of the year for our Planned Giving Program with the next year starts on the 1st of September. Letters with your current status recorded will be given out today. If you would like to adjust your giving or would like to become a contributor please see Faye after Mass. The Leadership Team sincerely thanks you for support!

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.

Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Bishops' have launched the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World." Every year, the bishops seek to make a substantive comment on a key social issue and this year the focus is on the promotion of peace and the need for truth in public life

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.

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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