

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



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

8th September 2024

Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened
and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,

the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R.)**

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St James

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world
to inherit the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

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Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

The incident in today's Gospel is recorded only by Mark. The key line is what the crowd says at the end: "He has done all things well." In the Greek, this echoes the creation story, recalling that God saw all the things He had done and declared them good.

Mark also deliberately evokes Isaiah's promise, which we hear in today's First Reading, that God will make the deaf hear and the mute speak. He even uses a Greek word to describe the man's condition (*mogilalon* = "speech impediment") that's only found in one other place in the Bible—in the Greek translation of today's Isaiah passage, where the prophet describes the "dumb" singing. The crowd recognizes that Jesus is doing what the prophet had foretold. But Mark wants us to see something far greater—that, to use the words from today's First Reading: "Here is your God."

Notice how personal and physical the drama is in the Gospel. Our focus is drawn to a hand, a finger, ears, a tongue, spitting. In Jesus, Mark shows us, God has truly come in the flesh. What He has done is to make all things new, a new creation (Rev 21:1–5). As Isaiah promised, He has made the living waters of Baptism flow in the desert of the world. He has set captives free from their sins, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has come that rich and poor might dine together in the Eucharistic feast, as James tells us in today's Epistle. He has done for each of us what He did for that deaf mute. He has opened our ears to hear the Word of God and loosed our tongues that we might sing praises to Him. Let us then give thanks to our glorious Lord in the Eucharist. Let us say with Isaiah, "Here is our God, He comes to save us."

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OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL
Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068
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Recent Deaths:
Anniversaries:

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

Sunday 15th September

Welcomer: Lorna Keam

Reader: Carmel Vallance

Prayers of the Faithful:

Susan O'Sullivan

Offertory Procession:

Jessica & Jona Kilaton

Eucharistic Minister:

Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

Projectionist: Marie

Shaddock

Collections: 1st September

Ouyen \$257.50

Planned Giving \$265.00

September Church &

Presbytery Cleaning:

Carmel Vallance & Marlene

O'Callaghan

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool 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 September: For our World.

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all be responsible for the world in which we live.

Wisdom from the Saints: "There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future." St. Augustine of Hippo

Something to smile at . . . A businessman finds himself in serious financial trouble. His business has gone under, so he decides to ask God for help. He begins to pray like never before.

"God, please help me. I've lost my business and if I don't get some money soon, I'm going to lose my house too. Please let me win this Saturday's Lotto. It's worth twenty million dollars."

Saturday night arrives and no one wins the major prize, so the man prays even harder. "God, please let me win the Lotto. I've lost my business and my house and now I'm about to lose my car."

The following Saturday night comes and goes and still the man is luckless. This time he gets on his knees and prays. "My God, why have you forsaken me? I've lost my business, my house and now my car. My children are starving. I don't ask You for help, and I have always been a good servant of yours. I go to Mass and help my neighbours. Please let me win next Saturday's Lotto just this one time so I can get my life back in order. This I beg of You."

Suddenly, there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open up. The man is overwhelmed by the voice of God himself.

"Hey, work with Me on this. For My sake and yours, start by buying a ticket."

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.



This weekend we welcome Father John back to be with us and we have a “cuppa” in the Parish Centre after Mass, for anyone that would like to come. No need to bring anything other than yourself and your smile.

Planned Giving: Last weekend we began the new cycle of our Planned Giving Program. If you would like to adjust your giving or would like to become a contributor, please see Faye or any one of the Leadership Team after Mass or as soon as possible.

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, a day on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. So, we recommit to help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all people especially children and those at risk.

Please be vigilant. As the temperature has begun to warm up, we have had a couple of sightings of snakes around the church. They are not usually a big problem and, like us all after winter, they like to soak up the sun; so please watch where you place your feet.

Father Matt is on the mend and gradually returning to duties. We also welcome **Deacon Cay** back to Sunraysia and keep him in our prayers as his preparation for ordination draws closer.

There are a few copies of Fr Mick’s latest Shared Table on both tables at the back of the church. As always, it is a good read and a reminder of how much we have. Yanaoca and surrounding region in the Southern Andes, is considered to be one of the poorest in all of South America, so any financial assistance we can send makes a real difference in these communities. This is where we send a percentage of our funeral catering money.



Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal – this Sunday and next Sunday. The BCSF Collection for Retired Priests will be held after communion today and next week. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

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.

"Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" – Fr Greg Boyle SJ The October 2024 visit to Australia of Father Greg Boyle SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles for "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion" HomeBoy Industries from Los Angeles is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. The Melbourne program is: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 “Boundless Compassion: A Mission to Serve” Secondary Students Leadership Festival; Wednesday, October 9, “Courageous Encounter” School Executive Leadership Teams and Thursday, October 10, 2024 “On the Margins” an evening with Fr Greg. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.gpbs.com.au/workshops-courses-events/>

Sign over the Podiatrist’s door “Time wounds all heels”; **Sign on a Plumbers ute** “Don’t sleep with a drip. Call your Plumber.” 😂😂

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