

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



**The Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**

## Entrance Antiphon

The Lord became my protector.  
He brought me out to a place of freedom;  
he saved me because he delighted in me.

## First Reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Do not praise someone before they have spoken.*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,  
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter,  
the test of a man is in his conversation.

The orchard where the tree grows is judged  
on the quality of its fruit,  
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.  
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,  
since this is the test of men.

## Responsorial Psalm

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

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
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 first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*A person speaks from what is in his heart.*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

## Communion Antiphon

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me,  
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

## Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

In today's readings, we hear Jesus speaking in Galilee as well as a Jewish sage named Sirach writing in Jerusalem more than a century earlier. The two of them touch upon a single truth: The words that come out of us make known the hidden thoughts within us. Speech reveals the secrets of the heart. Sirach teaches that speaking is "the test of men" and their character. One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. But one whose heart is cluttered with "refuse" will be exposed,

since the "fruit" of his mouth speaks volumes about the "tree" that produces it. Sirach also compares the testing of our words to clay fired in a kiln—if properly prepared, a useful vessel emerges; but if the clay is not fully dried, it will break apart in the extreme heat.

In a similar way, Jesus insists that a person speaks "out of the abundance of the heart." He too compares our speech, whether good or bad, to what grows on a tree: "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit."

Both readings urge us to make wholesome speech a habit. After all, much about who we are is brought to light through what we say. But there's an additional step: The Lord is asking us to look inward, to examine our hearts and fill them with the "good treasure" that God desires.

Why do purity of heart and speech matter so much? Because, as Jesus declares elsewhere: "by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." ([Matthew 12:37](#)).

They matter because they help to decide our final judgment, and this is where the Second Reading comes in. Paul reminds us that God will destroy death forever, and if we are to share in this victory and live forever with the Lord, then we must take all steps necessary to give our hearts and lips to what is good.



**What Fruit do we bear?**

**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](mailto:ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

St Joseph's Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** Cora Jardine, John Moulder, Mark Weir, Mary Moloney, Lyn McIntyre, Sylvester Rudolph, Veronica Turton, Graeme Floyd, Les Gregg and Frances Cullinan.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Welcomer:** Carmel Vallance

**Reader:** Gerald

Leach

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

Louise Fitzpatrick Leach

**Offertory Procession:**

Jessica & Jona Kilaton

**Eucharistic Minister:**

Marlene O'Callaghan

**Projectionist:** Marie

Shaddock

**Collections: 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Underbool \$40.00

Ouyen \$186.00

Planned Giving \$90.00

**March Church &**

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

The Grace Family

**Mass Times:**

**Ouyen each Sunday at 11am**

**Underbool: March – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00am**

**Weekday Masses this week:**

**10:30am this Wednesday & Friday**

**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 March: For families in crisis -**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

**Wisdom from on high "If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces . . . never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. That's the beauty of being alive – we can always start all over again. Enjoy God's amazing opportunities bestowed on us. Have faith in Him always. St Bernadette**

**Ash Wednesday Mass: 10:30am**

**World Day of Prayer – 7:00pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of March at All Saints Church** followed by a light supper in the Parish Hall; please bring a plate to share.

**Something to smile about . . .** An elderly woman visited a grocery store and requested seven kilograms of potatoes. The owner was delighted to help and started packing the potatoes. However, the woman stopped him and requested that each potato be wrapped individually.

The man complied and asked if there was anything else he could help with. The woman then requested four kilograms of onions to be wrapped in a similar manner. The shop owner packed the onions and asked if there was anything else.

The woman then requested seven kilograms of carrots.

"Let me guess," said the owner with a sour face, "you want them wrapped individually."

"Oh, that would be wonderful." she said.

The shop owner did as he was asked and packed all her items in a bag.

The woman then said, "What are in those crates behind you?"

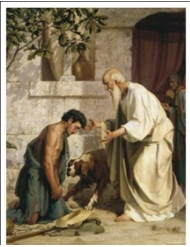
The man flushed red and said, "Madam, these are grapes, and they are not for sale!"

**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.**



**Update on Lyn:** Lyn has left the Alfred Hospital and is now in rehabilitation at the Hawthorn Epworth. Her address is room 24, Epworth Rehabilitation Hospital, 50 Burwood Rd Hawthorn, 3122.



**Ash Wednesday is on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, Mass will be at 10:30 am.**

**Lenten Discussion Group is on of a Tuesday morning at 10:30am in the Parish Centre, beginning on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March.** The books are \$5 each and include short daily reflections, beautiful artwork and a more detailed look at the Sunday Gospel. If you are interested in taking part, we'd love to have you. The books are also a great form of private reflection if you are unable to join with the group. Please see Marie if you would like to be a part of it – so that we can have enough books.

### **The Season of Lent: A time of Renewal – From Fr Shaiju**

Lent is not simply about “doing more” or “being better”, but simply being present to the God who seeks to draw nearer to us. Lent is a sacred season of forty days, inviting us to reflect, repent, and renew our relationship with God. It is a journey of conversion, modeled after Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness, where He fasted and prayed.

The Church calls us to embrace this time through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer deepens our connection with God, fasting helps us grow in self-discipline, and almsgiving opens our hearts to the needs of others. Lent is not merely about external practices but about inner transformation- turning away from sin and drawing closer to Christ.

As we prepare for the joy of Easter, let us use this season to grow in faith, seek reconciliation, and renew our commitment to living as true Disciples of Christ. Lent is a time to do things differently, to walk a better path, and to embrace the grace of transformation. May this season bring you many spiritual blessings and abundant fruits in your journey of Faith.

**Reflecting on Your Marriage Vow: Sunday 2nd March Swan Hill** - Every couple deserves the opportunity to reflect on the Vows they made to each other so that they may deepen their relationship and love for each other as husband and wife. That is why we are so pleased to welcome the Marriage Encounter team to Swan Hill to offer a fun and informative presentation called “VOW” after 10:30am Mass on Sunday 2nd March in the Parish Function centre (beginning 11:30am). This fun and informative presentations will help couples explore the vows they have made to each other in Marriage and also those we made to God. We would also like to share with the couples how the Church is being a part of our relationships. The presentation will last for about an hour and will be followed by a light luncheon. We warmly invite couples to take up this opportunity. For further questions and to register your interest please contact the Holy Family Parish Office; [northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:northeastmallee@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or 50324144.

**Fr Mick McKinnon’s latest “Shared Table” is available** on the tables at the back of the church. In 2005, The Year of The Eucharist, Fr Mick first established The Shared Table Project. It is now into the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the project and much has been achieved during this time in both the Cangallo, Motupe, Montenegro districts on the outskirts of Lima, where Fr Mick first worked, and the Yanaoca region in The Andes where he continues his ministry. As always it is well worth a read. There are four copies printed so that you can take a copy home and bring back next week for others to read.

**\*The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is offering formation** in the following areas: Lectors/Readers; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Funeral Ministry; Scripture reflection; RCIA; Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion. If anyone is interested, there is a possibility we could host it here. Please see Marie if you would like a refresher, or take on any of the above.

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