

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



The Presentation of the Lord, Year C

2nd February 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your
temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

1. O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
2. Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. (R.)
3. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
4. Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He had to be made like us in all things.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human

sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

My eyes have seen your saving power.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations
to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to

Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Communion Antiphon

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the
peoples.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

Today's feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth.

So the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. **Continued 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
St Joseph's Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

Recent Deaths:
Anniversaries:

Sick: Cora Jardine, John Moulder, Mark Weir, Mary Moloney, Lyn McIntyre and Sylvester Rudolph.

Sunday 9th February

Welcomer: Marlene O'Callaghan

Reader: Merril Boland

Prayers of the Faithful: Flora Moulder

Offertory Procession:

Carmel Vallance & Kathy Loxton

Eucharistic Minister: Peter Shaddock

Projectionist: Marie Shaddock

Collections: 26th January

Ouyen \$184.90

Planned Giving \$90.00

February Church &

Presbytery Cleaning:

Peter & Marie Shaddock

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

Underbool: February – Friday 21st @ 9:00am

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 February: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray for those who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Wisdom from on high "To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and his Mother." *Pope St. John Paul II*

Our roster of priests will usually look like this for our parish until May; please see other page for more detail. 1st Sunday Fr Shaiju, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Shaiju, 4th Sunday Fr Matt.

Update on baby Jacinta Baby Jacinta is now at home for a few months until she is ready for her operation. The family is very grateful for all your support. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they await Jacinta's operation in a few months. 🙏

Since school is back, here's something to smile about . . .

Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die – His last one.

Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? - At the bottom of the page.

Q3. The river Ravi flows in which state? – The liquid state.

Q4. What is the main reason for Divorce? – Marriage.

Q5. What can you never eat for breakfast. – Lunch and Dinner.

Q6. What looks like half an apple? – The other half.

Q7. If you threw a red stone into the Blue Sea what will it become? - Simply, a wet stone.

Q8. How can a man go 8 days without sleeping? – Easy, sleep at night.

Q9. How can you lift an elephant with one hand? – You can never lift an elephant that has one hand.

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.



Continued from the back → They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it. However, the Gospel doesn't seem to mention Jesus' "redemption," rather, it describes a religious consecration, such as a priest might undergo. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus is "presented" in the Temple, using the same verb that Saint Paul uses to describe the offering of a sacrifice. Another parallel is the Old Testament dedication of Samuel to the Temple as a priest. The drama surrounding Jesus' conception and birth began in the Temple, when the Archangel visited Mary's kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus' infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple. All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading comes from the Prophet Malachi, who called the priests to return to faithful service, and foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood. Likewise, the Psalm announces to Jerusalem that Jerusalem is about to receive a great visitor. The Psalmist identifies him as "The LORD of hosts . . . the king of glory." Christ now arrives as the long-awaited priest and redeemer. He is also the sacrifice. Indeed, as his life will show, He is the Temple itself.

Changes of priests within the diocese – from Bishop Paul Earlier this month, I announced that from **March 1, 2025, Fr George Kuruvila Koorumullumpurayidam MST**, currently Co-Pastor of the Western Border Parish, will become **Parish Priest of Camperdown, Timboon and Hampden**. I am now pleased to announce that from **March 1, 2025, Fr Cay Xuan Trinh** will become **Assistant Priest in the Western Border Parish**.

I am also happy to announce several other **appointments that will take effect from May 1, 2025**.

From May 1, **Fr Matthew Thomas**, currently **Parish Priest of the Sunraysia Parish**, will also be **Parish Priest of the Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes**.

From May 1, **Fr William Lowry**, currently Assistant Priest in the South West Coast Parish, will become **Assistant Priest in the Sunraysia, Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes**.

At the same time, **Fr Matthew Restall**, currently Assistant Priest in the Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon Parishes, will become **Assistant Priest in the South West Coast Parish**.

Also from May 1, **Fr Shaiju Mathew MST**, currently Administrator of the Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes, will be appointed to **the Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon Parishes**.

Next Sunday is Word of God Sunday: The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Word of God Sunday on February 9 this year. Pope Francis instituted "Word of God Sunday" to encourage the re-focusing, study and spreading of the Word of God. Understanding Scripture makes things much clearer and helps us get so much more out of the Mass readings.

Next weekend is also the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel: Many facets of life are being highlighted throughout the Jubilee, next weekend the Church recognises that military personnel can contribute enormously to the stability of our world and to the establishment of peace. This Jubilee will celebrate the efforts all members of the armed forces and police, municipal police, security operators, veterans, military associations, military academies, chaplaincies and military ordinariates provide for peace. This is our opportunity to pray for them, for their personal safety as well as peace and stability in the local and faraway areas of the world.

***The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is offering formation** in the following areas this year. 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 following: Lectors/Readers; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Funeral Ministry; Scripture reflection; RCIA; Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion.

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