

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



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

**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**

### Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful  
with me.

### First Reading

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*The Lord has put you in my power, but I will  
not raise my hand against you.*

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

### Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

### Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

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*Just as we have carried the earthly image,  
we must carry the heavenly image.*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Be merciful as your Father is merciful.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return.

You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

## Communion Antiphon

I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

## Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

The story of David and Saul in today's First Reading functions almost like a parable. Showing mercy to his deadly foe, David gives a concrete example of what Jesus expects to become a way of life for His disciples.

The new law Jesus gives in today's Gospel would have us all become "Davids"—loving our enemies, doing good to those who would harm us, extending a line of credit to those who won't ever repay us.

The Old Law required only that the Israelites love their fellow countrymen. The new law Jesus brings makes us kin to every man and woman. His kingdom isn't one of tribe or nationality. It's a family. As followers of Jesus, we're to live as He lived among us—as "children of the Most High."

As sons and daughters, we want to walk in the ways of our heavenly Father, to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Grateful for His mercy, we're called to forgive others their trespasses because God has forgiven ours. In the context of today's liturgy, we're all "Sauls" – by our sinfulness and pride we make ourselves enemies of God. But we've been spared a death we surely deserved to die – **Continued on the inside** →

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH**  
**OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL**  
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St Joseph's Parish Ouyen, Patchewollock, Tempy, Walpeup, Underbool

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:** Judi Floyd

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

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

**Welcomer:** Lorna Keam

**Reader:** Louise Fitzpatrick  
Leach

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

Margaret Collins

**Offertory Procession:** The Thomas Family

**Eucharistic Minister:**

Gerald Leach

**Projectionist:** Carmel

Vallance

**Collections: 16<sup>th</sup> February**

Ouyen \$283.50

Planned Giving \$90.00

**February Church & Presbytery Cleaning:**

Peter & Marie Shaddock

**Mass Times:**

**Ouyen** each Sunday at  
11am

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

**Weekday Masses this week:**

**No Mass** this 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 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 "Love unites us to God; it cancels innumerable sins, has no limits to its endurance, bears everything patiently." Pope St. Clement I**

**Ash Wednesday Mass:** 10:30am – Please see Fr Shaiju's letter on the next page.

**A Note from Mildura:** On Tuesday we had an Arson Attack in the Mildura church. Due to the fire and smoke damage, we are unable to use or access the church at the moment. We will be back in soon.

Masses have been changed for this weekend and they are as follows:

Saturday 6.30pm Our Lady's Merbein (Box Street)

Sunday 8.30am St Francis Xavier Irymple (Elm Street)

10am St Joseph's R/Cliffs (Lay Led)

10.30am Our Lady's Merbein (Box Street)

5.30pm St Joseph's R/Cliffs

**Something to smile about . . .**

A man goes into a chemist and asks the pharmacist if he can have something for hiccups. The pharmacist promptly reaches out and slaps the man's face.

"What did you do that for?" the man asks, rubbing his reddening cheek.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?" asked the pharmacist with a smile.

"No, but my wife out in the car does!"

**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.**

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



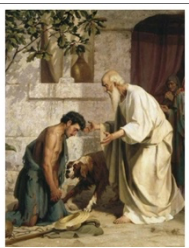
**Continued from the back** → because God has loved and shown mercy to His enemies, “the ungrateful and the wicked,” as Jesus says. Jesus showed us this love in His Passion, forgiving His enemies as they stripped Him of cloak and tunic, cursed Him and struck Him on the cheek, condemned Him to death on a cross. “He redeems your life from destruction,” David reminds us in today’s Psalm.

That’s the promise, too, of today’s Epistle: that we who believe in the “last Adam,” Jesus, will rise from the dead in His image, as today we bear the image of the “first Adam,” who by his sin made God an enemy and brought death into the world.

**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.

**\*The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is offering formation** in the following areas. 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.

**No Mass this Friday** as Fr Shaiju will be on Retreat with the other priests of the Diocese.



**Ash Wednesday is on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, Mass will be at 10:30 am. Our Lenten Discussion Group is on offer again this year, of a Tuesday morning at 10:30am in the Parish Centre.** The books are here and are \$5 each. They 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; it’s very relaxed and informal but everyone seems to get a lot out of it. 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.

**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.

**From Fr Shaiju - Dear Friends, Greetings to you all!**

I would like to inform you that I will be away for the annual Clergy Retreat from Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. During this time, there will be no weekday Masses in our Parish.

The Clergy Retreat is a sacred time when all the priests of the Diocese, together with our Bishop, come together in prayer, reflection and fraternal fellowship. It is a moment of spiritual renewal, allowing us to deepen our relationship with Christ and strengthen our commitment to serving His people.

This year, we are especially blessed to have Fr Paul Chandler, a Carmelite priest, as our retreat preacher. We pray that the Holy Spirit may guide him as he leads us in this time of grace and renewal.

I humbly ask you to keep all the Clergy and our Bishop in your prayers, especially during these days of retreat. May the Lord grant us the wisdom, strength, and inspiration to continue our pastoral ministry with renewed zeal. Thank you for your prayers and support. Yours in Christ, Fr Shaiju Mathew

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