

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



The Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

23rd March 2025

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard

their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

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.)**

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3. The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the
earth
so strong is his love for those who fear
him. (R.)

Second Reading

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

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

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A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

Reflection by Dr Scott Hahn

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today's First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham, God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant, He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today's Psalm tells us.

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Parish Administrator: Fr Shaiju Mathew (03) 5026 3068

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Parish Email: ouyen@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

Recent Deaths: Father Shaiju's uncle, P. Mathew

Anniversaries:

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

Sunday 30th March

Welcomer: Peter Shaddock

Reader: Carmel Vallance

Prayers of the Faithful:

Lorna Keam

Offertory Procession Louise & Gerald Leach

Eucharistic Minister:

Gerald Leach

Projectionist: Marie

Shaddock

Collections: 16th March

Ouyen \$140.00

Planned Giving \$90.00

March Church & Presbytery Cleaning:

The Grace Family

Mass Times:

Ouyen each Sunday at 11am

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

Weekday Masses this week: Friday @ 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 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 "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, He wants only the chance to love you." *Mother Teresa*

Our roster of priests will look like this in our parish from 1st May.

1st Sunday Fr Bill, 2nd Sunday Fr John, 3rd Sunday Fr Bill, 4th Sunday Fr Matt, 5th Sunday Fr Bill

Something to smile about . . . An Irishman was flustered at not being able to find a parking space in a large shopping centre car park. He'd circled the centre three times without luck.

"Lord," he finally prayed, "I can't stand this. If you find a space up for me, I swear I'll give up drinking me whiskey, and I promise to go to church every Sunday." Suddenly, the clouds parted and the sun shone on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the man said, "Never mind, I found one."

Whoever said English was a strange language was right. With common terminology like this who could disagree!

Seriously funny

Tragic comedy

Clearly confused

Same difference

Only choice

Growing smaller

Virtual reality

Exact estimate

Living dead

Walking dead

Deafening silence

Organised chaos

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 page → Paul says in today's Epistle that God's saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink.

Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a "warning"—that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation. At any moment, Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish, not as God's punishment for being "greater sinners" but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits.

Jesus calls us today to "repentance"—not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We're called to live the life we sing about in today's Psalm, blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1–10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance.

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let "the gardener," Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.

Next Leadership Team Meeting April 8th at 12:00pm in the Parish Centre

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 Lenten Discussion Group is on Tuesday morning at 10:30am in the Parish Centre, all welcome – no past experience necessary 😊

***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.

More Outcomes from the Parish Leadership Team Meeting on Wednesday the 12th of March.

The Clergy will be working as a team, and they will each have different roles within the ministry district. They will be on a roster similar to what we have now, however they will all live in Mildura.

The Bulletin – It is important for each faith community to have specific notices put in the bulletin and also for other news from around the parish and diocese to inform parishioners. It is proposed that we transition towards one bulletin, printed in Mildura on a Friday morning and brought out to the different faith communities by the priest who is celebrating Mass that weekend. (A children's bulletin has also been created.)

Collections – Most churches have two collections, we could do this too or we could simply put the Planned Giving Envelopes into the appropriate coloured bag (red) and continue as normal. The idea is for the first or presbytery collection to be taken up and placed in the blue bag which is given to the priest to be returned to Mildura for counting on a Sunday evening. The second collection (planned giving) is placed in a red bag, counted on Sunday evening and banked in Mildura. The envelopes and loose money from Ouyen and Robinvale and Manangatang will be banked separately until September when a new planned giving program will begin. More discussion points in the next bulletin. Hopefully we will have all printers and monitors up and running by then!

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