



ST ALIPIUS 82 VICTORIA ST BALLARAT EAST 3350





PARISH OFFICE 84 VICTORIA ST BALLARAT EAST 3350 PH 5332 6611 OPEN TUE – FRI 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-east/

MASS TIMES

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Ss Peter and Paul's

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Counting team 5

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I have called you by your name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

MESSAGE FROM FR JUSTIN

From April 10th, Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Matt Restall and I to the parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon, forming a Ministry District across our three parishes and the eight local Church and School communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke's Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank. We will work with Cathy Prunty, Natalie Shannon and Bernadette Prestwood in the Ballarat East Office and Aileen Toohey in the Bungaree and Gordon Parish Offices as well as the Principals of our Catholic Schools - Troy Strybosch (St Joseph's Bakery Hill), Jayne Bosworth (St Brigid's Ballan), Emily Clarke (St Alipius' Ballarat East), Mark Hogbin (St Francis Xavier Ballarat East), Clare Scanlon (St Mary's Clarke's Hill), Paul McDowell (St Patrick's Gordon), Ethan Corfee (Emmaus Mt Clear) and Steven Mifsud (Damascus Mt Clear and Dunnstown). In the Diocese of Ballarat, a Ministry district is the term used in our pastoral planning document Looking Forward, to describe the sharing of resources between parishes, with the aim of working in collaboration to further the mission of Christ that has been entrusted to the Church. Our emphasis and focus is on mission, looking forward, outward, with the joy of the Gospel.

Pope Francis, in The Joy of the Gospel, dreams "of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her selfpreservation" (#27). He recognises that we need to be in a "permanent state of mission" (25), going out, being always engaged in involving others and being constantly focused on reaching out. The vision of Pope Francis is an outward one and "mission" is at the centre of it. In this next chapter, our new Ministry district provides us all with an opportunity to exercise genuine synodality, that is, walking together in faith, building a culture of encounter and accompaniment, discerning the way forward by genuine dialogue, listening to each other with prayerful openness to the Holy Spirit.

I look forward to walking with you as a pilgrim in faith, together as servants of the Gospel, joyful missionary disciples.

Fr Justin Driscoll

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated.

Supporting our parish priests	\$981
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$618

FUNDRAISING AFTERNOON TEA

The Cathedral Branch of the Catholic Women's League will be hosting an afternoon tea as a fundraiser to aid our Seminarians at 1:30 PM on Saturday 20 April at 30 Waller Ave, Ballarat. Entry is \$20 (cash only). There will be stalls and competitions. Donations are welcome and can be paid directly via the Bendigo Bank: Cathedral Branch Ballarat CWL, BSB 633 000, ACC 21371 7255. For inquiries please phone Carmel on 0401 175 045.

MERCY ASSOCIATES



Saturday, May 18

An Invitation - Are you interested in becoming a Mercy Associate? This group seeks to "Preserve, Nurture and Reimagine the Mercy charism", established by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy".

We offer members a number of social and spiritual activities throughout the year.

If you are interested, both women and men, please contact the Parish Office for further information before 30 April 2024..

FIRST EUCHARIST

The parent information sessions for children enrolling to prepare for First Eucharist will be held on April 18th. For more information, please call the parish office or refer to our website.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE REUNIONS

Damascus College warmly welcomes past students and staff of Sacred Heart College, St Martin's in the Pines and Damascus College to our 2024 Class Reunion's. This year, we are thrilled to host 'class of' reunions for: Class of 1974 – 50 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, April 20
Class of 1984 – 40 Year Reunion Celebration –

Class of 1994 – 30 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 18

Class of 2004 – 20 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25

Class of 2014 – 10 Year Reunion Celebration – Saturday, May 25

Please note: An all-years St Paul's Reunion will be held in 2025.

For further details and booking links for each class reunion, please visit

https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events. Scroll down to 2024 'CLASS OF' Reunions and click the + to view details and book your ticket. Enquiries: connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au

CATHEDRAL FENCE UPDATE

Bishop Paul has asked that we share the following update on our bulletin regarding the maintenance work on St. Patrick's Cathedral fence.

As reported in *The Courier* on Monday, March 25, ribbons were removed from St Patrick's Cathedral fence to allow maintenance work to be done on the fence. The date for the removal of ribbons was set in consultation with members of the Loud Fence movement.

Over the past two weeks, the fence has been cleaned and a first coat of paint has been applied to most of the fence. The finishing coat of paint will be applied in the coming weeks to complete the maintenance project.

Bishop Paul Bird and some members of the parish council will meet again with members of the Loud Fence movement next week. This will be to discuss arrangements for a meeting with survivors to hear their views on a memorial for those who have suffered abuse. The memorial could provide ongoing recognition of those who have suffered abuse and also be a reminder of the need for continuing attention to safeguarding children and vulnerable people in our community.

Being Witnesses

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Third Sunday of Easter: Luke 24: 35-48

Extraordinary things can happen if we open ourselves to the presence of a stranger on the road of life. That is one of the elements in today's gospel that forms the conclusion to the Emmaus story.

When I was a student in Dublin researching Luke's depiction of women in the Acts of the Apostles, I would often take a detour on my way home to visit the National Gallery of Ireland. Velázquez's remarkable oil painting, Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus captured and held my attention.

In this work, the viewer is confronted with a painting within a painting. The kitchen maid pauses from her tasks to listen, through the space between the kitchen and dining area, to the conversation between Jesus and his table companions.

Jesus' hosts have not yet recognised the companion they had encountered on the road from Jerusalem.

Velázquez seems to be suggesting that the young servant woman in the foreground, a woman from another place and another time, has sensed what they have yet to discover.

Like Velázquez's servant woman, we might attend to this graced encounter, its prelude, and its aftermath.

Imagine two dejected disciples (Cleopas and possibly his wife) on the

road from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. On their journey, they encounter Jesus who has been raised.

At first, they fail to recognise him. Their sadness at his death has blinded them to what is happening before their very eyes. He engages them in conversation and holds up a metaphorical mirror to their experience of loss and grief. Their hearts "burn" within them as he opens to them the meaning of their sacred scriptures.

Their hearts burn within them.

They invite him to share a meal with them and their eyes are opened: they recognise him in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus then disappears from their midst. They cannot contain the joy they have experienced in realising that he is alive.

Cleopas and his partner return immediately to Jerusalem to share the good news with the other disciples.

All the assembled disciples experience powerfully the presence of Jesus in their midst. They share a meal with him. He opens their minds



to understand the scriptures. Everything falls into place.

They not only understand Jesus' death and resurrection in the light of the scriptures. They now know that they will be "clothed with power from on high" to exercise their role as witnesses to this great mystery, and to preach forgiveness to all peoples "beginning from Jerusalem".

Luke will open his second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, with the story of the risen One sending the disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

If we who re-member these events in every Eucharistic celebration allow our hearts to "burn" within us, we too may recognise the Risen One "on the road" and become his witnesses to the ends of the earth, engaging and even hosting the "strangers" we meet along the way.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19 1 JOHN 2:1-5 LUKE 24:35-48 NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

> ACTS 4:8-12 1 JOHN 3:1-2 JOHN 10:11-18