



▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**  
701 FISKEN ST  
BUNINYONG 3357



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

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/)

28 April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

*I am the true vine*

# St Alipius parish

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 AM

Thurs & Fri 9.15 am (this week only)

Saturday 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weeks)

10:30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Counting team 7

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

## WE PRAY FOR

**Faithfully departed:** John McRory, John Mildren OAM

### Anniversaries:

**Unwell:** Socorro De Chavez, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

## PARISH TEAM

### Parish Priest

Fr Justin Driscoll

### Assistant Priest

Fr Matthew Restall

### Visiting Priest

Fr. Barry Ryan

### Sacramental and Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

### Administrative Assistant

Natalie Shannon

### Finance Officer

Bernadette Prestwood

### Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke

## PARISH VISION

The combined communities of St Alipius Parish reach out in the spirit of faith, hope, love, and acceptance, as God calls us to in the gospels.

## PARISH MISSION

Our mission in the Parish of St Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel. Strengthened in the spirit of faith, hope, love acceptance and Mercy, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Guided by God's call to service, we aim to build strong connections, provide spiritual nourishment, promote social justice, and offer support to individuals and families in their journey of faith. Through our dedicated interactions, we seek to deepen our relationships with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Baptism Preparation Session

10 AM or 5:30 PM, Thursday 2 May  
Mary Glowrey Room, St Patrick's Cathedral

### Caring Group

2pm, Friday 3 May  
Parish Hall

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

Counting was not completed this week. Details for the two weeks will be made available in next week's bulletin.

## FR MUGAVIN GOLDEN JUBILEE

All are welcome to Mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Fr Paddy Mugavin at 10:30 AM on Sunday, 19 May at St Mary's Church, Hamilton. Morning tea / light lunch provided.

## JOIN THE MERCY ASSOCIATES

Women and men are invited to join this group, which seeks to "Preserve, Nurture and Reimagine the Mercy charism", established by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. Members are offered some social and spiritual activities throughout the year. If you are interested, email [mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au).

## VINNIES MAGAZINE

Scan or click the QR code to read the Autumn edition of "The Record" from the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia.



## PRAYER FOR 1 MAY

God our Father, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## MASS COUNTS IN MAY

The annual count of attendees at masses throughout the diocese will occur over the four weekends in May.

## DAMASCUS 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 Reunions.

Class of 1984 (40 years) – Saturday, 18 May

Class of 1994 (30 years) – Saturday, 18 May

Class of 2004 (20 years) – Saturday, 25 May

Class of 2014 (10 years) – Saturday, 25 May

An all-year St Paul's Reunion will be held in 2025.

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

[www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events) Scroll to 2024 'CLASS OF' Reunions and click the + to view details and book your ticket.

Enquiries: [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au)

## BAPTISMS

### Ken Thomas Ryan

Child of Thomas and Hayley

### Hugo Jeffrey & Raffie Neville Perry

Children of Nicholas and Sharni

*The church gives faith to your children through Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow.*

Pope Francis

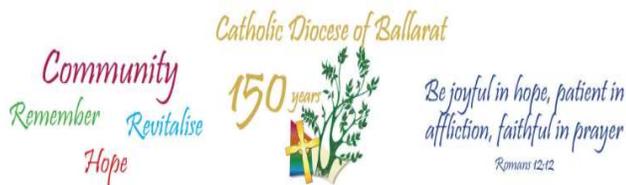
## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

This week, schools around our diocese will celebrate Catholic Education Week. This will be done in different ways across our schools, in recognition of the work of our students and staff. We congratulate each school in our parish for the work that they do. Catholic Education Week will conclude next Friday evening with a Mass for teachers at Damascus College. Among other things, this Mass celebrates 30 years' service of staff in our diocese.

## TAP AND GO DEVICES

This weekend we will be introducing Tap and Go devices into our churches at Ballarat East and Buninyong. These devices allow us to tap our cards in order to make a donation to the presbytery account, which supports the priests of the diocese. We would have originally recognised this as our first collection. You will need to choose an amount and tap your card to make your donation. Feedback is welcome.

# ACKNOWLEDGING 150 YEARS OF THE BALLARAT DIOCESE



Across the Diocese this weekend, parishes will acknowledge 150 years since the Diocese of Ballarat (and Sandhurst) were created on March 30<sup>th</sup> 1874. In 1844 the first Mass had been celebrated in Port Fairy, the first in what would become the Diocese of Ballarat. Archbishop Polding (Sydney) visited Portland in November 1844.

In 1848, James Alipius Goold was appointed Bishop of Melbourne – the Diocese had two churches, Melbourne and Geelong and a Chapel at Portland. In October 1851 the first Mass in the Ballarat district was celebrated by Fr Patrick Dunne at Brown Hill in a borrowed tent. In 1872 the Sisters of Mercy made a foundation in Warrnambool. In March 1874 when the Diocese of Ballarat was created, Michael O'Connor, a Parish Priest in Rathfarnham (Dublin) was appointed the First Bishop. With the creation of the Diocese, the following 11 parishes, established as parishes of Melbourne, were transferred to the Ballarat Diocese: Portland (est. 1847), Port Fairy (est. 1849), Warrnambool (est. 1853), Colac (est. 1853), Ballarat St Alipius (est. 1852), Hamilton (est. 1856), Ararat (est. 1858), Maryborough (originally Carisbrook est. 1859), Creswick (est. 1861), Inglewood (est. 1865), Mortlake (est. 1869).

Since 1874, many churches, parishes and schools were opened and many religious orders arrived. Across our Ministry District this included the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy to Ballarat East (from Warrnambool) in 1881, the creation of the Parish of Bungaree in 1890 and the arrival of the Diocesan Sisters of St Joseph to Bungaree in 1891. In 1980, the Parish of Gordon with the communities of Ballan, Mt Egerton and Springbank) was transferred from the Archdiocese of Melbourne to Ballarat. The foundation stone for St Patrick's Church Gordon was blessed by Bishop Goold on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1872, with Gordon becoming a parish in December 1875. Catholic Schools have been a feature of the Church in Australia with 2<sup>nd</sup> Catholic school in Victoria opened in Portland in May 1849.

The early Catholic schools were all staffed by lay people. St Alipius Primary School first opened its doors to the children of the Ballarat East goldfields on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1853 – the 13<sup>th</sup> non-government school formally registered in the state of Victoria. There had also been a Catholic school at Buninyong in the early 1850's. St Agnes School at Ballan opened in 1858 until 1863 when it was destroyed by fire. At Springbank (Ormond) a Catholic school was built in 1865.

150 years since the creation of the Diocese of Ballarat, from the Murray to the Sea, we acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our history.

## 150 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have received all the gifts we enjoy.

As we mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat, we give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us.

We recognise the communities who have lived on this land from ancient times. We honour the Aboriginal peoples, here for tens of thousands of years. We honour those who came from overseas and settled here before our diocese began. Yet our anniversary shines a special light on our years as the Diocese of Ballarat, a community of communities from the Murray to sea.

We remember those who have gone before us, those who laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and our social services and health care.

We acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our history. We celebrate the achievements, and we ask pardon for the failures to live our Christian faith to the full.

May this anniversary year be a season of renewal for our diocese. Inspired by the Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist, may we follow the example of Jesus and the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

May we reach out in humble service, welcoming all and caring for all creation. May we grow in love day by day. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## DIOCESAN TIMELINE

As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, a timeline of significant dates and events over the past 150 years has been published on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/history-2/>

## CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will gather next Friday, May 3 in the parish hall at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat. Please bring a small plate to share.

# The One Vine or Vineyard

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifth Sunday of Easter: John 15:1–8

Life's experiences teach us that, as members of the Earth community, we cannot make it on our own. We need one another, other living beings, the sun, the soil, the water, and everything else that formed from exploding stars in the distant past.

The gospel reading reminds us that as baptised Christians we are not just intimately interlinked but that the source of our unity is the Risen Christ. As limbs and leaves and sap of the same vine, we simply cannot survive in isolation.

The vine image picks up one of the most potent biblical images for God's relationship to the people of Israel. It is an image of life and growth, of colour and vibrancy. It holds the promise of a life-sustaining grape harvest that is ultimately transformed into wine, the biblical symbol for joy.

Our gardener God brought Israel "the vine" out of Egypt (Psalm 80:9). For the prophet Isaiah, Israel is also a vineyard planted and nurtured by God (5:1-7; 27:3). For Jeremiah, Israel is the choice vine "of fully tested stock" planted by God (2:21).

The Johannine Jesus makes the claim: "I am the true vine/vineyard" and God is the "vinegrower".

Jesus wants to distance himself from the ostentatious artificial golden vine

that adorned the entrance to the sanctuary. He goes further: "I am the vine/vineyard and you are the branches".

The potency of this image resides in the fact that a vine without branches is inconceivable. It draws us into the mystery of the mutual interchange of life between us and the risen Christ, into the mystery of God. It also invites us to acknowledge our interconnection with the whole of the Earth community, to nurture the wonderful biodiversity of our planet, and to accept the inevitability of "pruning" if we are to "bear fruit" and "become disciples".

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*I am the vine, and you are the branches*

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"Pruning" can take various forms. A chance encounter, a sudden inspiration, a word from a friend, an unexpected illness, a confronting story: any such experience can bring us to our senses and serve as a "pruning" device.

The first reading for today recounts the story of Saul of Tarsus who is "pruned" quite dramatically through his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus.



He is transformed from persecutor to defender of Christ and Christ's followers. Saul becomes a disciple and "bears much fruit". The Greek-speaking

Christian Jews are suspicious, even murderous when he tries to preach the gospel among them. Peace ensues, however, and the movement takes hold in the regions where Jesus had first preached the gospel.

It is worth reflecting on the cultural diversity that characterised earliest Christianity and the tensions that had to be resolved between different language groups or groups of different ethnic origin for the gospel to flourish and bear fruit.

John's gospel is written against the backdrop of such "pruning" within the early communities. Sometimes the requisite "pruning" is hearing respectfully a point of view that differs from one's own.

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 9:26–31  
1 JOHN 3:18–24  
JOHN 15:1–8

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48  
1 JOHN 4:11–16  
JOHN 15:9–17