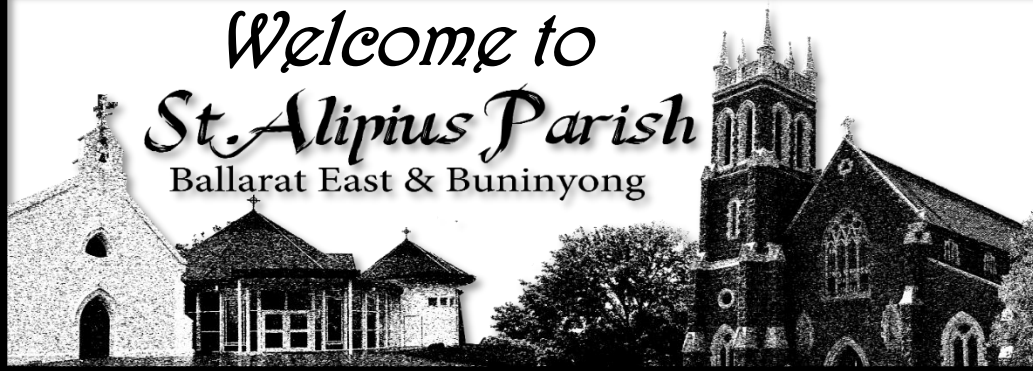


# Welcome to St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



**St Alipius**  
Parish Community

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

*Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity  
of all children and vulnerable adults.*

*St Alipius' Parish acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this  
land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

**St Alipius' Parish Church**  
82 Victoria St, Ballarat East 3350

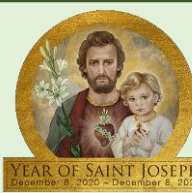
**SS Peter & Paul's Church**  
701 Fiskens St. Buninyong 3357



*We will be welcoming Bishop Paul Bird to celebrate the solemnity of  
St Joseph in the parish during the 6pm mass on  
Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*

*We will pray the Consecration and proclaim the Year of St Joseph.*

*We extend a warm invitation to all parishioners to join the celebration.*



## Parish Office & Presbytery:

- ☐ 84 Victoria Street  
Ballarat East 3350
- ☐ 5332 6611
- ☐ ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Office Hours:

*Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm*

### Liturgy Online:

- ☐ [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

**Parish Coordinator:** Bronwyn Ballesty

**Child Safety Officer:** Bronwyn Ballesty

**Finance Officer:** Kerrie McTigue

**Finance Com. Chair:** Paul Jans

**Liturgy Coordinator:** David Santamaria

**Funeral Ministry:** Carmel Flynn, Kathy Curran  
Terresa Fletcher

## Masses during the week

### St Alipius' Church, for 180 attendees

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday,

Friday & Saturday 9.30 am

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)

10:30 am (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Ss Peter & Paul's Church,

### Buninyong for 150 attendees

Sunday 9:00 am (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)

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

(Please ring Margaret McCarty 0423 208 286)

### Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

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

### St Alipius Church

Readers Roster	March 13 & 14
Vigil 9.30am	Jon & Jan Cosgriff Eileen Rice & Laurie Mullane
Vigil 9.30am	Robert Mason & Liz McCartin Jim Moran & Anthony Ryan

## In our prayers we remember.....

**Recent Death:** Kevin McCarthy, Joyce Cook, Luz Hernandez (P), Sr Mary Helen (P)

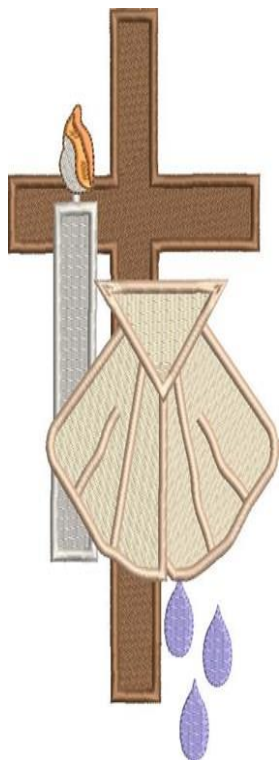
**Anniversaries:** Barry Ridsdale, Sr Kathleen Nolan RSJ, Brian Lewis, Max Gilbert, Joan Shannon, Peg Guiliano,  
Brian Lewis, Max Gilbert, Des, Imelda

**Unwell:** We pray for Waffa Ghali, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray, Kateri Byrnes, Ann Coswello, Carmel Doherty, Pat Hogan, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, John Beattie, Letitia Simmons, Anthony Holdsworth and all who are unwell.



## *This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:*

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..."  
(Pope Francis)



**Micailla Caguimal**  
Daughter of Irol and Ma Joyline

**Jasmine Collins**  
Daughter of David and Thuy

**Evie and Maya Cooper**  
Daughters of Steven and Karly

**Flynn, Hamish and Charlie**  
Sons of Stuart and Megan

**Penelope Jurkitt**  
Daughter of Reece and Charmaine

**Cooper Daly**  
Son of Rachel and Justin

**Bowie Perry**  
Son of Sharni and Nicholas

**Ruby and Marli Quiddington**  
Daughters of Jessie and Bradley

**Sam and Sophie**  
Children of Shaun and Kate

**Scarlett and Evie Woolfe**  
Daughters of Luke and Casey

**Milli Van Gaans**  
Daughter of Jarrod and Nicole

**Flynn Haynes**  
Son of Phillipa and Paul

*May these  
children grow  
in Love and  
Faith with  
the support  
of their family  
and their  
Catholic  
Community*

### **Upcoming Dates in the parish community**

#### **March**

20 <sup>th</sup>	Bishop Paul Bird Concelebrating mass	6.00pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation ~ Children's Sacrament	7.00pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation ~ Children's Sacrament	7.00pm
24 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation	7.00pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation ~ Children's Sacrament	7.00pm
26 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation ~ Children's Sacrament	7.00pm
28 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	

St Alipius Church
St Alipius Church
St Alipius Church
St Alipius Church
St Alipius Church
St Alipius Church
All Churches



### **Thank you and Congratulations**

Congratulations to Sr Noreen Ryan and Sr Luke who recently celebrated their Diamond Jubilee. We thank them for the gift of their vocation and for all they have done in the Diocese. We keep them in our prayers.

**Congratulations.**

### **A Welcome Morning Tea**



Following the 10.30am mass at Sts Peter and Paul on the 21<sup>st</sup> and St Alipius on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, Fr Jorge and the parish office staff will be staying for a cup of coffee to meet the families within the parish.  
*We look forward to seeing you all soon.*



### ***Lenten Resources - Week 3***

The Sandhurst Diocese kindly shares their Lent 2021 leaflets which invite reflection on excerpts from Pope Francis' "Let us Dream", together with insights and suggestions for action from one of the Australian Plenary Council Thematic Discernment papers. The leaflets are for individual reflection or small group reflection and discussion. The theme for week 4 is, "How do we become a merciful Church, shaped by a culture of caring?"



These leaflets are available for download from the diocesan website Liturgy Resources page <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

### ***Holy Land Collection Good Friday - April , 2021***

The severe loss of income that the Church in the Holy Land has experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is why your support in the Good Friday Collection is vital. The pandemic has created significant problems with vital health care, and a catastrophic loss in income due to the restrictions to travel removing the donations from the many pilgrims that visit each year. The offerings that pilgrims leave the Franciscan Friars and the local church allow them to care for the many orphans, sick, homeless and many more.

### ***Project Compassion Virtual Immersions – Week 4***

Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. **Week 4: Arsad's Story (Indonesia)** on Tuesday, March 16 at 7.30pm (VIC). You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to <https://lent.caritas.org.au/virtualimmersions>.



### ***Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflections***



Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world? <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

### ***Mass of the Oils***

Mass of The Oils. St Alipius Parish has been invited to nominate 5 people to attend this Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral (Ballarat) on Monday March 29 at 6.30pm. At the Mass of the Oils, the oils used for anointing are blessed by Bishop Paul and distributed to the parishes - one of our parishioners to bring back to our church. If you would like to attend the Mass of the oils, please call David Santamaria on 0427310564.

### ***Planned Giving***

Due to the capped numbers for Mass, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving or contribution to the First Collection, please place your offering in an envelope into the mailbox near the front door of the Presbytery. Any queries regarding Planned Giving, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie McTigue, on 53 312 933 or via email: [ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au) St Alipius Parish collections last weekend:

Presbytery \$ 1025.30

Envelopes \$ 437.00

*We thank you for your continued support*





## Reflection on the Gospel-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year B (John 3:14-21)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who comes to him "by night". It features a number of typically Johannine themes: life, eternal life, believing, seeing, God's love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, the world, truth. John loves to play on words. Without losing sight of the material reality underlying each image, we need to keep asking: how is this word or expression to be understood in this particular context? In John's gospel, the characters often misunderstand and this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper or different understanding of his words.

As 21<sup>st</sup> century readers, we operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place. Hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories. The first two verses of today's reading evoke the ancient Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9). According to the story, the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack thereof. They blame both God and Moses. Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed a considerable number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God. God instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who "see" or "look upon it" find life.

Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent. The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life. In John's gospel, seeing is often equated with believing and believing leads to "life".

The bottom line is God's saving love for "the world", for the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human. Most of the themes in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of "love". God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world. Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus while judgment is the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God. Later in this gospel (12:33), Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

Readings for this week: Fourth Sunday in Lent

**First:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

**Second:** Eph 2:4-10 **Gospel:** Jn 3:14-21

Readings for next week: Fifth Sunday in Lent

**First:** Jer: 31: 31-34

**Second:** Heb 5:7-9 **Gospel:** Jn 12:20-33

