



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### CATHOLIC PARISH OF BALLARAT EAST

*Serving the Church Communities of*

✚**ST ALIPIUS (Ballarat East)** and ✚**STs PETER & PAUL's (Buninyong)**  
(84 Victoria Street) (701 Fiskin Street)



## SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

### Who We Are

The Parish of Ballarat East encompasses the worshipping communities of St Alipius in Ballarat East and SS Peter and Paul's in Buninyong; Sisters of Mercy; St Alipius Kindergarten, St Alipius Parish School, Emmaus Catholic Primary School, St Francis Xavier Primary School, and Damascus College. Each community contributes towards the richness of our parish life in its own unique way.

### Our Mission/Vision

*At Ballarat East Parish we believe that we all share in the call to proclaim the Word of God. We believe that although called to various ministries, by virtue of our common baptism, we share equally in the commission to announce that Word and to embody it by the way we live our lives.*

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

### Parish Contact Details

#### Clergy & Staff:

Parish Priest – Fr Peter Sherman  
Parish Coordinator – Lucy O'Beirne  
Bereavement Coords – Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran  
Child Safety Officer – Roxanne Leed

#### Office Hours:

Tue, Thu & Fri  
9.30 am—1.30 pm

#### Address:

84 Victoria Street  
Ballarat East 3350

#### Telephone:

5332 6611

#### Email:

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

#### Parish Website:

<http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019

THANK YOU to parishioners who have already returned their completed pledge commitments – either at Mass last week or on line through our parish website. Your support is very much appreciated!



If you have not yet done so, additional pledge cards will be distributed at all Masses this weekend. These completed cards and any that you have brought from home should be placed in the baskets during the regular Mass collection. Your completed Groups & Ministries commitments should also be placed in the baskets. Note that additional forms are available on the table at the rear of the church.

Please note that your new pledges will take effect on 20/21 April so **please return your completed pledges no later than 31 March**. Letters of confirmation and where appropriate, new sets of envelopes, will be available at all Masses on the weekend of 13/14 April.

### Follow-up Meeting

Parishioners who have generously volunteered to help with follow-up are reminded of the **Follow-Up Meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26 March in the Parish Hall**. If you have not yet volunteered and would like to help please feel free to join us. Your support will be very much appreciated.

I thank you once again for your generous response.

(Fr Peter)

### LENT WEEK 3



Continuing with Michael McGirr's suggested activities for the forty days of Lent, here are the next six items on his list that you might like to try:

17. Be the first to empty the dishwasher.
18. Enjoy the last stone fruits of the season.
19. Go to Mass on a weekday.
20. Send an old-fashioned postcard to someone who needs a laugh.
21. Buy a dozen oysters for sheer pleasure. Take a moment to also admire the shells.
22. Write a poem or a song in gratitude for your home.

(Source: *All I have is yours: Forty days to Freedom*, Michael McGirr)

## We Remember in Prayer



### Baptisms:

Mirajane Lewis, William Lewis,  
Leo Freak, Noah Osciak,  
Alina Osciak.

### Recent Deaths:

Neville Haintz, Jim Harrington.

### Anniversaries:

Max McGarry, Mick Luke.

### The Sick:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth,  
Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh,  
Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty,  
Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnot,  
John Darroch, Margaret Meerbach,  
Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran,  
Cathy Jones, Alison Rice,  
Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff.

## Prayer of the Week

### Risking

God of abundant and  
generous love, you enfold us with  
your love and compassion.

Grant us the grace to walk  
the path of repentance and  
conversion, so that we may more  
fully share in the new life  
promised to us by the death and  
resurrection of your Son Jesus.

Help us to live fruitful lives in  
order to serve you and our  
brothers and sisters, for the sake  
of the kingdom.

Amen

*The Lord is kind and  
merciful. (Psalm 103)*

## Words of Wisdom

*If I keep a green bough in my heart  
the singing bird will come.*  
(Chinese Proverb)

## Parish & Diocesan News & Events

### LENTEN CALENDAR

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays 7.00 pm SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

#### LENT DISCUSSION GROUP – "40 Days to Freedom"

Thursdays 10.00 am St Alipius Presbytery

Please come along for some faith building and faith  
sharing, and good company.

#### COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Tue, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7.00 pm St Alipius

Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 7.00 pm SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

#### ANOINTING MASS

Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2.00 pm St Alipius

### ST ALIPIUS PS OPEN MORNINGS

St Alipius Primary School Open Morning for enrolment 2020  
will be held on **Tuesday 26th March at 9:30am.**

### SOCIAL AFTERNOON

A social afternoon will be held on **Wednesday, 27th March  
in the Mercy Centre at 2.00pm.** Please enter via Gent St.  
All welcome.

### ANOINTING MASS

The Anointing Mass will be held on **Wednesday 3rd April at  
2.00pm.** Following mass there will be afternoon tea in the  
hall. We would appreciate donations of food for the afternoon  
tea. Anyone requiring transport please contact any member  
of the Caring Group of the parish office

### ATTENTION ALL SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!

*Let's make great music for our weekend  
masses and special occasions.*

We're looking for people who can sing and  
have reasonable skill on any instrument to  
create a number of music groups, including a  
parish choir.

Training will be provided in good contemporary and staple  
hymns before being rostered to be involved.

Your commitment is only what you are prepared to do.

If you'd like to be involved and participate in our music ministry  
please contact David Santamaria 0427310564 or email him at  
[david@dmssystems.com.au](mailto:david@dmssystems.com.au) with your name & contact details.



### CAN YOU HELP??

The parish is looking for a person or persons  
who would be willing to volunteer about an  
hour or two of their time each week to do  
some general cleaning (eg, dusting,  
vacuuming, etc.) in the parish office and the  
parish house. Cleaning materials will be  
provided. If you can help please contact Lucy in the parish  
office. Thank You.



### BALLARAT HISTORICAL ITEMS COLLECTION

Items housed in the Diocesan Archive are gradually becoming  
available to view online at

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/ballar-diocesan-historical-commission#collection-records>

### DAMASCUS COLLEGE FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Damascus College warmly invites you to attend "Developing Parents' Digital Literacy and Tackling Cyberbullying" presented by Project Rockit. **Wednesday 1st May 2019 at 7pm – 8.30pm** in the John Shannon Centre, Damascus College. Book your FREE tickets at [damascus.vic.edu.au](http://damascus.vic.edu.au).

### MERINDAH SAYS "THANK YOU"

Proprietor, Jacinta Peart, writes: "We here at Merindah Buninyong would like to thank your Parishioners for the Christmas gifts that arrive each year, this really brightens the lives of the residents that would otherwise have a lonely Christmas. The thought and generosity are really appreciated by each and everybody. Most of the residents have suffered many obstacles and have been homeless but have settled well and to receive a gift really boost their spirits. So, thank you all. God bless."

We acknowledge the dedicated work of Margaret McCarty from the Buninyong community who has coordinated the gift giving of the parish for numerous years and the inclusion of Merindah Lodge has been due to her compassion and thoughtfulness.

### FRANCIS SULLIVAN – WHY STAY?

A recent CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, Francis Sullivan tells why he remains a Catholic despite the horrific clerical sex abuse scandal which has rocked the Catholic Church. You can pick up a copy of his article from the table at the back of the church or read it online along with comments from other readers at <https://johnmenadue.com/francis-sullivan-why-stay/>.

### REFLECTIONS ON WATER

Did you know that Fri, March 22<sup>nd</sup> was **World Water Day**?



Given the drought we're currently experiencing, you may like to ponder anew this precious resource which most of us tend to take for granted. The link below is to *Reflections on Water*, a booklet prepared by the Integrity of Creation Group of the JPIC Commission of Major Superiors of Religious.

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e7a99a\\_2e3168905a5a4b3880e80ec36d8d845d.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e7a99a_2e3168905a5a4b3880e80ec36d8d845d.pdf)

### MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT – VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in the next few months. Contact Donna Stewart - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com) for information and application form.



## Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

<b>Mon:</b>	No Mass
<b>Tue:</b>	5.00 pm Mercy Convent
<b>Wed:</b>	No Mass
<b>Thu:</b>	9.30 am St Alipius 11.00 am Mercy Place
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30 am St Alipius
<b>Sat:</b>	6.00 pm St Alipius
<b>Sun:</b>	9.00 am St Alipius 10.30 am SS Peter & Paul's

## Finance



### COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

#### Parish:

Envelopes	\$	693.70
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards (mthly)	\$	2937.00
Direct Debits	\$	360.00
	<b>\$</b>	<b>4140.70</b>

**Presbytery:** \$ 743.00

### COUNTING TEAMS

#### Team 11:

E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

#### Team 12:

K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston,  
G. Maguire.

## Appreciation Corner

We say thank you to Fr Peter & staff, the various community groups, and volunteers who generously give of their time and talent each week — the parish couldn't function without you!



This week our special thanks go to Bob, Noemi and Emma who made themselves available for training on the PA system at Buninyong. The new laptop has arrived equipped with music files to enhance the weekly worship there!

We also say a big thank you to Jason and David who will be managing the music at St Alipius this weekend.



## Scripture Readings & Reflections

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 13:1-9)

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about an unproductive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong.

So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "you will all perish as they did"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community.

The parable of the unproductive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of the planet.



### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

**First Reading:**

Joshua 5:9-12

**Second Reading:**

Corinthians 5:17-21

#### Gospel (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Luke's gospel of the Prodigal Son is too long to fit in the space we have so below is a summarized version of the gospel story sourced from <https://www.thoughtco.com/prodigal-son-luke-1511-32-700213>.

The story of the Prodigal Son, also known as the Parable of the Lost Son, follows immediately after the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. With these three parables, Jesus demonstrated what it means to be lost, how heaven celebrates with joy when the lost are found, and how the loving Father longs to save people.

Jesus was also responding to the Pharisees' complaint: "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

The story of the Prodigal Son begins with a man who has two sons. The younger son asks his father for his portion of the family estate as an early inheritance. Once received, the son promptly sets off on a long journey to a distant land and begins to waste his fortune on wild living.

When the money runs out, a severe famine hits the country and the son finds himself in dire circumstances. He takes a job feeding pigs. Eventually, he grows so destitute that he even longs to eat the food assigned to the pigs.

The young man finally comes to his senses, remembering his father. In humility, he recognizes his foolishness and decides to return to his father and ask for forgiveness and mercy. The father who has been watching and waiting, receives his son back with open arms of compassion. He is overjoyed by the return of his lost son.

Immediately the father turns to his servants and asks them to prepare an enormous feast in celebration of his son's return.

Meanwhile, the older son boils in anger when he comes in from working the fields to discover a party with music and dancing to celebrate his younger brother's return. The father tries to dissuade the older brother from his jealous rage explaining, "You are always with me, and everything I have is yours".

#### Question of the Week

What important work could bear fruit in your life right now if you have more confidence in God's loving care?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)