



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### CATHOLIC PARISH OF BALLARAT EAST

*Serving the Church Communities of*

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



## SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 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 Coord – Joan Dagleish  
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>

### Spiritual Discernment

Over the past three weeks we have reported on findings from the 2018 *Perils of Perception* survey conducted by Ipsos international research company. This survey measures the gap between people's perceptions and reality.

On three important issues of national concern (*migration, environment, economy*) we found that Australian respondents' perceptions were significantly different to that of reality, either grossly overestimating or underestimating the issue. Of course Australians were not alone in getting these wrong, respondents in many other countries also got them wrong. Ipsos Australia Director, Jessica Elgood, comments that "the important point to take from these studies is not that we get things so drastically wrong but to think about why we get them wrong and what they tell us about ourselves and the environment we live in. There are many different reasons why we may be wrong about various facts of society. These can include external influences on us, such as what we hear in the media, online, or from our politicians, but our own internal biases are just as important. These biases include our tendencies to focus more on negative stories over positive ones and to more easily recall those in memory; to believe that things were always better in the past; to hedge our bets towards the safety of the middle of the pack. Sometimes it is simply that we are not very good with numbers or are being asked for a number on a subject that we know little about."

One might ask, so what if our perceptions don't match reality? The problem is that our perceptions colour our mood and our view of the world around us and this in turn, affects our behaviour.

As a people baptised in Christ, we are called to act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God (Micha 6-8). This requires good thinking and good judgment, in other words to be a people of spiritual discernment. In his famous guidelines on spiritual discernment, St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, says that we need to have or develop seven attitudes or qualities as preconditions for entering into an authentic discernment process seeking God's will. These are *openness, generosity, courage, interior freedom, prayerful reflection on one's experience, having one's priorities straight, and not confusing ends with means.*

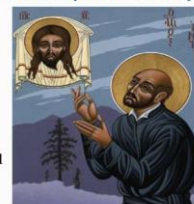
(Sources:

<https://www.ipsos.com/en-au/crime-sex-immigration-and-climate-change-how-australians-get-it-wrong>

<https://www.marquette.edu/faith/ignatian-principles-for-making-decisions.php>

#### Hallmarks of Ignatian spirituality

- Incarnational
- Adoring
- Penitential
- Corporate and personal
- Scriptural
- Magis
- Intercessory and grateful
- Structured and goal-oriented



## We Remember in Prayer



### Baptisms:

Angelo Gallagher.

### Recent Deaths:

### Anniversaries:

Margaret Quinn, Frances Murphy.

### The Sick:

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

## Prayer of the Week

### Stewardship Program Prayer

*Lord, we thank you for calling us to be your Church.*

*Through our Baptism we are called to service and to witness.*

*In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call.*

*By serving others we follow your example and proclaim our beliefs.*

*By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and care.*

*Lord, help us always to worship you as you deserve,*

*to grow in faith and service and to give without counting the cost.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

## Parish & Diocesan News & Events

### WELCOME & THANK YOU TO BISHOP PETER CONNORS

We welcome back Bishop Peter again this weekend and thank him for making himself available to say Mass for us while Fr Peter is away.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AT PARISH CENTRE

Tue, 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	5.30 pm	Finance Committee
Thu, 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	7.00 pm	Stewardship Committee
Tue, 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.00 pm	Parish 'Our Future'
	7.00 pm	Forum

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019

Our Parish Stewardship Program commences in two weeks – with our Welcome Weekend. The Program recognizes that 'Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church' and will challenge us to reflect on what it means to be a member of our parish community.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE



We encourage you to be actively involved – read the materials, listen to the speakers and follow the Program on the parish website. Reflect, pray about and discuss the themes and topics with your family, friends and fellow parishioners.

### Parish 'Our Future' Forum

All parishioners are warmly invited to a special forum as part of the Program – the Our Future Forum on Tuesday 26 February at either 2.00pm or 7.00pm. This is a great opportunity to make your contribution to the discussion. You will hear about the values we hold dear, our recent achievements and the priorities we have for the future. Please mark this date in your calendar. Full Program details will be available on the dedicated Program page on our parish website – which will be updated regularly throughout the Program.

### PERCEPTION Vs REALITY

Continuing with the **Ipsos** *Perils of Perception* survey, this final week we report on their findings in relation to the **economy**.

It seems Australians got it quite wrong on the three most basic economic indicators.

- **Unemployment:** People think that 23% of working age Australians are unemployed and looking for work when the actual figure is just 5%.
- **Ageing Population:** When asked what proportion of the population is aged 65 and over, average guess was 37% whereas in reality it is 14%. Also, when asked what share of the population will be aged 65 years or older by 2050 the average guess was 51%, more than double the actual figure projected by the World Bank.
- **Our Place in World Economy:** Average guess was that Australia has the 30th largest economy by GDP when in reality the World Bank ranks us 13th (when measured in US dollars).

(Source

<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-opinion/the-uncomfortable-truth-about-voters-perception-versus-reality-20181228-p50olu.html?btis>)

## School News

A warm welcome back to students and staff of our parish schools. We hope you had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to the new academic year.

### **Emmaus 2019 Opening Mass**

Please note that the 2019 Opening Mass for Emmaus Primary School is to be held at St Alipius Church on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February at 12 noon.

### **St Francis Xavier PS Open Days**

SFX Primary School will be conducting Open Days on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and March 14<sup>th</sup>. Please see flyer on Notice Board for further details.

## **THEOLOGY COURSE**

### **Thirsting for God: Faith Seeking Understanding**

Venue: Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat East.  
Dates: February 14, March 14; April 11; May 9; June 6.  
Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson invite parishioners to sign up for five two-hour sessions on faith commitment in the contemporary world. Simply contact Sr. Veronica by email ([veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au)) or by phone (0408392297) before February 4. Kindly provide contact details (email and mobile) and indicate whether you wish to enrol in the afternoon sessions (1-3pm) or the evening sessions (7-9pm). Donation to cover costs is \$25. Note that this is a new course, not a repeat of sessions held over the past four years. The next World Youth Day is on Sunday, January 27, 2019 in Panama City. You may wish to view the live stream of the Vigil with Pope Francis on Sunday morning before or after your regular Parish Mass, or include prayers for young people in your Mass. Prayers, information and the live stream link will be on the Youth & Young Adult Ministry pages of the diocesan website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### **THE SHARED TABLE – THANK YOU**

Fr Michael McKinnon wishes to thank all supporters of The Shared Table and wish them God's blessings for 2019. See Notice Board for his letter with photos.

## Words of Wisdom

"We can do small things with great love."  
Mother Teresa

## Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

<b>Mon:</b>	No Mass
<b>Tue:</b>	5.00 pm Mercy Centre
<b>Wed:</b>	9.30 am Mercy Centre
<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	\$	1038.00
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards (mthly)	\$	0.00
Direct Debits*	\$	0.00
	<b>\$</b>	<b>1188.00</b>

*\*figure not available at time of printing*

**Presbytery:** \$ 842.00

### **COUNTING TEAMS**

#### **Team 3:**

M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell.

#### **Team 4:**

C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

## Appreciation Corner

### **THANK YOU JACK PATTON**



Following last Saturday's Mass, Jack would like to say thanks to everyone who assisted him and expressed their concern or help following the couple of stumbles he experienced during Mass. Jack felt "overwhelmed" by the kindness he received and "quite thrilled that everyone is so caring. We have a great parish community".

Jack has decided to step back from his long-time contribution to Special Ministering, Collection and the Bereavement Group. As such, Jack, the members of our parish community sincerely extend our great appreciation to you for your immense generosity over many years which has always been, and is, given with a smile. We still look forward to seeing you among the pews!



## Scripture Readings & Reflections

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

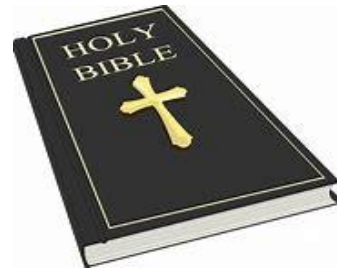
#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

The liturgy for today juxtaposes the introductory verses of Luke's gospel and a passage from the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry that encapsulates and sets the tone for the whole gospel. If we had no other part of Luke's gospel than these twelve verses, we would know a great deal about the gospel and its author's intentions.

From the first four verses, we know that Luke is not an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus but is endeavouring to provide an orderly account on the basis of reliable eyewitness accounts handed down to the community by "servants" or ministers of the word. We know that Luke's is one of many and not just four gospels. We also learn that the gospel is carefully researched and addressed to a person of influence called Theophilus, a name that means "lover of God" or "beloved of God". We might guess that Theophilus is Luke's patron, someone who provides the necessary funds to produce this work. He is possibly the early equivalent of an RCIA candidate, one seeking to become a full member of the worshipping community. We know from the grammatical construction that the author is male. And most importantly, we know that Luke sets out to place on a firm foundation the teaching that Theophilus has received about Jesus. The word translated as "truth" (asphaleia) in our lectionary can also mean "certainty" or "assurance". Our English word "asphalt" is derived from the Greek *asphaleia*. Luke wants the gospel message to be well grounded.

When we turn to Luke 4:14-21, we find a dramatic scene set in the Nazareth synagogue. This programmatic scene sets the tone for the whole gospel. Luke's gospel story is about the release that comes from the gracious and expansive love of God mediated through God's anointed and Spirit-filled prophet. Every significant event in Luke is powered by the Spirit of God. This event is no exception. The Spirit-filled Jesus searches out and proclaims a passage from the prophet Isaiah, a combination of Isaiah 61:1-2 and 58:9. He then points to his own mission as a fulfilment of the Isaian prophecy. Jesus thus presents himself as the Spirit-filled anointed one of God who brings good news to the destitute or homeless poor, release to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. The Greek word translated as "oppressed" literally means "shattered". It evokes images of asylum seekers in detention centres and of the hundreds of thousands displaced by war or persecution. It evokes the pain of the Earth itself and the other-than-human inhabitants of our planet suffering the effects of climate change and ecological destruction. If the gospel message is to be well-

grounded in our times, the "destitute" and "shattered" of our Earth community must find the "release" of which the gospel speaks.



#### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

#### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19  
**Second Reading:** Corinthians 12:31; 13:13

#### Gospel (Luke 4:21-30)

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, 'This is Joseph's son surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside." And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.'

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to the widow at Zarephat, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

#### Question of the Week

What do you believe that the anointing you received at baptism requires you to do?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)