

St Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



A COMMUNITY OF COMMUNITIES
FAITH WORSHIP EDUCATION OUTREACH

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Publisher
St Alipius Parish - Catholic Diocese of Ballarat
84 Victoria St, Ballarat East
Victoria 3350 Australia

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Production
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Credits

Thank you to all who contributed in any way to this publication, including parishioners of St Alipius Parish, parish schools, Sisters of Mercy, staff at the Diocesan Pastoral Office, the Development Office of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Michael Watson and Emily White, who provided images for use in this booklet.

Published November 2016 ©

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Welcome



St Alipius Parish encompasses the worshipping communities of St Alipius in Ballarat East and Sts Peter and Paul's in Buninyong, Sisters of Mercy, three primary schools, Ballarat's only Catholic co-educational secondary college and a kindergarten. Each community contributes towards the richness of our parish life in its own unique way.

Many people help sustain our parish through their involvement in various groups, ministries and activities. This booklet provides a snapshot of parish life and information about the activities undertaken by the various communities within it.

Fr Adrian McInerney
Parish Priest - St Alipius Parish

Vision and Mission

At St Alipius Parish, Ballarat East and including Sts Peter and Paul's, Buninyong, 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.

We seek to do this by involving ourselves in Worship, Word, Welfare, Welcome and Witness*, believing that if we attend to these, we attend to the essential elements of the Kingdom of God.

*According to a schema outlined by Thomas Groome in "Educating for Life" Thomas More. Allen, Texas.

Our Parish Community

Two Faith Communities



St Alipius - Ballarat East



Sts Peter and Paul's - Buninyong

Sisters of Mercy



MERCY impels us
to extravagant HOSPITALITY,
COMPASSION and JUSTICE
in the earth community,
being shattered by displacement.

Parish Schools



- St Alipius Kindergarten
- Emmaus Catholic Primary School
- St Francis Xavier Primary School
- St Alipius Parish School
- Damascus College

St Alipius - Ballarat East

Mass Times



Mass:

- Saturdays: 6:00pm
- 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays: 9:00am
- 2nd and 4th Sundays: 10:30am

Other:

- Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays
- Marriages by appointment
- Sacrament of Penance: Saturdays, 10:00am

Sts Peter and Paul's - Buninyong

Mass Times



Mass:

- 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays: 10:30am
- 2nd and 4th Sundays: 9:00am

Other:

- Baptisms: 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays
- Marriages by appointment

Who We Are

We are the St Alipius Community



We are a diverse people engaged in and sustained by the faith, religious, and school communities which make up our Parish.

These are our core values:

- We celebrate our faith together
- We are a welcoming and supportive community
- We encourage engagement in parish life
- We value pastoral outreach and social justice
- We are committed to Catholic education

“We have a long tradition of faith, worship and education.”

What We Do

Parish Groups and Ministries



Many individuals and groups contribute to the life of our parish. The groups, ministries and activities parishioners participate in are diverse in nature, sustaining various areas of parish life:

- Liturgical
- Pastoral
- Spiritual Renewal
- Sacramental
- Outreach
- Communication
- Social
- Education

This booklet provides information about our Parish communities and groups and ministries for parishioners, newcomers and visitors to our parish.

It outlines these ministries and groups, describes what they do and provides contact details, meeting times etc. for those who would like to make contact and/or become involved.

The diversity of groups and ministries ensures there's something to suit everyone's talents and skills – liturgy, pastoral care, faith development, social and practical.



St Alipius - Ballarat East

Faith Community



Parishioners of St Alipius faith community hail from Ballarat and surrounds. Many families from the parish's three primary schools and Damascus College are linked into the St Alipius community.

St Alipius community has Vigil and Sunday masses on a weekly basis: 6pm Saturday and either 9.00 or 10.30am on Sunday. With many young families in the Parish, baptisms take place regularly at 10.30am Mass while Children's Liturgy is held at the Vigil Mass.



St Alipius Parish conducts a number of Sacramental Programs including: Baptism Preparation Program, Children's Sacramental Programs, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Program. These programs are comprehensive and are underpinned by volunteers from the community and staff of the Parish's three primary schools. Parishioners participate in celebrations of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist regularly at masses throughout the year. The Parish RCIA program enriches the life of the community as parishioners have the opportunity to welcome, journey and celebrate with their newest members.



Many individuals and groups contribute to the life of our faith community. These groups are diverse in nature, sustaining various areas of parish life: liturgical, sacramental, social, pastoral, outreach, education and spiritual renewal and communication.

During Liturgy and Worship, parishioners participate as sacristans, welcomers, altar servers, musicians and singers, liturgy organisers, computer and overhead operators, readers, collectors and counters, Eucharistic ministers, Children's Liturgy leaders and support people.



St Alipius - Ballarat East

Faith Community



The faith development and mission of our Parish is supported by volunteers who facilitate discussion groups and those who provide opportunities for adult education.

Members of the Bereavement Team, Caring Group and St Vincent de Paul Society help provide hospitality and pastoral care for members of our community and in the case of our St Vincent de Paul Conference, outreach to the broader community.



Parishioners support the work of our Caring Group and Bereavement Team through provision of food for social and group functions and 'hands on' help serving food and setting and packing up the Parish Hall.

St Alipius' buildings and grounds are maintained by parishioners including those who clean and set up the church and provide flowers regularly for liturgies. Periodic working bees to maintain the church are well supported by the whole community.

The finances of the Parish are managed by the committed members of our Finance Committee and those who coordinate our Stewardship Program.



Members of St Alipius faith community participate in the life of the Ballarat and broader communities in many ways including involvement in issues of social justice, refugee support and participation in Diocesan committees and groups including the Diocesan Ecological Sustainability Group.

New and current parishioners wishing to participate in or volunteer for any parish groups or ministries can contact the Parish Secretary at the Parish Office P 5332 6611 E ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Sts Peter and Paul's - Buninyong Faith Community



The new Sts Peter and Paul's church at Buninyong is home to a vibrant community made up of families, new parishioners and visitors. Parishioners come from the surrounding areas of Mt. Clear and Mt. Helen, Clarendon, Grenville, Scotsburn, Elaine and Lal Lal. Families from Emmaus Primary School and Damascus Secondary College are linked into both Saints Peter and Paul's and St Alipius' communities.

Sts Peter and Paul's community gathers regularly to worship and socialise. Much happens at 10.30am masses. With many young families in the area, baptisms take place regularly at these times and Children's Liturgy is also held. Afterwards, a cuppa is provided in the old church. These gatherings have become popular as a time to catch up and welcome new parishioners.



The community is sustained by many volunteers including Eucharistic ministers, readers, welcomers, roster organisers, cleaners, gardeners and providers of hospitality. Communion to the sick and housebound is provided when required.

The Parish appreciates the commitment of Emmaus staff to the Children's Liturgy program. Working bees to maintain the gardens and surrounds are well supported by the community. New and current parishioners interested in volunteering would be welcomed. Please contact Margaret McCarty P 5341 3243.



Sts Peter and Paul's community participates in the life of the Buninyong and broader communities. During 2014 and 2015 the community hosted 'Organs of the Goldfields' performances at the new church. Visitors were pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the stained glass windows, the architecture, the acoustics and the beauty of the church surrounds.

Parishioners of Sts Peter and Paul's feel very much "at home" in their beautiful gathering space and offer all a warm invitation to visit sometime.

Combined Churches of Buninyong

Sts Peter and Paul's community is a member of the Combined Churches of Buninyong. This is an informal ecumenical group made up of a small number of members of the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Scotsburn Union and Uniting churches within Buninyong.

The group meets several times during the year, prior to significant seasons in the Church year. *"We work together to prepare a common activity, either together at one location, or within each of our churches. For example, we have a short combined 'Way of the Cross' on Good Friday, we present a letter of greeting to each community at Pentecost, prepare a Combined Service for the Good Life Festival, and assist with the Lions/Combined Churches Christmas Carols.*

In the past we have prepared combined prayer and carol services and participated in joint study groups and some of the significant events and celebrations of the other Christian communities. In 2016 the annual World Day of Prayer was held at Sts Peter and Paul's church."

For enquiries about the group and activities, contact Mike Maloney P 5330 1334 E maloney28@southernphone.com.au

Sts Peter and Paul's - Buninyong Faith Community - Reflections



Our Community – A Reflection

Sure, our new Church is wonderful. It's a stunning design that captures the essence of Sts Peter and Paul's in amazingly beautiful stained glass.

People come from far away to see our Church, but it's what happens inside the building that's more amazing. If those who come to look stay long enough to experience our faith community, then the real strength of Ss Peter and Paul's Buninyong becomes apparent.



There's a strong sense of belonging, being part of something wonderful, beyond just what we see around us. A place where we are made to feel welcome by people who genuinely care for our wellbeing.

Everyone contributes and inspires our community in their own special way: those who volunteer on the rosters, those who clean, those who sing, those who try to sing, those who make a cuppa and those who smile and put out a hand of welcome. Everyone's contribution is important. Without everyone, we would have nothing but a nice building.

Mark Davies



Reflections on our new Church

As a relatively recent member of the congregation I came for only a short time to the old church, just as the new one was beginning to take shape, a very exciting time for everyone.

The church is a beautiful example of contemporary design, seamlessly linked to the old building. This provides us with a sense of tradition along with the invitation to embrace the new, both in architecture and spirituality, for a new century and new ways of "being church". So we can take the best of the past as we move forward to meet the challenges of the future.



The spectacular windows are an inspiration as the light changes from season to season, revealing the lives of our patron saints, Peter and Paul, and inviting us to meditate as we gaze at the many symbols of our faith.

The church provides a wonderful space in which to be still, to pray, to sing God's praises, to wonder at the beauty of his creation and to join with many others as a worshipping community. In this we are lovingly led by Father Adrian who in his homilies speaks to us straight from his heart, bringing us insights and new interpretations from the word of God, but also challenging us to live out our faith day by day.



This is truly a living community seeking to welcome everyone and to carry our faith to the next generations.

Heather Ellis

Sisters of Mercy Community



Sisters of Mercy have been a presence in Victoria Street Ballarat East since Mother Agnes Graham founded the community there in 1881. Since that time they have made a significant contribution to the history of the city and surrounding areas particularly in the area of education but more recently in social welfare and pastoral care, carrying out the ministry founded in Dublin in 1831 by Venerable Catherine McAuley. Refugees and asylum seekers have been a particular focus of the sisters' ministry for several decades.

The current resident community consists of twelve sisters living in pre-hostel accommodation with varying degrees of assistance. In the surrounds, however, and in greater Ballarat, there are an additional twenty-four sisters engaged in local parishes, exercising ministries of teaching, adult education, pastoral assistance and community leadership.

The main building facing Victoria Street is an administration centre for all of Community South B of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea – an area comprising all of Western Victoria and bounded by the regional centres of Bendigo, Geelong, Warrnambool and Mildura.

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016, Mercy Sisters and our partners in Mercy throughout the world are engaging in a process of reflection by which we are listening more acutely to the 'cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor' and respond in action based on reflective practice. We are thus participating in a global movement of opening Doors of Mercy.



St Alipius Parish - Schools

Catholic Education



Education has a long and rich tradition in St Alipius Parish, home to a kindergarten, three Catholic primary schools and Ballarat's only Catholic co-educational secondary college. St Alipius Kindergarten, Emmaus Catholic Primary School, St Francis Xavier Primary School, St Alipius Parish School and Damascus College provide Catholic education to families within Ballarat and its surrounding communities.



Catholic schools nurture students throughout their educational journey with a deep connection to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Working in partnership with parents, parish and the broader community our schools provide an environment which enables all students to learn and flourish.

Our parish schools are supported by and work in partnership with the Catholic Education Office Ballarat in the pursuit of excellence in learning, teaching and leading. Together, they aim to provide quality learning programs for all students, and aim for every student's needs to be met, both in well-being and academic fields.



Our parish primary schools are recognised for nurturing the growth of young children within warm, welcoming, faith-filled communities. They are committed to providing quality educational programs which nurture a desire for learning through discovery in the foundational years and build capacities of older students to become independent and responsible learners.

Damascus College draws enrolments from Catholic and State Schools throughout Ballarat and surrounds and is Ballarat's only co-educational secondary college providing Catholic education for the whole family.

The College's mission is to live the spirit of Jesus as reflected in the Gospel, providing quality learning opportunities for all students in a Catholic educational community. The College provides modern facilities in an inspiring 50-acre bush setting, only 7km from the CBD, giving young people a solid foundation on which to build their lives, by providing high quality, well-rounded education that focuses on the development of the whole person.



The College has a strong commitment to social justice and has high expectations of its students to make a positive contribution to society and encourages students to reach their full and individual potential. Proud of its Mercy heritage, Damascus offers a diverse curriculum that caters for various post-secondary pathways.

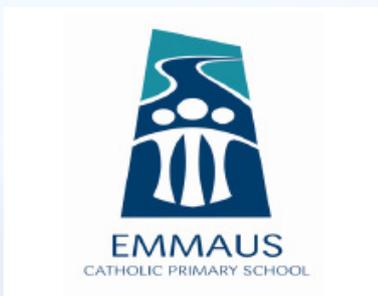
St Alipius Parish - Schools

Catholic Education



St Alipius Kindergarten

St Alipius Kindergarten is a relationship based program where each individual is valued and respected. The program is inspired by the principles of Reggio Emilia.



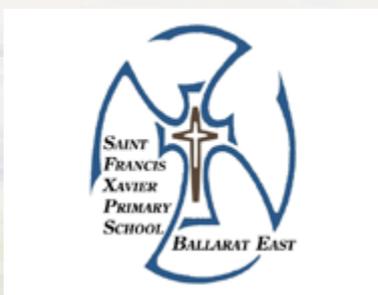
Emmaus Catholic Primary School

Emmaus Catholic Primary School
A school of Faith.
A school of Hope.
A school of Love.
"We are the Authors of our own Future."



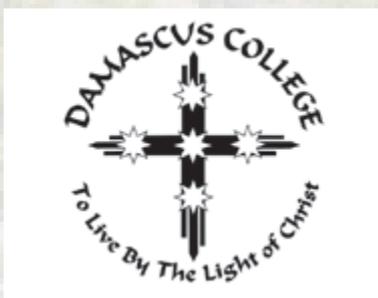
St Alipius Parish School

Open to God's presence
St Alipius Parish School is a Catholic learning community of excellence, equity and empowerment.



St. Francis Xavier Primary School

St Francis Xavier Primary School
Called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition
we will enrich thinking, expand horizons and pursue excellence!
"All with God"



Damascus College

Damascus College strives to live the spirit of Jesus as reflected in the Gospel, providing quality learning opportunities for all students in a Catholic co-educational community.



Parish Groups and Ministries

LITURGY AND WORSHIP	SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS
Altar Servers (Years 4 – 12)	Baptism Preparation Team
Baptism Support – Set up/pack up 10.30am Mass	Children's Sacramental Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Confirmation</i> • <i>Reconciliation</i> • <i>Eucharist</i> Schools/parish based and home-based programs for children attending parish and government schools.
Computer operator during Mass	
Children's Liturgy of the Word Programs	
Creation of Liturgy PowerPoint slides	
Liturgy Group – Prepare and plan	
Ministers of the Eucharist: Church	R.C.I.A. - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Minister of the Eucharist: Home visitation	FORMATION AND MISSION
Music Ministry: Choir/Singer	Adult Education
Music Ministry: Instrumental	Advent/Lenten discussion groups
Music Ministry: Youth	GodStart Program
Readers /Procession of gifts	Refugee Support
Sacristan Team	Social Justice Group
PASTORAL AND OTHER CARE GROUPS	SOCIAL AND GROUP EVENT FUNCTIONS
Bereavement Team	Church set up (e.g. Flowers)
Caring Group	Church cleaning
Family Group	Parish Hall set up & pack up
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Provision of food (funerals)
Piety Stall (St. Vincent de Paul Society)	Serving food (funerals)
Transport	Welcoming new parishioners
Visitation	COMMUNICATION
FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING	Parish Bulletin (weekly)/SAP news (periodically)
Collectors	BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE
Counters - Envelope & statement sorting (quarterly)	Church gardens/grounds
Finance Committee	Maintenance
Stewardship Program	Working bees

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers - Children's Liturgy Programs



Altar Servers

Children can become Altar Servers after they celebrate their First Eucharist. Altar serving is a way of actively participating in Mass and parish life as well as building friendships.

Training for altar servers is held annually after the celebration of Eucharist - 2 x 45 min sessions which run fortnightly. Server training takes place at both Parish centres, usually towards the end of term 2 (June).



During training sessions, children spend time learning what it means to be an altar server, finding out the names of things and where they are kept and practicing when there is no Mass.

Parents with children in Years 4-12 who are interested in altar serving, can contact Rachel Allan E saballarat.catholic.edu.au



Children's Liturgy Programs

Children's Liturgy Programs are conducted in both St Alipius and Ss Peter and Paul's communities during school terms. Programs cater for kinder and school age children. Children preparing for their Sacraments are most welcome to attend Children's Liturgy.

Children's Liturgy at Sts Peter and Paul's Buninyong is conducted on Sundays at 10.30am Mass (except school holidays). Contact Tanya Hislop P 0427 418155 E thislop@emtclear.catholic.edu.au



Children's Liturgy at St Alipius takes place on a weekly to fortnightly basis during Vigil Masses on Saturdays at 6.00pm. Dates are available on the notice board in the foyer of the church.

The Program follows the Liturgical Year. During liturgies, children are invited to participate in prayer, reflect on the Gospel in relation to their lives and share their reflections and participate in creative activities.

To become involved in the Program at St Alipius, or for any related inquiries please contact the secretary at the Parish Office P 5332 6611.

Liturgical Ministries

Ministers of the Eucharist - Sacristans



Ministers of the Eucharist

Ministers of the Eucharist assist in administering Communion during Mass and take Communion to the sick and house bound.

Formation is provided for parishioners interested in being Ministers of the Eucharist. During 2015 Sr Veronica Lawson hosted a formation night at which she expanded on various scripture passages which refer to the Eucharist. Reflection and group discussion followed.

Please contact the secretary at the Parish Office P 5332 6611, if you are interested in being a Minister of the Eucharist.

Parishioners have become accustomed to seeing ministers assisting the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist. However, some may not be aware special ministers may also take the Eucharist to family members or friends who, because of age or illness, are unable to attend Mass in person.

To arrange a home visit by a Minister of the Eucharist, please contact the secretary at the Parish Office P 5332 6611, or for the Buninyong area, Margaret McCarty P 5341 3243.



Sacristans

The Sacristan prepares the church for Mass by unlocking the church; preparing the altar; preparing the vessels; preparing the bread and wine; and lighting the candles.

After Mass the Sacristan strips the altar and puts the vessels away, collects any lost property and locks the church (when required).

Both Parish faith communities have several sacristans but would welcome new volunteers. The time commitment is approximately one hour. Presently we have four sacristans for Sunday masses at St Alipius, but require more to ensure the commitment remains manageable and so volunteers can be rostered on a monthly basis.

One doesn't need to be a Special Minister to be a Sacristan. If you would like to consider being a Sacristan, please contact the secretary at the Parish Office P 5332 6611



Liturgical Ministries

Music in Liturgy - St Alipius Youth Music Ministry



Music in the Liturgy

Music is integral to liturgical celebrations. Music and song in the Mass unite us as community, help us hear God's word, help express the tone of the liturgical seasons and foster active participation by all present.

Music and song is the work of the assembly. Musicians and choristers assist the assembly to fully participate in Liturgy. Liturgy forms us to live Christ's mission...to go out.



St Alipius faith community has three organists, a guitarist, and a group of parishioners who sing as a choir. These give time, talent and voices to cover the Mass times each month and they enjoy helping the assembled community fully participate in our celebration of Eucharist. At times when musicians are unavailable, music is provided by CD's and technology.

Sts Peter and Paul's faith community has organised a choir and organist for special occasions including for the opening of the new church. At other times, music is provided by CD's and technology.

To become involved, please contact the Parish secretary: P 5332 6611, for the Buninyong area contact Margaret McCarty P 5341 3243.



St Alipius -Youth Music Ministry

David Santamaria conducts a group of musicians and singers which leads the music for the 1st Saturday night vigil Mass for most months of the year. Additionally, the group leads the music for some of the Easter ceremonies as well as Christmas Eve Mass.

We meet at the Sts Peter & Paul's church in Buninyong each Tuesday afternoon from 5.30pm till 7pm for rehearsal during school term time.

Membership is open for young people:

- who play an instrument with a reasonable level of proficiency
- who enjoy singing
- from Year 9 at school through to young adults in further education and training, in university or in the workforce, who would like to continue playing/singing in a supportive environment.



Anyone interested in joining the group, please contact David on 0427 310 564 or send an email to david@dmsystems.com.au

Parish Sacramental Programs

Baptism Preparation Program



Baptism Preparation Program

Baptisms in St Alipius Parish are celebrated at St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East at 10.30am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, and at Sts Peter and Paul's, Buninyong on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month.



Our Parish Baptism Preparation Program is offered on the second Thursday of each month. It is during this evening that parents complete the Baptism enrolment form and look at possible dates for their child's baptism. The first point of call for parents is the Parish Office P 5332 6611. They will then be contacted to arrange a date for the Preparation Evening.



Preparation for baptism is hopefully, a valuable and enjoyable experience for parents. The program assists parents in supporting their child in the ways of faith on their life journey. Parents participate with other parents in the program which is led by experienced people who cover topics such as: Rite of Baptism, Symbols and Practices; Parent Opportunities and Responsibilities; and Belonging to the Church. There are also opportunities to discuss issues and ask questions.



The hope for our Baptism preparation program is that it will assist parents in deepening their understanding of the sacrament of Baptism and make them more aware of the importance this sacrament plays in their life as a family of God.

The Church shares the responsibility of preparing for a child's Baptism by providing a Preparation program for parents, and in doing so, hopes that parents will come to see the support and joy the Parish Community can provide throughout their child's life. There is also a great sense of celebration a child's baptism brings to the Parish Community which continues throughout the faith life of all, adults and children.

Parishioners interested in assisting with the Baptism Preparation Program can contact the Parish Office P 5332 6611.



Parish Sacramental Programs

Children's Sacramental Programs



Children's Sacramental Programs

Parish Sacramental Programs cater for people of all ages who wish to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and full membership into the Catholic Church. The youngest of babies and adults of various ages have been baptised in our Parish in recent years, beginning a lifelong journey of faith.

Preparation for individual Sacraments can be completed through the Baptism Preparation Program for babies and younger children, or through the R.C.I.A. Program for adults. These programs are run by volunteers from our parish and aim to lead participants towards a rich understanding of the Sacrament/s for which they are preparing. Reflection and discussion form an integral part of these programs.

Sacramental Preparation programs for school-aged children are family-based, run through the Parish and supported by the three Catholic primary schools in the Parish. Preparation sessions for children attending these schools are conducted in the schools.

During May, Parish schools conduct Preparation programs for the Sacrament of Eucharist for their school communities, in their respective schools.

During August, Parish schools conduct Preparation programs for the Sacrament of Confirmation for their school communities, in their respective schools.

Parents of children attending non-parish schools should contact the Parish Office P 5332 6611 when they feel their child is ready to participate in Sacramental programs (usually around Year 3 for Confirmation and Year 4 for First Eucharist). Details will be provided on contact with the office.

Parents are encouraged to attend Mass with their child throughout the course of Sacramental programs. Children will need to bring their 'Enrolment Form' for the Confirmation preparation program to a Mass during August.



Parish Sacramental Programs

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process where people who are interested in becoming Catholic come together with members of the RCIA team to discuss the personal experiences which have drawn them to question and discover more about the Catholic faith.

The RCIA program makes provision for those who have been baptised in another Christian tradition, but who wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

The journey for those who choose to explore and seek full Initiation into the Catholic Church occurs over a period of time and is marked by several distinct steps and ceremonies. Enquirers proceed through the process of Enquiry to the Catechumenate and then on to full membership into the Catholic Church at Easter. They are supported by the Team, Sponsors and Catechists throughout this process.

Members of the RCIA Team gather regularly with enquirers. The period of Enquiry culminates in the 'Rite of Welcome' celebrated at a Parish Mass.

As Catechumens continue on their faith journey, they attend Sunday Eucharist where they gather with the parish community, listen to the Word of God and after the homily, are dismissed with catechists to reflect on the Gospel.

This regular Sunday gathering with the parish community is a significant time in the catechumen's journey, as they experience what it means to be part of a Catholic community. Parishioners are encouraged to introduce themselves to the catechumens and make them feel most welcome.

Initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, occurs at the Easter Vigil Mass at St Alipius Parish Church. This is a moving Mass and ceremony for all present.

Hospitality follows this ceremony. Parishioners are encouraged to join these celebrations and make our fully initiated new members truly welcome.

Members of the RCIA Team include Fr. Adrian and John Clonan. Further inquiries can be directed to the Parish Office P 5332 6611.



R. C. I. A

A journey into God

in the midst

of community

Parish of
St Alipius

Faith Formation and Mission

Adult Education Opportunities



Adult Education Opportunities

Opportunities for adult faith education are provided through our parishes, schools, ACU, the Diocese and beyond. They include: talks, courses, workshops and concerts led by local and visiting facilitators; retreats and formation gatherings; action groups; and online resources including those available through the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Opportunities continue to be provided to explore and reflect on the encyclical 'Laudato Si' and the 'Jubilee Year of Mercy'.

In 2015 a Colloquium discussing the encyclical was held in Wendouree and the Diocesan Ecological Sustainability Group (ECOS) held an evening centred on St Francis of Assisi and Laudato Si.

Adult Education – 'Jubilee Year of Mercy'

Prior to the commencement of the 'Jubilee Year of Mercy,' Sr Veronica Lawson hosted an evening for parishioners at which she presented scriptural reflections on the concept and practice of 'mercy'.

During the evening Sr Veronica shared with all present what is an expansive wisdom, distilled and consolidated in her recent book *'THE BLESSING OF MERCY Bible Perspectives and Ecological Challenges'*. This is a wonderful and timely resource for all looking to deepen their understandings around the concept and practice of 'mercy'.

During 2016, Sr Veronica and Fr Barry Ryan led a course 'Exploring Faith Commitment and Ecology in the Jubilee Year of Mercy'.

Sr Veronica and Barry's hope is that our reflections on being Catholic in an open or unfinished universe will be a life-affirming and mind-expanding experience for us all, as we take another step or two in our journeys of faith, hope and love.

As a contribution to adult education for the Year of Mercy, Sr Veronica kindly made her book available at the discounted price of \$12.00 (available from the Parish Office or St Alipius Piety Stall).

For further information about adult education opportunities, please contact the Parish Office P 5332 6611 or see the Diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Faith Formation and Mission

GodStart Program - Reflection Group



GodStart Program

GodStart is a Parish based post-Baptismal Program which supports young families in our Church community. The program has been running in the St Alipius Parish community for many years. Our parish and school communities see this program as a positive way of assisting families in the faith development of their children.

GodStart provides a way for parents to introduce God into the lives of their children, through a series of age appropriate activities and suggestions for discussion. It is also a way of letting families know that they are members of the parish community and that they can find support and companionship within it.

On the GodStart program, children are given a birthday card on their first and second birthday. On the 3rd and 4th birthdays families receive a series of four activity cards providing fun for children and ways for parents to bring God into the everyday activities of their child's life.

If you would like further information about our GodStart program, please contact Delia de Jong P 53301534 E dejongdelia@gmail.com



Reflection Groups

Each year during Advent and Lent, the Parish offers opportunity for parishioners to join in small groups to reflect and prepare for the feasts of Christmas and Easter.

The resource material for each Liturgical Year is obtained from appropriate sources and ordered through the Parish Office.

Listening to and reflecting on the readings and the reflections of others enriches those present and helps members take the Gospel into their lives and their daily living and prepares them for participation in the Sunday Liturgy.

A Reflection group meets at St Alipius' church every Thursday morning during Advent and Lent.

If you would like to join a Reflection Group, please contact the Parish Office P 5332 6611.



Pastoral Groups and Programs

St Alipius Bereavement Team



St Alipius Bereavement Team

In November 2000, our Parish established a Bereavement Team to support families on their journey following the death of a loved one.

After the Priest has been contacted, members of the team will contact the family. The purpose of this contact is to support the family and offer any help that may be needed in preparing the readings, prayers, symbols, music and hymns for the funeral services of Vigil, Funeral Mass or Prayer Service.



Bereavement Team members may also be present at the Liturgical celebrations, the cemetery, the crematorium and at the gathering after the funeral.

The family may wish to have a viewing of the body. This can take place in the home, funeral chapel, or church. A team member may be asked to be with the family at this time.

The Parish Caring Group works in conjunction with the Bereavement Team.



Caring Group members visit the sick and elderly in their home and in some cases will have had prior involvement with the family of the deceased person.

If catering after the funeral is requested, the Caring Group Leader will contact the family for what is needed.

After the funeral, the supporting team members will offer continuing pastoral care. This could involve keeping contact with the family for a time by telephone or by visit, especially at the time of the first anniversary of death.



Our parish celebrates a Remembrance Mass at St Alipius' church in November of each year.

The Team meets bi-monthly to reflect on the Sunday Gospel; to check anniversaries; to further education and to support one another. Agenda and minutes of the meetings are distributed.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office P 5332 6611
E ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Pastoral Groups and Programs

Caring Group - St Vincent de Paul



Caring Group

The Caring Group meets on the first Friday of each month from February to November, at 10am in the Parish Hall. Our aim is to provide care and support to our parishioners and we do this in a number of ways.

Members of our group work with the Bereavement Team to provide practical support to families in the form of catering after the funeral of a loved one. When there are significant Parish events we offer to help with catering where needed.

We also help organise the two Anointing Masses held each year and provide transport and afternoon tea for parishioners. Each month two social afternoons are run for elderly members and the homebound, providing opportunities for much appreciated social contact.

The Caring Group is a small group and its members are aging. New members are always welcome. Please contact President: Margaret Tuddenham P 5330 3379, Secretary: Kath Bevelander P 5330 1519



St Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy.

Here in Ballarat East, most members go to the BAC (St Vincent de Paul Ballarat Assistance Centre) for two hours on one day per week, to assist the less fortunate members of the Ballarat community with compassion and without judgement. Some members make home visits to people who are unable to go to the BAC whilst some attend to other works of charity, help at the piety stall, or as required.

Members and parish volunteers coordinate a weekly bread run on Monday evenings. The commitment for volunteers is from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm. If you are interested in joining the bread delivery team, please contact Geoff Clarkson P 5340 0782.

St Vincent de Paul members meet twice a month for spiritual reflection and to support each other. For further information, contact Helen Smith P 5332 9309 or Mary Hall P 5329 0913.



Pastoral Groups and Programs

Family Group - Family Group Reflections



Family Group

St Alipius Family Group provides an opportunity for people of all ages to gather on a social basis.

Family Groups were introduced to Ballarat East parish in the early 1990's as a means of providing support for families within the parish community. Fourteen groups were formed with many good times had and friendships formed. When the groups started there were many children - these children have become adults with children of their own. They have all been enhanced by the involvement and love they have received through the family groups at their regular gatherings. The number of Family Groups has declined over time.



Our parish now has one large Family Group which gathers once a month for a meal and friendship. If you would like to join the Parish Family Group or attend their gatherings, please contact Maureen P 5333 5246.

Family Group – Reflections



“We have been in a St Alipius Family Group from its beginning 1991. Groups included parishioners of all ages, young and old. At the time, our children were attending school. We had some great times away. At Christmas time we would stay at the ‘Star of the Sea’ Convent in Apollo Bay and cook a big Christmas meal to share. As time passed some families moved on and we welcomed others into the group. Family group is informal but we are there for each other whatever arises.”

“We joined the Family Group to give our children the opportunity to meet on a social basis, with people of all ages, particularly older people. Throughout that time, it has been a lovely experience, very rewarding for us all.”



“Family Group was a big part of my childhood. It was fantastic to be around people of all ages and to share special weekends away. Now I have children of my own, I'd definitely be involved in a Family Group.”

“A group from Hemsley Park Retirement Village have joined the Family Group. It's a wonderful way to meet new people and we enjoy our monthly luncheons out.”

Finance and Fundraising

Stewardship Program

Stewardship Sharing
Giving Faith Love
Blessing Offering
Stewardship Sharing
Giving Faith Love
Blessing Offering
Stewardship Sharing
Giving Faith Love



Stewardship Program

In St Alipius Parish, we have replaced the term “Planned Giving” with a theme of “Stewardship”.

“Stewardship” is recognised as the acceptance of responsibility, about using our gifts as God would want – developing them and sharing them with others

Our program renewal is generally held every 3 years, and is a time of whole parish renewal, when we have the opportunity to reflect, discuss and re-affirm what it means to be part of St Alipius Parish. We consider if there is any way we can use our Time and Talent, and be involved in a group, task or ministry within the Parish.

It is also an opportunity for Financial Renewal, where we prioritise the Parish in our lives and commit to support financially. This allows the Parish to fund Operating and Running Costs, Pastoral groups and ministries, outreach, whilst also maintaining the facilities that we all enjoy via a Capital Works program.

To become involved, or for further information, please contact the Parish Office P 5332 6611 E ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au





St Alipius Parish Community

This booklet celebrates who we are and what we do as St Alipius Parish community. We are a diverse people sustained by the faith, religious, and school communities which make up our parish.

- We celebrate our faith together in welcoming and supportive communities.
- We acknowledge and encourage the numerous individuals engaged in leading, sustaining and participating in our faith and school communities in many and varied ways.
- Pastoral care and outreach underpin our communities.
- We are committed to Catholic education.

Contact Us

Churches in St Alipius Parish:

- St Alipius: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East
- Sts Peter & Paul's: 701 Fiskens Street, Buninyong

Personnel:

Parish Priest: Rev Adrian McInerney

Secretary: Jim Moran

Presbytery/Parish Office:

84 Victoria Street

Ballarat East, VIC 3350

Phone: (03) 5332 6611

Fax: (03) 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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