



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 Fiskens Street)



SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY 2019 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR C

Who We Are

The Parish of Ballarat East encompasses the worshipping communities of St Alipius in Ballarat East and Sts 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

Parish Website:

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

The Feast of the Baptism of The Lord marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist.

First of all, it needs to be pointed out that Jesus did not need the baptism of John. John was baptizing as a call to and sign of interior repentance. Jesus had no need to repent. But, nonetheless, He comes to John. John resists at first but Jesus insists. Why did He receive baptism?

First, by accepting the baptism of John, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms his sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. Therefore, the Baptism of Jesus acts as a bridge between the Old Testament prophets (of which John was the last) and the New Testament era of grace and truth.

Second, it has been said that when Jesus entered the waters of baptism, He was not baptized by the waters, rather, His Baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were, in a sense, "baptized" by Him. By entering into the waters, Jesus sanctified water and poured forth His grace making all water the future source of salvation.



Third, the Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all present would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world.

As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect, today, upon these words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.

(Source:

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2018/01/07/the-baptism-of-the-lord-2/>)

We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Indie Hatfield, Ava Hatfield,
Scarlett Blake, Hudson Blake.

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Bridget Curran, Michael Roach,
Patrick Blood, Bridget Galvin,
Jesus Dondoy, Michael Murphy,
Margie Flanagan, Jane Shine.

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.

Prayer of the Week

This week's pray is taken from the Collect of today's Mass.

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Source:
<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2013-01-13>)

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – FEB-MAR 2019

St Alipius together with the other parishes of the Ballarat area are working together for a Parish Stewardship Program. The Parish Stewardship Program is the core initiative of the Parish Development Team. The Program is a comprehensive parish renewal which recognises that “**Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church**”. Over a period of several weeks in February and March 2019, parishioners are taken on a journey to reflect and discuss what it means to be a valued member of a parish – through the communal celebration of the Eucharist, involvement in parish life and commitment to financial support.

The Program under the theme of **PARISH LIFE** features:

- Strong parish website and social media focus
- Outreach to the wider community
- Videos, brochures, speakers and special parishioner forum

Key benefits for the parish include:

- Sustained increase in parish income
- Parish groups and ministries re-energised
- Better engagement with parish school families

A parish leadership team for the Program has been nominated and will meet on Thursday, January 31st. Anyone wishing to offer their expertise, assist or to know more please feel free to contact the parish office.

PERCEPTION Vs REALITY

Each year, **Ipsos**, a highly ranked global market research and consulting firm, conducts their *Perils of Perception* survey which explores the gap between people's perceptions about the world and the reality. Their researchers have noticed that public perceptions are often most inaccurate on topics that are being widely discussed in the media, and on issues that are of concern to us. Their latest (2018) survey focuses on three issues, *migration*, *renewable energy* and the *economy*. This week we report on their findings in relation to **migration**. According to the survey:

- Australians vastly overestimated the proportion of population born overseas. Average guess was 41%, when the actual figure was 29%.
- The average guess for share of population who adhere to the Muslim faith was 17% when actual was 3%.
- Average guess is that the Muslim population will surge to 21% by 2020. In reality this is 6-7% higher than projections by professional demographers.

(Source

<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-opinion/the-uncomfortable-truth-about-voters-perception-versus-reality-20181228-p500lu.html?btis>)

OPPORTUNITY FOR PART-TIME WORK

The Sisters of Mercy are in need of a person with skills in property maintenance to undertake the care of some of their properties in Ballarat. A background in a trade would be an advantage but is not essential.

The current position is for three days per week at the award wage commencing early February.

Interested persons are asked to contact 03 5331 7774 during office hours for more information.

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH SPRINGDALLAH – CLOSING MASS

A final mass will be celebrated in St Patrick's church, Springdallah on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10.30am. All former parishioners are invited to attend this mass which will include the formal closure of the church.

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN YOUR PARISH

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

CATHOLIC WOMEN RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT

The Council for Australian Catholic Women warmly invites you to their 2019 National Colloquium from February 22-24 in Adelaide. Early bird registration closes January 15, 2019. More information on www.ballarat.catholic.org

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES

Men of all ages are invited to a Catholic Man Breakfast to be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Craig's Royal Hotel in Ballarat. The Breakfast will be hosted by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR.

Further information from Chris Liston, ph. 0437 318 251 or email chris.listo2@gmail.com or Vincent Sully, ph. 0407 310 115 or email vcjdh.sully@gmail.com.

CTC 2019 STUDY PROGRAM

Catholic Theological College 2019 Study Options now available for both Undergraduate and Postgraduate studies.

Enquiries to Mr John Bartholomeusz, Assistant Dean.
T: 9412 3309; E: ctc@ctc.edu.au

Words of Wisdom

"Be the change
you wish to see
in the world."
Ghandi

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 14th January 2019

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

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:		
Envelopes	\$	797.00
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards	\$	0.00
Direct Debits*	\$	0.00
	\$	947.00

**Figure unavailable at time of printing.*

Presbytery:	\$	901.00
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COUNTING TEAMS

Team 1:

L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane.

Team 2:

B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan.

Appreciation Corner

Many thanks to staff, the various community groups, and volunteers who generously give of their time and talent each week -- the parish couldn't function without you!



There's always plenty to do in a parish, so if you have some time to spare and would like to volunteer, we would appreciate your services. Please contact the parish office to discuss.

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

The Baptism of Jesus, Year C (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

Today's celebration of the baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The liturgy of the Christmas season invited us to reflect on and to experience the various comings of Christ in our world. It invited us to open ourselves to the action of God's grace at work in our encounters with the living Christ. The readings from Luke's gospel led us from the story of the birth of Jesus to the story of his personal decision at age twelve to remain in God's house, the Jerusalem Temple, listening to the teachers of the Law and astonishing them with his answers to their questions.

Now, as an adult and along with "all the people", Jesus receives John's water baptism. The crowds are wondering if John the Baptist is the Christ/Messiah, God's anointed one. John points the people away from himself and towards Jesus who "will baptise ...with the Holy Spirit and fire". Did Jesus also engage in a ministry of baptising the people "for the forgiveness of sins" or is John's reference to Jesus' activity of baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire a metaphor for the distinctive features of his future gospel ministry? It could well be both. As already noted in the reflection for the third Sunday of Advent, the three instruments of God's saving and purifying action for the Essene community at Qumran were fire, water and "a holy Spirit". In Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, the presence of the Holy Spirit is marked by tongues of fire. Fire is a powerful symbol that functions as a threat on the one hand and as a source of energy and light on the other.

The gospel reading tells us that Jesus is God's Chosen One, the Beloved, on whom God's Spirit rests. In light of the first reading from Isaiah 42, the voice of God in the baptism scene commissions Jesus to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare; to be a light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. Those baptised into Christ through the ages are baptised "with the Holy Spirit and fire" and are called to the same mission as Jesus and the same sensitive approach to that mission. The fire in our hearts sometimes flickers in the face of life's challenges. We are sometimes guilty of crushing "the bruised reed" or extinguishing the flickering flame of hope. As we move into Ordinary Time with its often extraordinary demands, we might think about stirring the embers and fanning the flame of God's love so

that justice might prevail in our world and for our planet-justice without violence, if not without pain.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Second Reading: Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel (John 2:1-11)

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now,' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Question of the Week

Do you think that God was "well pleased" by your actions in recent weeks? Why?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)