



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 Fiskin Street)**



SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY 2019 – SECOND 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 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>

What Ordinary Time Means in the Catholic Church

Because the term ordinary in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.



Why Is Ordinary Time Called Ordinary?

Ordinary Time is called because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

It's appropriate, therefore, that the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is actually the first Sunday celebrated in Ordinary Time) always features either John the Baptist's acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle—the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

Thus for Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that!

Why Is There No First Sunday in Ordinary Time?

In most years, the Sunday after January 6 is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In countries such as Australia, however, where the celebration of Epiphany is transferred to Sunday if that Sunday is January 7 or 8, Epiphany is celebrated instead. As feasts of our Lord, both the Baptism of the Lord and Epiphany displace a Sunday in Ordinary Time. Thus the first Sunday in the period of Ordinary Time is the Sunday that falls after the first week of Ordinary Time, which makes it the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

(Source:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/ordinary-time-in-the-catholic-church-542442>)

We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Quinn Attwell.

Recent Deaths:

Adam Jenkins, Richard Warr,
John Rice.

Anniversaries:

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

*Prayer of Pope Francis from his
encyclical, Laudato Si*

*Creator God, please guide us.
Help us act in love and courage
To honour You, O Creator,
And to fulfill our role as
protectors of The Earth, our
common home.*

*The poor and the earth are
crying out.*

*O Lord, seize us with your power
and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your kingdom
of justice, peace, love and
beauty.
Amen*

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

WELCOME TO BISHOP PETER CONNORS

A warm welcome to Bishop Peter Connors who will be with us for the next two weekends while Fr Peter is on a break.

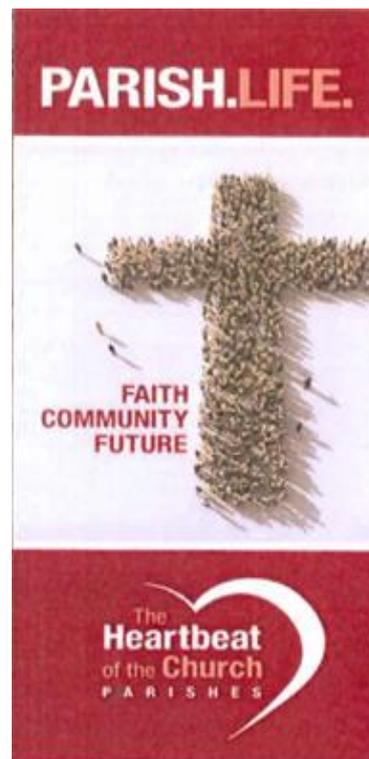
UPCOMING MEETINGS AT PARISH CENTRE

Tue, 29 th Jan	5.30 pm	Finance Committee
Thu, 31 st Jan	7.00 pm	Stewardship Committee

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.

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

Continuing with the **Ipsos** *Perils of Perception* survey, this week we report on their findings in relation to **renewable energy**. According to the survey:

- When asked what share of energy consumed in Australia comes from renewable sources, such as wind and solar, the average guess was 21%, when in reality it is 9%. In other words, we have the impression that Australia is doing more to reduce greenhouse gas emission than it actually is.
- Also, Australians *underestimated* the level of temperature change over the past two decades. The typical respondent said that nine of the past 18 years were among the hottest on record globally when in reality it is 17 years.

Next week we'll report on the *economy*, the third topical issue of the survey.

(Source

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

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

SMALL SEWING PROJECT

We are seeking one or more helpers who would be happy to help sew fringing on new Sacramental Stoles that are given to children for Baptism and then used for their later sacraments. If you can help, please contact Lucy in the parish office. Many thanks.

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.

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.

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) 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

Words of Wisdom

"In every ordinary day there's a handful of miracles."
Flavia

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 21st January 2019

Mon:	No Mass
Tue:	2.00 pm St Alipius (Funeral Mass for Richard Warr)
Wed:	No Mass
Thu:	11.00 am Mercy Place
Fri:	No Mass
Sat:	6.00 pm St Alipius
Sun:	9.00 am SS Peter & Paul's 10.30 am St Alipius

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:			
	Envelopes	\$	1355.20
	Loose	\$	150.00
	Credit Cards*	\$	0.00
	Direct Debits	\$	440.00
		\$	1945.20

**amount available on monthly basis only*

Presbytery:	\$	848.00
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COUNTING TEAMS

Team 2:

B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan.

Team 3:

M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell.

Appreciation Corner



Thank You

without you!

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!

*This week we say a very special thank you to **Gavin Maguire** who attends the Saturday vigil service at St Alipius. Your thoughtfulness and helpfulness at the evening services and at the recent Christmas services have been especially noted and are much appreciated – thank you for a wonderful job.*

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

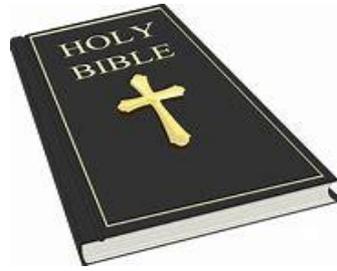
by Veronica Lawson RSM

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (John 2:1-11)

Today's liturgy invites us to take a detour into the Fourth Gospel and into a marriage scene that the evangelist John places at the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry. Marriage imagery appears from time to time in Israel's prophetic tradition, sometimes in quite confronting or alienating ways, especially in Hosea where God is imaged as male and Israel as God's faithless female spouse. In the first reading from the post-exilic prophecy of Third Isaiah, Jerusalem is the bride, once alienated from God and then fully reconciled with and embraced by God who is named as its "builder". Imaging God, who is neither male nor female, as faithful male and Earth or any facet of the Earth community as unfaithful female is problematic and calls for our critique.

The link between the Isaian passage and the marriage at Cana is fairly tenuous, although the juxtaposition of the two readings in the context of today's liturgy invites us to consider the intimate relationship that our Earth and its inhabitants enjoy with God, its "builder" or creator. God's delight is in Earth and in the Earth community, not simply in one city and one people of the Earth. The focus in the gospel story is less on the marriage, however, than on the symbolism of the abundance of wine at the marriage feast. The 8th century BCE prophet Amos had looked to a future time when the mountains would drip sweet wine, and the hills flow with it, a time when God would restore the fortunes of God's people (Amos 9:13-15). An abundance of good food and the best of wines is the image of future salvation deployed by another 8th century prophet, Isaiah (Isaiah 25). Today's gospel suggests that these prophetic dreams come to fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. Those who listen to his word and follow his instructions become agents of an extraordinary transformation. This "sign" reminds us to rejoice in the life-giving nourishment we receive every day from the God-given fruits of the earth.

The mother of Jesus features significantly in the Cana story. She is attentive to the integrity of the celebration and lets her son know when the wine gives out. This provides the opportunity for Jesus to speak of his "hour": it has not yet come. Jesus addresses his mother as "Woman". He will address her in precisely the same way when the "hour" of his death and handing over of the Spirit finally comes. This "woman" believes in him and invites the servants at the marriage feast to obey his word. While Jesus performs this first "sign" that leads his disciples to faith, the role played by this faith-filled woman casts her in the role of "witness to the light" and proclaimer of the Word that brings life.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Second Reading: Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind
new sight,
to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the
Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

Question of the Week

When have you stepped in, as Mary did at Cana, to try and make a difficult situation easier for someone?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)