



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 17TH FEBRUARY 2019 – SIXTH 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 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

Parish Website:

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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019

Welcome to week two of our Parish Stewardship Program and this week is all about FAITH.

We ask you to reflect on the importance of faith in your

life. *Is your faith the foundation of who you are? Does it drive the way you choose to live your life?*

We also ask you to re-affirm the importance of Sunday Mass – how we come together as a community to celebrate our faith. The Eucharist is something much bigger than ourselves – it is not a private or anonymous experience. The communal celebration of the Eucharist at Sunday Mass gives us the spiritual nourishment to live our lives as true disciples of Jesus.

Finally this week we ask you to commit to growing in faith – to take the opportunity to learn and develop a mature understanding of our faith. Fr Peter will have a special Homily this weekend on this most important aspect of the Program.

Parish 'Our Future' Forum

This key event of the Program will be held in the Parish Hall on **Tuesday February 26 at 2pm and repeated at 7pm.** This is a great opportunity to get together, celebrate our achievements and discuss our plans for the future. Light refreshments will also be provided. Please complete the RSVP cards available at all Masses over the weekend or the RSVP form on the parish website.

Website update

The dedicated Stewardship Program section this week features a special video from Fr Kevin Maloney, the Vicar General for the Ballarat Diocese. The website address is: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ballarateast>

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020



PlenaryCouncil2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

A reminder that the Parish Plenary Council 2020 discussion meetings are to be held this week:

**St Alipius - Tue, 19 Feb at 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm, in Parish Hall, and
SS Peter & Paul's Buninyong - Wed, 20 Feb at 2.00 pm.**

Submissions for the Plenary Council are open until March 6, 2019. Bishop Paul has filmed a short video which can be viewed on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au Catholic School Parents Victoria are holding Listening and Dialogue Sessions on Wed, Feb 27, 2 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Mary Glowrey Room. There are two sessions from 1.00pm – 2.30pm and 5.00pm – 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend.



We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Joshua Morvell, Freya Gill,
Imogen Shaw, Lane Horvath.

Recent Deaths:

Michael Duck.

Anniversaries:

James Curran, Helen Dondoy,
Jimmy Calistro, Mary Blood,
Lucy Wolfe, Mr & Mrs Harasimowicz,
Brun Van Dooren.

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

SEEKING HELPERS

Thank you to the person who offered to launder the purifier cloths and hand towels. We are still looking for someone to open and close the church on a daily basis – if you can assist with this task please contact Lucy at the parish office.

LITURGY SUPPORT FOR LENT

Thank you to those who attended the meeting last Tuesday and for the assistance offered. Father Peter will follow up with you on the details in the lead-up to Lent.

LETTER FROM SR JOAN

St Alipius Parish Communities.

Dear People of St Alipius and Sts Peter and Paul Communities.

Thank you for the encouragement and time you have given me as together we have built the grief and bereavement response in our Parish, and have worked together to encourage one another to contribute to the whole.

Along with this we have built up response to the Liturgy Ministries and the Outreach Ministries.

Now, with the 2019 opening of the Parish Stewardship Program, it is time for me to retire from the duties I have been doing.

This does not take me away from St Alipius Parish. I will be here sitting in the Congregation with you.

As one dear parishioner teasingly said to me a couple of Saturday Nights ago : 'You are one of us, now!' - A great welcome into the body of the Congregation. Actually – that's just where I have been in my mind since 1979.

Again, thank you!

Let's move together into building our Parish Community into a healthy, energetic people of the church for our time.

With love,

Joan Dalglish.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 1 MARCH 2019

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 1st March 2019

Once again we approach the first Friday in March, when Christians world wide gather to pray for the issues that affect us all.

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Slovenia, a tiny central European republic established in 1991 on the break up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

This international service, translated into many languages, will be used world wide, uniting us all in our hopes and concerns.

You are invited to join the prayer at one of the local services.

10 am St. John's Anglican Church 608 Armstrong St. Nth.
2 pm St. Columba's Catholic Church 801 Lydiard St. Nth.
7 pm Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church 701 Fisken St., Buninyong

Services are also held at three aged care facilities and at other churches in our region. Please see the Community Diary in the Courier on Thursdays for these details.

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

SOCIAL EVENT

A social afternoon will be held on **Wednesday, 20th February in the Mercy Centre at 2.00pm**. Please enter via Gent St. All welcome.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PS OPEN DAYS

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

DAMASCUS COLLEGE 2019 CLASS REUNIONS

Damascus College is attempting to contact as many members of their alumni as possible.

Past students and staff of Damascus College and its foundation colleges, Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Martin's in the Pines are invited to celebrate the Class reunions of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009.

For dates, full details and booking information please go to www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-reunions-events

THE CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST

Men of all ages are invited to a Catholic Man Breakfast to be held on **Thursday 21 February, 7- 9 am at Craig's Royal Hotel** in Ballarat. The Breakfast will be hosted by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and will feature former leading Radio Executive, Shane Healy, as guest speaker. Further information from Chris Liston. Phone 0437-318-251 or email chris.listo2@gmail.com or Vincent Scully – phone 0407-310-115 or email vcjdh.sully@gmail.com.

NAZARETH HOUSE - CONCERT WITH DAVID PARKES

Irish singer, David Parkes, is a renowned international singer and witness on the great mercy of Our Lord through the intercession of Our Lady. David will be performing a Sacred Concert on **Thursday, March 7, 2019** at Nazareth House Chapel, Ballarat. Holy Mass will be held at 6.30pm, followed by the Sacred Concert at 7.00pm. All welcome.

RITE OF ELECTION – SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to both adults and children of catechetical age. The Rite of Election for catechumens, candidates and children of catechetical age will take place on **Saturday, March 2, at 12.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat**. The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in the Gailiee Centre for a light lunch.

For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159 or pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

JOY SPREADING WITH BISHOP PAUL

The next Joy Spreading event for young adults (18–30 yo) featuring Guest Speaker Bishop Paul Bird with Q&A, will be held on **Friday, February 22, from 6.30pm-8.30pm at the Lake View Hotel Ballarat**. Snacks and drinks provided.

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 18th February 2019

Mon:	No Mass
Tue:	5.00 pm Mercy Convent
Wed:	10.00 am St Alipius (Funeral Mass for Michael Duck)
Thu:	11.00 am Mercy Place 12.00 noon St Alipius (Emmaus 2019 Opening Mass)
Fri:	9.30 am St Alipius
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	\$	900.60
	Loose	\$	150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$	0.00
	Direct Debits	\$	420.00
		\$	1470.60
Presbytery:		\$	1113.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 6:

M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

Team 7:

K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.

Appreciation Corner

Many thanks to our 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 the parish, so if you have some time to spare and can assist, please contact Lucy at the parish office.



Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

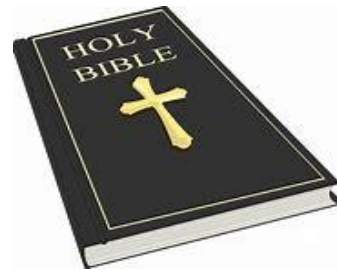
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 6:17, 20-26)

We are unlikely to consider ourselves blessed or happy when we cannot pay our bills or put food on the table. We are likewise slow to count our blessings, much less dance for joy, when we find ourselves in tears or when we are excluded, rejected, and treated with contempt. We are more likely to consider ourselves blessed when we do not have to be constantly worried about money or food and when others treat us with respect. So why does Luke's Jesus declare the poor and suffering happy or blessed? And why does he seem to be so hard on those who enjoy economic security and the respect of others? What does the gospel say to those of us who are somewhere between the destitute who are declared blessed and the wealthy who are told to watch out? What does this gospel offer to those who attract neither praise nor blame? There are no easy answers to any of this, beyond the clear evidence that Luke's Sermon on the Plain engages the theme of reversal that permeates this gospel.

The poor are told that the reign of God is theirs. In others words, it is a present rather than a future reality. The poor can at least know that they are acceptable to God in ways that may be incomprehensible to the wealthy who, in their turn, are challenged to share their wealth. It is not much consolation for the hungry or those who weep to know that their "reward will be great in heaven" if heaven is a place enjoyed only in the afterlife. "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God's empire of justice and compassion. Reversal is expected in this life rather than the next. Weeping is usually connected in the prophetic literature with the disasters that flow from "ungodly" decisions. In our times, there are many weeping over "ungodly" decisions in relation to asylum seekers and carbon emissions. Laughter seems a remote possibility for many displaced people of our world. We are reminded today of the gospel imperative to work and pray that war-torn and climate affected countries will once again resonate with the sound of happy laughter.

Finally, our experience makes us wary of those who flatter us or put us on pedestals. It is generally only a matter of time before we fall from favour and find ourselves on the receiving end of criticism or even attack. It is ultimately better to be misunderstood and to be at peace with one's conscience in the pursuit of compassion and justice than to be the object of adulation and praise. I suspect it is only in

handling life's challenges with dignity, grace, and single-minded focus on the gospel that we find blessing or happiness.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Second Reading: Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel (Luke 6:17, 20-26)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.'

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Question of the Week
In what way are you serving the
poor, as Jesus did?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)