



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 Fiske Street)



SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2019 – EIGHTH 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

This weekend is the scheduled *Our Future Weekend* of our Stewardship Program. It is the time when we consider our pledge of financial support for the parish – a very important part of the entire Program.

Given the events of recent days, it would be inappropriate to consider such matters this weekend. This is a time for reflection and coming together as a community. Accordingly, we have decided to defer the *Our Future Weekend* for two weeks – to the weekend of 16 & 17 March. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support. (Fr Peter Sherman)



LENT 2019 – MARCH 6 TO APRIL 20

As we are about to enter the Season of Lent, we might ponder the question, **Why Lent?**

In the early Church, Lent originated as a time of repentance for those preparing for baptism. Having experienced the call to conversion, those seeking initiation into the Christian community resolved to turn away from sin and embrace a Gospel life. They were baptised at the Easter Vigil.

Today, the six week period of Lent is a time of repentance and renewal for the whole Church. It is a time when we prayerfully take stock of our lives, turn away from all lifestyle habits and attitudes that contradict the Gospel and renew our commitment to Christ and each other.

In his Lenten Program *All I have is yours – Forty Days to Freedom*, author Michael McGirr says: “Christians believe that we can't achieve true freedom by having, but only by giving. The forty days of Lent prepare us to celebrate again the death and resurrection of Jesus, the heart of our faith and the source of our freedom. Throughout that time we too pray for the kind of freedom that allows God to work in our lives and the world: freedom from fear, freedom to forgive and, above all, freedom to love”. He provides forty simple suggestions that we might like to follow during the 40 days of Lent. The theme for the first week is *Free to choose*, and here are the first four of his suggestions you might choose to try this week:

1. Slowly read Psalm 63.
2. Take part in a community justice activity.
3. Sit for a while in a park you often drive past without stopping.
4. Wear odd socks as a reminder that life is never neat and tidy.

(Michael McGirr is the Dean of Faith at St Kevin's College, Melbourne, and author of many books.)

We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Evie Putt, Polly O'Loughlin.

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Barry Ridsdale,
Patrick Joseph Duggan.

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,
Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff.

Prayer of the Week

Prayer for First Week of Lent

Loving God,

*You have guided us on many
journeys in our lives.*

*We ask you to be close to us in
the journey of this Lent.*

*Fill our minds with wisdom
and our hearts with tenderness,
as we draw closer to the mystery
of your death and resurrection,
which is the key that unlocks
the door to understanding who
we are and how much you love
us.*

Amen

*(Source: All I have is yours - Forty
days of Lent, Michael McGirr.)*

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

LENTEN CALENDAR

PREPARATION OF THE ASHES

St Alipius Parish School warmly invites you to the *Preparation of the Ashes* liturgy on Tuesday 5th March at 2.30pm on the church grounds.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays 7.00 pm SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP – "40 Days to Freedom"

Thu, 7th March 10.00 am St Alipius Presbytery
Followed by 11.00 am Anointing Mass at Mercy Place
Please come along for some faith building and faith sharing, and good company.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Tue, 2nd April 7.00 pm St Alipius
Wed, 3rd April 7.00 pm SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PS OPEN DAYS

SFX Primary School will be conducting Open Days on **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

"SAVING THE BISHOP" BY JORDAN KNOTTMAN

An action-adventure novel written specifically for Primary school students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation followed by First Communion More information at <https://jordanknottman.com/>. See flyer on Notice Board.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Thank you to those who attended the Parish open discussion and dialogue sessions held recently. All input from these sessions and earlier written contributions will be submitted via the Council's online website before March 6th when the first phase of the Plenary Council is completed.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM – NOW OPEN FOR NEW PARTICIPANTS

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, scripture, social justice, youth ministry, liturgy and many other subjects available – a subject is completed in 5 weeks. Next study cycle starts March 10, contact us by March 5. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au phone 5337 7125.

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

MINISTERING IN TIMES OF SCANDAL AND DIVISION

Ballarat Diocese and its online learning partner, the University of Dayton, are offering a new online short subject Ministering in Times of Scandal and Division. Starting on 10 March, this is a 3 week long subject. Cost to participant is \$55.00.

More details are on the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program page of the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 5337 7125.

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.

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY ST PATRICK'S DAY AFTERNOON

Friday, March 15, at 1.30 pm, 218 Mill Street, Ballarat. Musical entertainment, afternoon tea, cake stall, door prize. Admission is \$5.00.

Enquiries to Margaret ph. 0419003415. May the luck of the Irish be with you!

KEEP THESE DATES FREE

Father Thomas Casanova (Confraternity of Christ the Priest) will be giving a three day retreat at Nazareth House during Lent starting on Monday 18th March through to Wednesday 20th March. Daily Mass and Confessions. This retreat will be hosted by the Catholic Women's League, Cathedral Branch but will be open to all. Details next week. For enquiries ring 0401175045.

JOY SPREADING WITH SAM CLEAR IN DONALD & ARARAT

Sam Clear is the guest speaker at Joy Spreading events for Youth & Young Adults in Donald & Ararat.

The Donald event is on Wednesday, March 20, from 6.30pm - 8.30pm at St Mary's Primary School, Multi-Purpose Room, Donald.

Joy Spreading in Ararat is on Thursday, March 21 from 6.30pm -8.30pm at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, Ararat. This is a wonderful opportunity for young adults to share ideas and socialise in a friendly environment. This is a free event.

Info: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 5337 7160.

GRIEF TO GRACE - HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE

Grief to Grace is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26-31, 2019. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griegtograceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241.

For more information visit www.griegtograce.org

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 4th March 2019

Mon:	No Mass
Tue:	5.00 pm Mercy Convent
ASH WED:	9.30 am Mercy Convent 12.00 midday St Alipius (led by Emmaus and St Alipius PS children) 7.00 pm St Alipius
Thu:	11.00 am Mercy Place (Mass of Anointing)
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	\$	2145.00
	Loose	\$	150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$	0.00
	Direct Debits	\$	320.00
		\$	2615.00
Presbytery:		\$	1077.75

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 8:

B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale,
K. McKeegan.

Team 9:

J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane,
J. O'Brien.

Appreciation Corner

As always, we say thank you 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

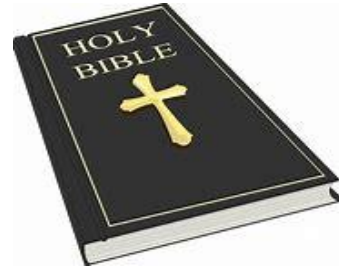
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 6:39-45)

“Everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher,” says the Lukan Jesus. What might it mean to become “fully qualified” for discipleship? For Jesus, being fully qualified in the ways of discipleship is not so much a matter of acquiring book knowledge as it is a question of being like the teacher. This is not to discount the importance of acquiring a deep knowledge of the tradition. Jesus certainly knew his own tradition well. Luke presents him as literate, as capable of reading from the sacred scriptures in the Nazareth synagogue and of interpreting the prophetic texts for the assembled congregation. In today’s gospel selection, Luke also presents Jesus as familiar with the secular wisdom of his age. The sayings about the blind leading the blind and the log and speck have clear parallels in ancient literature. Jesus’ closest followers were educated business people with an appreciation of and commitment to their traditions. They were fully qualified in the sense that they had the personal resources to make a difference in the lives of those on the edge.

The primary qualification for the disciple is, however, to be “like the teacher”. Jesus wants his followers to live out in their lives the pattern of his life of attentiveness to the pain of the world, his life of compassion and justice and mercy. Seeing with clarity (without a log in one’s eye) is at the heart of the gospel way of life he proclaims. This theme of seeing permeates Luke’s writings. Seeing and understanding one’s own self is part of that, as is the capacity to see and to understand the rhythm of the forms of life that constitute one’s habitat. The recurrence of agricultural images in Jesus’ sayings is quite remarkable. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, a Jewish village in Lower Galilee, home to vines and olive trees, to goats and sheep and some four hundred human inhabitants. From early childhood, Jesus saw the processes involved in ensuring that the vines produced grapes. He knew the importance of the water from the spring for nurturing the grain crops in the valley close to his home. He knew that brambles and thorns did not yield any edible fruit. It would seem that being “like the teacher” includes closeness to and appreciation of the natural world.

Finally, to be a disciple is to be a “good person” and good persons are those who produce “good treasure” out of the abundance of their hearts. In the Jewish tradition, the heart was the seat of wisdom and knowledge as

well as the seat of emotions. In 1 Kings 12:3, for instance, God is said to give Solomon a wise and discerning heart/mind. The Hebrew word for heart (*lev*) is often translated into English as “mind”. Heart and mind are as one. So it must be for us as disciples.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel (Luke 4:1-13)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.’ But Jesus replied, ‘Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.’

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, ‘I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it you anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.’

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said to him, ‘throw yourself down from here, for Scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge
of you to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.’

But Jesus answered him, ‘It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God
to the test.’

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him to return at the appointed time

Question of the Week

When have you most felt like a hypocrite? How did you overcome this feeling?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)