



WEEKLY BULLETIN

CATHOLIC PARISH OF BALLARAT EAST

Serving the Church Communities of

✚ **ST ALIPIUS (Ballarat East)** and ✚ **STs PETER & PAUL's (Buninyong)**
(84 Victoria Street) (701 Fiskens Street)



SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2019 – RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, 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

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5332 6611

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Parish Website:

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

EASTER 2019

"Easter is always disruptive, never joined to the cycle of the seasons. It is disruptive because hope is disruptive."

If we care deeply for vulnerable and unstable people, their lives can seem so hopeless that we are locked into hopelessness. But then their resilience, their refusal to surrender to despair, the memory of unexpected good times and of moments of connection that break through isolation and suspicion, and the stirring in them of hope through a friendship or through someone's faithfulness, might awaken our own hope.

The Christian story of Easter leads through all the seasons of the year and of human life: from hatred to love, from insult to forgiveness, from betrayal to reconciliation, from shame to glory, from torture to roundedness and from death to life. It points to a hope that lies beyond all our seasons and beyond the youth and ageing of our world we live in.



The discordance between the springtime images of Easter and our experience of an Australian autumn actually sharpens the meaning of Easter. It embodies a hope that after the winter from which there may seem to be no deliverance, greenness will spring again. From whatever source we might draw this hope it is surely needed in Australian public life today to leaven the heavy dough of mistrust, resentment and disillusion.

The first Easter began with close relationships definitively broken by betrayal, cowardice and death, and so leaving people to live forever with shame, guilt and loss. The political became personal. The story came to its climax, however, with those relationships restored, and Jesus' followers as exultant as a young person in her first experience of being deeply loved for her own sake. Hope restored is experienced as gift.

This year both the public and the Christian Easter are overshadowed by the forthcoming election. In the public world election means that assured people choose their rulers. In the Christian story election means that desperate people are chosen. Each kind of election has its place.

(The extract above is taken from an article entitled *The disruptiveness of an election year Easter* written by Andrew Hamilton SJ, and published in *Eureka Street*, v29, no 7, a Jesuit publication. For the full article please go to <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?acid=57772>)



We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Recent Deaths:

Margaret Meerbach, Gordana Tyrer.

Anniversaries:

The Sick:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Alison Rice, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff.

Prayer of the Week

An Easter Prayer
by Michaela Youngson



Gracious God:

We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Amen.

(Source:
<http://jesuitinstitute.org/Pages/Liturgy/Easter.htm>)

Words of Wisdom

Wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving. (Rumi)

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RCIA MEMBERS!

Congratulations to Anna, Melissa, Liz and Wendy on their baptism and reception into the community of the Church. We hope that they will be at home among us and that they will find in their Catholic tradition, inspiration and service to follow Jesus Christ, who has called each of us to love of God and love of neighbour. Appreciation to John and Kristen and catechists, sponsors and friends who have walked with our catechumens and candidates. It is our blessing.

To celebrate this faith filled occasion, community members are invited to join our new members and their families for light refreshments in the Parish Hall after the Easter Vigil service.

FR PETER ON SABBATICAL LEAVE

I have applied to Bishop Paul for three months sabbatical leave and he has kindly given me the time. We have also made arrangements for Fr Kevin Maloney to administer the parish during that time. I will be starting sabbatical after Sunday Mass on 28th of April through to the end of July.

I am grateful to Bishop Paul for the opportunity and Fr Kevin and all those in the parish for whom this may mean some extra duties and responsibilities, but I also know that the Parish is up for it too - *bring on your gifts and talents.*

What is Sabbatical? Traditionally sabbatical is a period of paid leave granted to an employee for study or travel, usually one year for every seven years worked.

One interesting definition: "Sabbaticals are no longer defined by the absence of work - in fact they are defined by the presence of it. Sabbaticals aren't just another word for vacation. They're the new word for an active pursuit of purpose."

For me, I am hoping it will be an opportune time for reflection, destressing, discernment and renewal.

(Fr Peter)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019



The new Parish Stewardship Program for 2019 comes into effect this weekend. If you haven't already got your letter of thanks confirming your new commitment and where applicable a new set of envelopes,

please collect them from the back of the church or ring the parish office next week. To avoid any confusion please destroy any old envelopes that you may still have.

If you haven't yet completed a pledge card, you are invited to do so. Pledge cards are available on the table at the rear of the church. Completed cards may be placed in the collection plate.

The Groups & Ministries responses are currently being processed and all those who responded will be contacted in the very near future. Your support in this key area of parish life is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN!

(Fr Peter)

A reminder that the Stewardship Program *Social Night* will be held on **Wednesday, 24 April at 7pm** in the Parish Hall. We would love to see you there!

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

FOR THE DIARY - BLESSING AND REOPENING OF SS PETER & PAUL'S CHURCH HALL, 5TH MAY

The reopening and blessing of the renovated old church hall at SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong, will occur on Sunday 5th May after 10:30 Mass. Please bring a plate to share for a light lunch/refreshments etc., as our community celebrates the completion of this wonderful project!

LIONS CLUB OF BUNINYONG-MT HELEN

Please see Notice Board for letter of introduction from Mrs Ondria Cheeseman. The Lions Club works in their local community supporting and providing one-off, or short term assistance to those going through difficult times. If you would like to join the club or are in need of their assistance please contact Mrs Cheeseman on 5330 1078 or 0429 338 779 or Gary White on 5341 3355 or 0418 502 975.

ANZAC DAY MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mass will be held at 9.15am on ANZAC Day at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Celebration of the 19th official worldwide Divine Mercy Sunday will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on April 28. The program begins at 1.00pm with confessions, 2.15pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, 2.30pm Holy Mass.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Bishop Paul is inviting applications from appropriately qualified and experienced persons for the position of Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator, to support the development of parish life, assist with pastoral planning and promote formation in faith for people throughout the diocese. This is a full-time one year contract position, with ongoing contract after review. Information about the position and how to apply can be accessed on the diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or by contacting the bishop's office at bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by phoning (03) 5337 7121. Queries can be directed to the Vicar General, Fr Kevin Maloney, on 0419 305 848. The closing date for applications is Friday 26 April 2019 at 5.00pm.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' FEDERAL ELECTION STATEMENT

The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. "Politics in service of peace: a statement by the Catholic bishops of Australia for the 2019 federal election" can be found at www.catholic.org.au

2019 CLASS REUNIONS: LORETO COLLEGE BALLARAT

Past students and staff of Loreto College Ballarat, Marys Mount and Dawson Street are warmly invited to attend the following 2019 Class reunions:

Class of 1969 Saturday 4 May 11am
Class of 1979 Saturday 18 May 11am
Class of 1989 Saturday 4 May 4pm
Class of 1999 Saturday 18 May 4pm
Class of 2009 Friday 3 May 4pm

Go to <https://loreto.vic.edu.au/events-publications-media/loreto-event/> for bookings and further details.

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 22nd April 2019

Mon:	No Mass
Tue:	No Mass
Wed:	No Mass
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 SS Peter & Paul's 10.30 am St Alipius

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:			
	Envelopes	\$	1008.20
	Loose	\$	150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$	0.00
	Direct Debits	\$	890.00
		\$	2048.20
Presbytery:		\$	1319.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 4:

C. Tarquinio ©, M. Tarquinio.

Team 5:

J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

Appreciation Corner



A big THANK YOU from Fr Peter to the many parishioners who have assisted over the Easter celebrations –

Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, Musicians, Servers, Collectors, Welcomers, Sacristians, Data Projector Operators. Special thanks to Lucy, David and Ann for their coordinating and planning.

*Wishing you all
A HAPPY and
BLESSED EASTER.*



Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

Easter, Year C
(Easter Vigil Luke 24:1-12;
Easter Sunday John 20:1-9)

It does not always pay to discount someone's story just because it sounds a bit fantastic. In Luke's resurrection account, that's what the "eleven and all the rest" do with the women's stories of a rolled-back stone, no body, and heavenly interpreters. The notion of resurrection was not in itself extraordinary in a first century Jewish context. The Pharisees believed in a general resurrection, but the idea that God would raise one person from the dead before the time of the general resurrection was quite unthinkable. From the men's perspective, therefore, the women are talking nonsense. Peter decides to go and confirm their testimony, indicating that he suspects there is some truth in what they have to say. Their account checks out and he goes away in amazement (no apology, just amazement).

This gospel and the whole Easter celebration is about "the one who lives". Luke's account leaves no doubt about the death of Jesus: there are witnesses, there is evidence. The same goes for the burial. Now, in the story of the empty tomb, Luke wants to assert that Jesus is alive. The women (Mary of Magdala, Joanna the wife of Chuza, Mary the mother of James and unidentified others) are confronted with the question: "Why are you seeking among the dead the one who lives?" They are then entrusted with the message of resurrection: "He is not here, but has been raised." They are invited to remember the prophetic words of Jesus. They do indeed remember and they return to proclaim the good news. In line with countless prophetic figures before and since, their testimony is rejected, but is nonetheless effective through the telling and retelling of the story.

We turn briefly to the reading from John's gospel for Easter Sunday morning. Mention of "the first day of the week while it was still dark" evokes the first day of creation and God's word bringing light. The two angels guarding the tomb call to mind the heavenly creatures who barred the way to the tree of life in the Genesis garden story. The biblical story has come full circle, from creation to resurrection and new creation.

We take time at Easter to re-member, re-enact, and re-tell these originating stories of our tradition, to dramatise and celebrate in solemn ritual what we celebrate in lower key every Sunday of the year. In our liturgical re-telling, all the power of the life, death, and resurrection

of Jesus is present to us and to our world. Resurrection faith is a commitment to life. In these times of planetary uncertainty, a commitment to life includes taking seriously the findings of reputable climate change scientists who no doubt sometimes feel a bit like the women of the gospel whose message was discounted. Resurrection faith invites us to live simply so that all may simply live.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Second Reading: Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19

Gospel (John 20:19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord.' He answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Question of the Week

What change could the hope of the resurrection of Christ inspire you to make?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)