



*A shared newsletter for the Parishes of St Alipius' Parish
Ballarat East and Buninyong & St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat*

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday January 19th 2020

The parishes of St Patrick's Cathedral and St Alipius' acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

We are Child Safe Parishes following the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government, implementing procedures and standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

During January, with Parish Coordinators on annual leave and the Ballarat East Parish Office closed, we will have a shared Parish newsletter. The Cathedral Office will be open 10am – 5.00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please contact Juanita Bongiorno on 5331 2933 or ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Next Weekend's Readings and Mass times

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A, 26th January 2020

Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3	1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17	Matthew 4:12-23
Cathedral 6.30pm Vigil,	8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm	
Ballarat East 6.00pm Vigil,	10.30am	Buninyong 9.00am

Masses during the coming week

- Monday 12.05 pm Cathedral
- Tuesday 12.05 pm Cathedral
- Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral
- Thursday 9.30am Ballarat East, 11.00am Mercy Place, 12.05pm Cathedral
- Friday 9.30am Ballarat East, 12.05pm Cathedral
- Saturday 10.00am Cathedral

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Cathedral) Friday 11.00am, Saturday 11.30am

Morning Prayer of the Church (Cathedral) Monday – Saturday 8.00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Cathedral) Monday & Tuesday 10am-11.45am

Friday 12.30pm-Benediction 1.30pm

Responsorial Psalm: *Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.*

Recent Deaths: Michael Hills, John Lee, Kevin Mullane, Anne Nguyen

Anniversaries: Theo Bloemendaal, Lorna Annie Brown, Agnes Coffey, Gerard Dumaresq, Lisa Hayden, Adam Jenkins, Catherine Maher, Joseph Maher, Michaela Murphy-Engeler, Mary McGuinness

We pray for those who are unwell: Kateri Byrne, Fr. Denis Dennehy, Kathleen Hayes, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott

Thank you to all who contributed to the **collections last weekend**

Ballarat East	Envelopes \$770	Parish loose \$300	Presbytery \$642
Cathedral	Envelopes \$1378	Parish loose \$403.05	Presbytery \$1891.10

Counting Teams

Ballarat East	This Week: C. Tarquinio Team 3	Next Week: J. Moran Team 4
Cathedral	This Week: Team 5	Next Week: Team 6

We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism

To be celebrated at **St. Alipius'**:

Odie and Vann Brooks	sons of Matthew and Paige
Wyatt Steenhuis	son of Zachary and Brittany

To be celebrated at the **Cathedral**:

Hannah Elizabeth Heather Dwyer	daughter of David and Taryn
Edward James Kay	son of David and Alexandra
Dione and Yasmin Ramantanis	daughters of Katherine



May they grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Communities

Congratulations to newly Professed Sr Emma Llewellyn RSM

Prayers and blessings are offered for Sr Emma Llewellyn RSM who this weekend has made her first profession as a member of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy, Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG). Mass was celebrated in St Alipius' Church Ballarat East, with afternoon tea in the Parish Hall. This is indeed a very significant occasion for the Sisters of Mercy and the Parish of St Alipius' which is delighted to host Emma's first Profession. Next week Sr Emma will relocate to Perth where, in 1846, the Sisters of Mercy first came to Australia, five years after the death of Catherine McAuley.

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields 25th Anniversary Festival

The closing concert of this year's Festival will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral this Sunday, January 19th at 8.00pm and will feature *Art of Sound Orchestra directed by Mario Debernig*. Supper will be served in the Cathedral Hall following the performance.

Vinnies Bushfire Appeal

The St. Vincent de Paul Society, Ballarat Region, sincerely thanks parishioners for their generosity in assisting their Bushfire Appeal. Once again they will be collecting after each Mass this weekend. These donations will go directly to St. Vincent de Paul Conferences working in the Victorian fire areas and will be given directly to those in need, enabling the purchase of local fuel and hardware vouchers in those areas.

The Society is also seeking secondhand tools which we believe will give a sense of purpose to people returning to their properties. There will be a collection point in the grounds of the Cathedral this Monday, January 20th, 10.00am-2.00pm for the donation of rakes, shovels, hammers, axes, pliers, screwdrivers, etc. Check your sheds for items no longer in use. If you are unable to deliver tools, contact Alan West - 0407 120 943, and collection can be arranged.

Electronic donations can be made via the website <https://www.vinnies.org.au>

Please be assured that all donations from Victorians will be directed to Victoria.

Parish Secretary Position – Bungaree and Gordon

The Parish of Gordon and the Parish of Bungaree are looking to jointly employ a suitably qualified person to fill the position of Parish Secretary to support the business and clerical requirements for both Parishes. The position is 12 hours per week for the Parish of Gordon and 5 hours per week for the Parish of Bungaree. More info at: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au - Choose Bungaree or Gordon Parish.

Plenary Council Delegates from the Diocese of Ballarat

Bishop Paul is inviting parishioners to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website of the [Ballarat Diocese](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/> or from the Cathedral Parish Office and from the Ballarat East Parish Office when it reopens. Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7th, 2020.

Hearing Aids found in Cathedral

Contact the Cathedral Parish office, 5331 2933 if you have lost hearing aids found near the Nativity in December.

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson rsm

To provide a reference for someone is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on the testimony provided in the reference. John the Baptist took it upon himself to provide a reference for Jesus. His testimony reverberates across the centuries, offering an introduction to Jesus for those who seek to understand this Jewish prophet and teacher who is more than a prophet or teacher. John wants his disciples to understand that the whole purpose of his water baptism is that Jesus “might be revealed”. He wants them to know that Jesus is “of God”. He is the “lamb of God”, the “chosen one of God”. He is the one on whom God’s Spirit descends and remains. Jesus comes before the Baptist and so ranks before him.

Is the author of this gospel using the character of the Baptist as a vehicle for his particular Christology or presentation of Jesus? That’s what many scholars think, although some of the images in the Baptist’s testimony are firmly grounded in Jewish tradition and could well come from a prophetic figure like John the Baptist. Maybe the answer to the question is “yes, but not exclusively”.

Whether the images have their origin with John the Baptist or with John the gospel writer, we might reasonably wonder what it means to say that Jesus is “God’s lamb”. Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies liberation or deliverance? The imagery in John’s gospel in relation to the death of Jesus might point in this direction. Is “God’s lamb” the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who assumes the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham’s sacrifice in Genesis 22? Is it evoking the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 (“I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter”).

There is never a simple explanation when it comes to John’s gospel, but it seems to me that the symbol of strength in vulnerability has potential for understanding the characterization of Jesus in this gospel. The Lamb of God of John 1:29 “takes away” the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God’s Lamb, is never done. Witness to that is part of the gift that Pope Francis is offering to the world: despite opposition, even among those closest to him, he never wavers in his response to the distress of God’s people and the distress of God’s Earth.