

# ST ALIPIUS PARISH – BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG

The Ascension of the Lord – Year A, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

**St Alipius Parish Church**  
82 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST

**Ss Peter & Paul's Church**  
701 Fiskens Street, BUNINYONG

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*St Alipius Parish acknowledges that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.*

*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Jorge De Chavez OSJ	<b>Funeral Ministry:</b>	Carmel Flynn &
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Kerrie McTigue		Kathy Curran
<b>Finance Committee Chair:</b>	Paul Jans	<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	Roxanne Leed

## Next week's readings for PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

**Recent Deaths:** Gerard Britt, Ellen Brown, Ena Fischer, Fr Joseph Kearney SAC

### Anniversaries:

**Unwell:** We pray for Kateri Byrnes, Carmel Doherty, Heather Healy, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott and all who are unwell.

### Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Although public Masses and liturgies will not be celebrated, the following opportunities are available:

Ballarat Diocese Mass options: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/>

Daily Mass: 11.30am St John of God Hospital Chapel can be viewed via  
<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> or  
<http://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/>

Masses with Bishop Shane Mackinlay: <http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>

**Please note:** St Alipius will be having daily Mass at 10.30am for 10 people each day.  
Registration via email or phone call to the Parish Office is necessary before attending please.

The Church will also be open for private prayer Tuesday – Sunday from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

## **Week of Prayer and Christian Unity 2020**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from 24-31 May, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, "*They showed us unusual kindness*" (Acts 28:2), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website [The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#).

## **National Sorry Day 2020 – 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

Sorry Day has become part of the calendar of commemorations that challenge us to reflect on our colonial history, as well as our present-day attitudes to our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

The formal National Apology given by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on 13 February 2008, brought a great sense of catharsis, relief, satisfaction, as though at last, the wrongs of the past were being exposed and confessed. As I look back on the You Tube video of that day on 13 February 2008, I am moved to tears because of the tears flowing on the faces of the Indigenous people, gathered in and outside Parliament.

Read Sr Margaret Keane's reflection via this link: <https://www.sosj.org.au/national-sorry-day-2020/>

## **Pentecost Sunday – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

The great feast of Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Christian Church, when the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles in a dramatic and tangible way. But how many of us give thought to the gentle, powerful presence of the Spirit in our lives?

This *Faith Guide*, written by eminent scripture scholar **Dr Mary Coloe**, takes us back to the heart of the mystery of Pentecost, and reminds us that the Spirit is not just a focus for the Confirmation class, but a living, creative force, for each and every one of us.

Click here: [Complimentary Pentecost Resource](#) for this free *Faith Guide*, and please share this with your friends, family, parish and school communities, as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost on the 31st of May.

## **St Vincent de Paul Society Bread Run**

Free fresh bread is available to people on Centrelink benefits and to all experiencing job loss, shorter hours etc. Pick up on each Monday night between 7.40pm and 8.20pm in the Parish Hall adjacent to the St Alipius Church. Parking is via Hopetoun Street entrance. Bring your own bags as no bags are supplied. Please pass this information to any families experiencing difficulties at this time. Please call Gavin 53 347 221 or Geoff 0413 840 835 with any queries.

**St Vincent de Paul Call Centre — 5334 2844 lines open 24/7**

## **Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May**

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## **Plenary Council ~ Assemblies set for 2021 and 2022**

The two assemblies for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will now take place in October 2021 and April 2022, following the disruption of the original schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference last week decided to postpone the opening assembly by 12 months, with it now to be held in October 2021. Adelaide remains the venue for the first assembly. The second assembly will be in Sydney in April 2022. The Media Release can be read here.

## **Vatican announces Laudato Si' anniversary year**

The Vatican announced that it will commemorate the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment with a year-long series of initiatives dedicated to care for the Earth.

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development said a "Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year" from May 24, 2020, to May 24, 2021, which will emphasise "ecological conversion in action." As the world continues to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, the dicastery said, the encyclical's message is "just as prophetic today as it was in 2015."

"Truly, COVID-19 has made clear how deeply we are all interconnected and interdependent. As we begin to envision a post-COVID world, we need above all an integral approach as everything is closely interrelated and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis," the statement said.

More information can be found on the Catholic News Service website: <https://cnstopstories.com/>

## **Planned Giving**

Envelopes may be left in the mailbox at the Presbytery. Any queries regarding Planned Giving, please contact our Finance Officer, Kerrie McTigue on 53 312 933 or via email :

[ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## **Thank you for contributing to the St Alipius Parish collections last weekend:**

Envelopes	\$ 355.00	Presbytery	\$ 100.85
Direct Debits	\$ 800.00		
Credit Card	\$ 2,542.00		



## **Gospel Reflection - Feast of the Ascension**

(Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20)

by Veronica Lawson RSM

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As the death toll from Covid-19 approaches 300,000, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic loss of species and of eco-systems, exacerbated in our part of the planet by the recent bushfires. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been re-memorating his death and resurrection. As we come towards the end of the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Risen One even in his absence. While today's gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, it does not provide an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles. The story presupposes a pre-scientific, three tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world. The gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples". He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim the gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely to baptize in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need and that we need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the risen Christ is with us to the end of time. The gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* shows us the way in the face of planetary distress.