

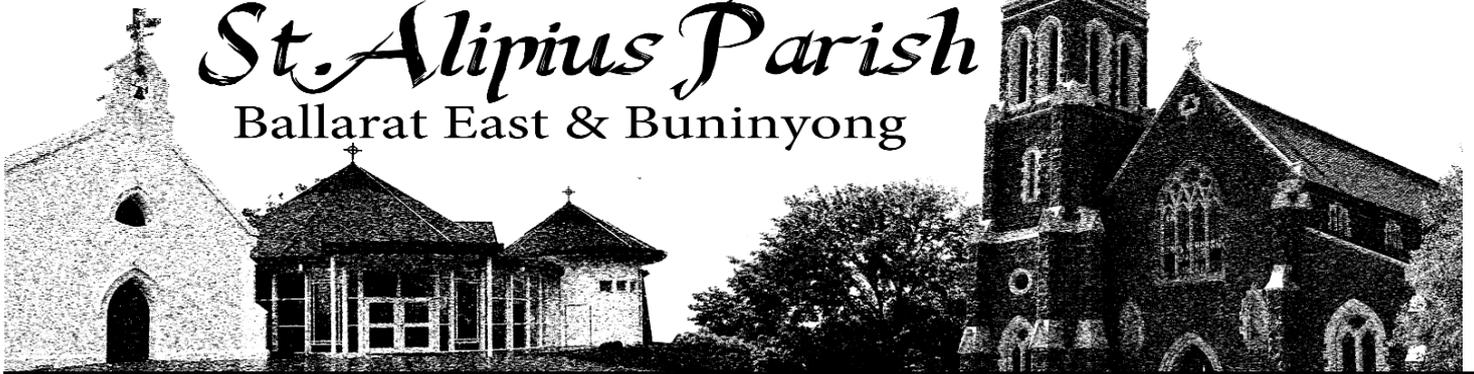


CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

Oblates of St Joseph

St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



SS Peter & Paul's Church
701 Fiskens St., Buninyong 3357

St Alipius' Parish Church
82 Victoria St., Ballarat East 3350

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

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



St Alipius' Parish acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Parish Office & Presbytery:

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

✉ 84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350

☎ 5332 6611

✉ ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Liturgy Online:

🌐 www.sapliturgy.net.au

✉ sapliturgy@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge De Chavez, OSJ

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn, Kathy Curran

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Finance Com. Chair: Paul Jans

Our Church is closed until further notice

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese: <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:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>

St. Alipius' Parish Liturgy Website: www.sapliturgy.net.au

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ... I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

Prayer Intentions:

Recent Deaths: Newell Barrett, Alice McKinnon, Elizabeth Folker, Jerry Benic

Anniversaries: Pat Toohey, Robert "Bob" Stevenson

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





Child Protection Sunday - 13th September 2020

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

St Vincent de Paul Drought Community Support Initiative

St Vincent de Paul are available to assist those who are eligible for round 2 of the Drought Community Support Initiative funding. Funding of \$3,000 per application is available for farming households who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Over 18 years of age;
- live/work in an eligible drought declared LGA: Benalla, Buloke, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Shepparton, Latrobe, Mildura, Moira, Pyrenees, Strathbogrie, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Wellington, Yarriambiack;
- be permanent residents/citizen of Australia;
- be primarily employed in farming related activity, i.e.: farmer, farm worker, farm supplier/contractor.

COVID-19 has impacted the Society's ability to move around local communities and so they are reaching out to networks to assist in promoting this funding. Staff in the National Office are available to assist applicants who need help completing the questions for eligibility or who may not have internet connection or experience navigating online. There are many families that have not yet been reached. For more information call the Drought Team 1300 846 643 or go to www.vinnies.org.au/droughthelp.

Thank You from the St Vincent de Paul Society

We wish to thank the School Communities within our Parish and all parishioners for their support of our recent Winter Appeal. Given the difficult circumstances we all find ourselves in at the moment your contributions have been both generous and inspiring.

St Vincent de Paul Society Bread Run

Free fresh bread is available: Pick up on each Monday night between 7.40pm and 8.20pm and Tuesday morning between 9:30 and 11:00 in the Parish Hall adjacent to the St Alipius Church. Parking is via Hopetoun Street entrance. Bring your own bags. 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

Centacare support offering

Centacare's family and relationship team are offering support during COVID-19. For more information contact details at https://mcusercontent.com/fe8dff0912e9e1b378f7db433/files/c7d47726-0da8-4a94-8f27-f73ed3eb922b/Programs_brochure_COVID.pdf

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study

Low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study cycles include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Registrations open now until October 12 for the next cycle, which begins October 18. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email diurdia.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au



SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Due to Government restrictions around Covid-19, we won't be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism at this time. Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation have also been suspended for the remainder of the year. Any queries or concerns, or for further information, please contact the Parish Office.

Catholic Earthcare Convocation is now open for registrations!

Catholic Earthcare is a place and platform where the many, diverse voices within our church community come together, in dialogue, to help and co-create our shared future. Come join us, digitally, so together we can all celebrate and Care for our Common Home!

<https://catholicearthcare.org.au/2020-convocation/>

Season of Creation



1st September –

4th October 2020

Season of Creation and Ecological Justice: This year's theme is "Jubilee for the Earth" and is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation and is celebrated by Christians of all traditions. In Laudato Si' Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and one another.

You are warmly invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation 'Finding God in Creation'. This Creation Examen will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, 16th September at 7.30pm.

Developed by St Ignatius of Loyola, the Examen is a simple technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day which will help you to listen to the inner movements of your heart. This Ecological Examen asks you to reflect with gratitude on your personal relationship with God in creation, to notice where you can do more to protect creation and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm. **Please respond by email and you will be sent a link to Zoom closer to the 16th Sept.** catholicearthcare@ballarat.catholic.org.au

A Christian Life Community and Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese in collaboration.

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

St Alipius Parish collections last weekend: *Thank you very much!*

Envelopes 487.20 Direct Debit 315.00 Presbytery Collection 140.00



Reflection on the Gospel

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A (MATTHEW 18:21-35)

Veronica Lawson RSM

The opening verses of this Sunday's gospel reading have Jesus advocating limitless forgiveness (not seven but seventy-seven times). The parable that follows is anything but consistent, however, with this teaching and with the teaching of Jesus in the gospel as a whole. We are all familiar with the beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall be mercied" (5:7) and with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (6:12). How then do we read today's story of a king who is prepared to forgive the debt that his slave has incurred, only to resort to torture when that slave fails to forgive his fellow slave? This story raises endless issues: the unquestioning acceptance of slavery and the plight of slaves; the absolute power of the king over his subjects; the institution of debt slavery; the treatment of women and children; the collection of crippling taxes to finance the power of the king; an unjust and cruel ruler as an image of the God of Israel; imaging God as a loving father who nonetheless acts in tyrannical ways. In other words, the parable encodes institutions and practices of the time that Jesus and the Matthean community seem to accept without question.

Does the parable come from the lips of Jesus or from the Matthean community? It would be anachronistic to expect a critique of slavery since the institution of slavery was simply taken for granted in the Graeco-Roman world. It persisted without critique for some 1800 years. It has now taken a new and sinister turn with the widespread practice of sexual and labour slavery of the vulnerable, exacerbated by the experience of pandemic. It is totally out of character, however, for Jesus to image his "heavenly Father" as a merciless torturer. It may be that Jesus did in fact tell such a story in another context and that the Matthean author has rather arbitrarily linked the sayings on forgiveness (forgiving 77 times and forgiving from one's heart) with this story. It is conceivable that Jesus insisted on the consequences of refusing to forgive. While God is merciful and forgiving, disciples must not exploit God's capacity to forgive. Bad behaviour is not to be tolerated. It has its consequences and those who continually exploit others or fail to forgive can expect to suffer the consequences of their actions. Whatever we make of the story of the merciless king and the unforgiving slave, we might take on board Jesus' response to Peter. We might also note the reminder that true forgiveness is "from the heart". In the biblical world, the heart was the core of the person's being, the seat of cognition as well as of emotion. To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole of one's being. We are all in need to God's forgiveness if we are to find the freedom to address "from the heart" the plight of the planet.



Readings for this week: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9 Second: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Readings for next week: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First: Isaiah 55:6-9 Second: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16