

Welcome to St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



St Alipius
Parish Community

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

7TH MARCH 2021

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.

St Alipius' Parish Church

82 Victoria St, Ballarat East 3350

SS Peter & Paul's Church

701 Fiskens St, Buninyong 3357

A quote from Amoris Laetitia

What we need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them. (35)

Parish Office & Presbytery:

- 84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350
- 5332 6611
- ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

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

Liturgy Online:

- www.sapliturgy.net.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Parish Coordinator: Bronwyn Ballesty

Child Safety Officer: Bronwyn Ballesty

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Finance Com. Chair: Paul Jans

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn, Kathy Curran
Teresa Fletcher

Masses during the week

St Alipius' Church, for 180 attendees

Anointing Mass Wednesday 2.00pm

St Alipius Church

Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9.30 am

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am (1st, 3rd and 5th)

10:30 am (2nd and 4th)

Ss Peter & Paul's Church,
Buninyong for 150 attendees

Sunday 9:00 am (2nd and 4th)

10:30 am, (1st, 3rd and 5th)

(Please ring Margaret McCarty 0423 208 286)

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

St. Alipius' Parish Liturgy Website:

www.sapliturgy.net.au

In our prayers we remember.....

Recent Death: Sylvia Joyce Carroll, Maree Lamb, Cathy Jones, Kevin McCarthy

Anniversaries: Barry Ridsdale, Sr Kathleen Nolan RSJ, Brian Lewis, Max Gilbert, Joan Shannon, Peg Guiliano,
Brian Lewis, Max Gilbert, Des, Imelda

Unwell: We pray for Waffa Ghali, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray, Kateri Byrnes, Ann Coswello, Carmel Doherty,
Pat Hogan, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, John Beattie, Letitia Simmons, Anthony Holdsworth and all
who are unwell.



This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..."

(Pope Francis.)



Olive Betty van Meel
daughter of Jacquelin and Samuel

*May these children
grow in Love and Faith
with the support of their
family and their
Catholic Community*

Project Compassion Virtual Immersions – Week 3

Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. **Week 2: Olivia's Story (Tanzania)** on Tuesday, March 9 at 7.30pm (VIC). You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to <https://lent.caritas.org.au/virtualimmersions>.



Upcoming Dates in the parish community

March

10 th	Anointing Mass	2.00pm	St Alipius Church
22 nd	1 st Reconciliation ~ <i>Children's Sacrament</i>	7.00pm	St Alipius Church
23 rd	1 st Reconciliation ~ <i>Children's Sacrament</i>	7.00pm	St Alipius Church
24 th	2 nd Rite of Reconciliation	7.00pm	St Alipius Church
25 th	1 st Reconciliation ~ <i>Children's Sacrament</i>	7.00pm	St Alipius Church
26 th	1 st Reconciliation ~ <i>Children's Sacrament</i>	7.00pm	St Alipius Church
29 th	Mass of the Oils		St Patrick's Cathedral



A Welcome Morning Tea



Following the 10.30am mass at St Alipius and Sts Peter and Paul on the 21st and 28th March, Fr Jorge and the parish office staff will be staying for a cup of coffee to meet the families within the parish.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.



Anointing Mass

Fr Jorge would like to extend a warm welcome all to parishioners to stay for morning tea in the Parish hall following the Anointing Mass on Wednesday. Please bring a plate to share. The hall will be open to drop this off prior to mass beginning.

Lenten Resources - Week 3



The Sandhurst Diocese kindly shares their Lent 2021 leaflets which invite reflection on excerpts from Pope Francis' "Let us Dream", together with insights and suggestions for action from one of the Australian Plenary Council Thematic Discernment papers. The leaflets are for individual reflection or small group reflection and discussion. The theme for week 3 is, "How are we to be a Healing Church, a 'Field Hospital'?"

These leaflets are available for download from the diocesan website Liturgy Resources page <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

Lent Resources

Lent resources are available from the diocesan website Liturgy Resources page <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>



Holy Land Collection Good Friday - April , 2021

The severe loss of income that the Church in the Holy Land has experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is why your support in the Good Friday Collection is vital. The pandemic has created significant problems with vital health care, and a catastrophic loss in income due to the restrictions to travel removing the donations from the many pilgrims that visit each year. The offerings that pilgrims leave the Franciscan Friars and the local church allow them to care for the many orphans, sick, homeless and many more.

A song for the Year of St Joseph

Don Stewart, a parishioner of St Joseph's Warrnambool, was asked to write a song in 2019 to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the founding of the parish. Don is offering "Joseph's Song" for use freely in the diocese in liturgy, prayer and reflection during this year of St Joseph. There are two versions of this song – one for parishes and schools named in honour of St Joseph and one for communities and parishes that are not named after St Joseph, but would still like to celebrate this year. Listen and download the songs from www.acornmusic.com.au/listen. For copies of the lyrics, musical notation and guitar chords for the song, please contact Don via the website www.acornmusic.com.au or email unmuzzledmusic@gmail.com. Conditions of use are:

- 1) The copyright notice; *Copyright©Don Stewart, 2020* appears on all printed or digitally displayed copies of the song; and
- 2) That usage of the song is reported to the copyright collection agency - One License.



Planned Giving

Due to the capped numbers for Mass, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving or contribution to the First Collection, please place your offering in an envelope into the mailbox near the front door of the Presbytery. Any queries regarding Planned Giving, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie McTigue, on 53 312 933 or via email: ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au *St Alipius Parish collections last weekend:*

Presbytery \$1,016.50 Direct Debit \$ 760.00 Envelopes \$ 671.20

We thank you for your continued support



Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Lent Year B

(John 3:14-21)



The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who comes to him "by night". It features a number of typically Johannine themes: life, eternal life, believing, seeing, God's love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, the world, truth. John loves to play on words. Without losing sight of the material reality underlying each image, we need to keep asking: how is this word or expression to be understood in this particular context? In John's gospel, the characters often misunderstand and this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper or different understanding of his words.

As 21st century readers, we operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place. Hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories. The first two verses of today's reading evoke the ancient Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9). According to the story, the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack thereof. They blame both God and Moses. Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed a considerable number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God. God instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who "see" or "look upon it" find life.

Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent. The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life. In John's gospel, seeing is often equated with believing and believing leads to "life".

The bottom line is God's saving love for "the world", for the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human. Most of the themes in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of "love". God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world. Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus while judgment is the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God. Later in this gospel (12:33), Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Readings for this week: Third Sunday in Lent

First: Ex 20:1-17

Second: 1 Cor 1:22-25 **Gospel:** Jn 2:13-25

Readings for next week: Fourth Sunday in Lent

First: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Second: Eph 2:4-10 **Gospel:** Jn 3:14-21

