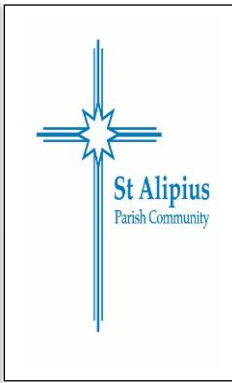


Welcome to St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



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 emeraina.

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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 25TH APRIL 2021 *GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS*

There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood."
Pope Francis

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 10.00 am to 3:30 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
Terresa Fletcher

Masses during the week

St Alipius' Church, for 180 attendees

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Friday &
Saturday 9.30 am
Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 9:00 am (1st, 3rd and 5th)
10:30 am (2nd and 4th)

Wednesday prayer to St Joseph (after mass)
Rosary and divine Mercy will be said each morning after
9.30am mass. Please join us on the left of the church

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

Counting Team Number 5 will be on this week

In our prayers we remember.....

Recent Death: Silvester Robles (P), Robbert Alsem, Cayetano De La Cruz (P), Sr Monica Butler RSM,
Christine Joy Lopez

Anniversaries: Arthur Orquejo, Mary Murphy, Jack Garnett

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



Upcoming Dates in the parish community

<i>April</i>			
27 th	Confirmation Enrolment	6.30pm	St Alipius Church
28 th	Confirmation Enrolment	10.30am/6.30pm	St Alipius Church
29 th	Confirmation Enrolment	6.30pm	St Alipius Church
<i>May</i>			
7 th	Caring Group Meeting	2.00pm	St Alipius Hall
15 th	Safe Church Awareness	9.30am	Ballarat



Anzac Day

This Anzac day we remember that this day is not merely about loss. It is about courage, endurance, love of country and duty. It is about mateship and good humour, and the survival of a sense of self worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds.

We will remember them.

Lest we forget

World Day of Vocations

We welcome Bill Lowry to the parish on this Good Shepherd Sunday.

Bill will be speaking with us on Vocations.

Pope Francis tells us: "There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow his path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood."



Pope Francis – Message for 2021 World Day of Vocations. Saint Joseph:

"The Dream of Vocation 'God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: To beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: Hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of 'the saints next door.' At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.'"

Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflections & Daily Prayers

Monthly Reflection: Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Michelle Vass, director of St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park NSW, reflects on "St Joseph – Man of Dreams"

<https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>



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

We thank you for your continued support

St Alipius Parish collections last weekend:

Presbytery \$ 1260.30

Credit Card \$ 4767.00

Direct Debit \$ 1545.00

Envelopes \$ 761.20

Confirmation

The parish is currently enrolling for Confirmation. We invite all parents to attend the Information Nights listed in the Bulletin. Details are also available on our parish website. We ask our parish community to hold our schools, Sacramental Team and the children preparing for the Holy Spirit in their prayers.

***Registrations for the Parent Information Sessions are now open.
Please register through www.sapliturgy.net.au***



Thank you to our Youth

We thank the parents and youth that came to the parish's initial youth group meeting this week. What a wonderful celebration and incredible input that was received from the 15 young people that came along to have some fun!!

RCIA

The RCIA team will be commissioned during the masses being held over the weekend on May 1st and 2nd. We ask all parishioners to keep this team in their thoughts and prayers.

Parish of St Alipius and Ss Peter & Paul - RCIA Process

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic?

An evening for those interested in inquiring about the Catholic faith will be held on Wednesday 19th May from 6.30 - 7.30pm in the St Alipius Hall, Victoria St (next to the church).

For more information please contact the parish office on 5332 6611

Mass Counts update

The 2021 National Count Mass Count will take place over the first four weekends in May (starting 1 May 2021). Any parishioner who is willing to help the parish with this please contact the parish office.

The Caring Group



The Caring Group will meet at 2pm on Friday May 7 in the St Alipius Hall.

There will be a brief meeting followed by afternoon tea.

Please bring a small plate to share.

Safe Church Awareness Workshops Ballarat

Saturday May 15th 9.30am – 4.00pm

We are encouraging all those in the parish that have a role which involves ministry with children to attend the workshop that the Diocese is holding on May 15th. If you would like to attend please contact the parish office for registrations details.

200 Years – Faith in the future of Catholic Education in Australia

In recognition of 200 years of Catholic education in Australia, Catholic Education Week 2021 will align with school communities across Australia in celebrating this landmark event. The theme for the week is

Faith in the Future which speaks of the essence of hope in faith, so needed against the backdrop of this year. A central focus of the week will be the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Patron of Australia, on

Monday 24 May. A national Mass will be celebrated on this day with the key intention being that students, staff, parents and the wider community join together on the one day across Australia to pray in thanksgiving for 200 years of Catholic education, and with great faith in the future of Catholic education. School leadership is asked to consider this in planning their liturgical celebrations for next year.



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

(John 10:11-18)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The liturgy for Good Shepherd Sunday invites us to reflect on Jesus as the noble or good shepherd of the believing community. "Shepherd" in its literal sense is not really part of our 21st century vocabulary, and yet we use it metaphorically, as a verb or as a noun. Its verbal form connotes care and compassion, protection, guidance and tender relationship. In John's gospel, Jesus rightly claims for himself the title "good shepherd". He contrasts the good shepherd or leader with the leader that fails to care for the flock. Knowing one's sheep, staying with them in the face of mortal danger and being prepared to die for them are marks of the good shepherd.

There are echoes here of the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly of Ezekiel 34 where the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor describes the leaders of Israel in their relationships with the people. There are likewise echoes of an early second century description of the Emperor Tiberius in whose reign Jesus of Nazareth was executed, precisely because he did not abandon his "flock". The Roman historian Suetonius has this to say of Tiberius: "To the governors who recommended burdensome taxes for his provinces, he wrote in answer that it was the part of a good shepherd to shear his flock, not skin it" (Suetonius, Life of Tiberius 32.2).

In the pre-industrial biblical world and early centuries of the Common Era, the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor was heard by an audience that enjoyed a much closer relationship with sheep and their human carers than do most people today. In my country, for instance, there are 63.7 million sheep and some 25 million people. In other words, the ovine inhabitants of Australia significantly outnumber the human. Yet most of our highly urbanised human population knows its sheep only in their disembodied forms. The human-ovine relationship is, for the most part, reduced to that of consumer and consumed. Sheep are valued, not for their intrinsic goodness as creations of a loving God, but rather as commodities that provide food and clothing for the human population. We now know that modern domesticated sheep evolved from creatures that pre-date modern humans. We might take time to consider the implications of this for our relationship with the other-than-human inhabitants of our planetary home. Our reflections might include some consideration of the wisdom or otherwise of continuing to breed these creatures for human consumption, often at the expense of environment.

Good Shepherd Sunday provides us with an opportunity to move beyond our human-centred views of the world and our human-centred interpretations of our sacred texts. We might hear a call to value the realities that underpin gospel images such as the Good Shepherd/sheep metaphor. We might also hear a call to expand our appreciation of all the inhabitants of our planet. To be good shepherds in our time is to embrace the whole Earth Community with reverence and compassion.

Fourth Sunday of Easter / Good Shepherd Sunday Readings

First: Acts: 4:8-12

Second: 1 Jn 3:1-2 **Gospel:** Jn 10:11-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter Readings

First: Acts: 9: 26-31

Second: 1 Jn 3:18-24 **Gospel:** Jn 15:1-8

