

# 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 emerging.

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

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

**5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## Mass in the Parish

This weekend mass will be able to be viewed through [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

This will be available for viewing by 7.00 pm Saturday.

\*\* This mass is recorded and can be celebrated at any time in your home \*\*

### Parish Office & Presbytery:

- 84 Victoria Street  
Ballarat East 3350
- 5332 6611
- ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Office Hours:

*The Office is being managed offsite during lockdown*

### Liturgy Online:

- [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://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:** TBA

**Liturgy Coordinator:** David Santamaria

**Funeral Ministry:** Carmel Flynn, Kathy Curran

..... A PRAYER FOR .....

## Father's DAY

Gracious God,  
bless fathers and all father  
figures with such love and  
faithfulness that children  
flourish and grow in  
uprightness and joy.  
Bless those who long to be  
fathers and those for whom  
this day is difficult.  
Amen.



### *In our prayers we remember.....*

#### Recent Deaths:

**Anniversaries:** Eileen O'Meara, Carmel Carmody

**Unwell:** We pray for Bev Dawson, Valerie Reilly (UK), Anne D'Cruz (Singapore), Angie De Run (Malaysia), Peter Saunders, Juanita Rickard, Seamus McGettigan, Pat Hogan, Agnes Peters, Leticia Tanes, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray, Kateri Byrnes, Ann Coswello, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, Letitia Simmons, and all who are unwell.





## **Plenary Council – Continuing the Journey**

- The last twelve or so months of our Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes due to the impact of COVID-19 and the restrictions which do not allow people to gather. With the publication of the Plenary Council agenda, we can however reflect and pray with the sixteen questions that form the agenda. With this in mind, we extend to people in the diocese an invitation, another opportunity, to engage in the process and to listen deeply to the voice of the Spirit. **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED HANDOUT. Please feel free to complete this individually or after lockdown as part of a small group depending on COVID restrictions.** It can be printed out, then emailed or posted back in or you can just send answers via email to [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au). Any submissions will be forwarded to the Diocesan Members to the Plenary Council.  
As we are not able to gather as a community at this time due to COVID restrictions, this opportunity to respond may be a way for you to spend some quiet time in reflection, thinking about the agenda of the Council and the future of the Church, on your life and prayer life. It may be of comfort to know that others from your faith community may be reflecting on this at a similar time.
- Another way of “Continuing the Journey” is taking part in the national prayer campaign and in a special way support the Plenary Council. As the first Assembly in October 2021 draws nearer, all people are invited to become ‘Prayer Partners’ to accompany the Members and invoke the Holy Spirit on this historic gathering for the Church in Australia. The **“Fan the Flame”** resources have been designed so they can be used by individuals or by parishes with groups of any size and in any setting. They include material for each week as well as material that can be used at any time to support prayerful preparation for the Plenary Council. Resources can be accessed at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/>
- Fan the Flame: Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021. ‘He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.’ Mark 7:31-37  
The Church hears the cries of the poor and the groans of the earth. It seeks to stand in solidarity with the poor and the marginalised and to exercise good stewardship of the fragile ecosystems that support life on earth. (Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, “A New Earth: The Environmental Challenge. Social Justice Statement 2002”, accessed 23 April 2021, <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Social-Justice-Statement-2002.pdf>, 10.) <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/>

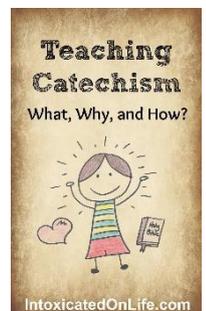


### ***Bishops of Victoria stand in solidarity with our Afghani communities across Victoria***

The Catholic Bishops of Victoria have expressed their solidarity and support for the local Afghan community and their families back home in a joint statement. Read the statement on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/cssv-stands-in-solidarity-with-our-afghani-communities-across-victoria/>

### ***Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Education of Catechists***

ACN supports the formation and training of catechists so that where there are no priests or sisters, catechists are trained and sent forth to nurture the Christian community. With the help of our benefactors, ACN supported the formation of 18,389 catechists and lay leaders in 2020. Can you help provide support and formation to catechists to help spread the faith? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/catechists](http://www.aidtochurch.org/catechists).



### ***Planned Giving***

Should you wish continue our Planned Giving or contribute 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](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

*We thank you for your continued Support*

## 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.

### **House for Rent**

We currently have a long term parishioner looking for a 2 bedroom house or unit with garage to rent. Would need to be single level. If you can be of any assistance with this please contact the Parish Office. Thank you



### **Diocesan Liturgical Commission Membership**

The Ballarat Diocesan Liturgical Commission assists the Bishop with diocesan liturgies, liturgical matters of the diocese and provides formation to assist the growth of good liturgical practices. Membership of the Commission includes representation from priests, religious and laity throughout the diocese. The Commission is currently seeking new members from all areas of the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years with the option of two further terms (3 years per term). The Commission meets five times per year in Ballarat. Video linking facilities are available for meetings. All members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission must hold a current Working with Children check or VIT (Victorian Institute of Teaching) registration. The Charter of the Liturgical Commission is available from the diocesan website. Expressions of interest can be forwarded to [liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



### **About the Season of Creation**

The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. This prayerful season runs annually from September 1 through to October 4 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given to us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today.

This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the *oikos* of God'. (One of the meanings for the ancient Greek word *oikos* is *home*.) *Oikos* is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger because of people's greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation.

### **Year of St Joseph 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. Lara Kirk, Marriage, Family and Relationships Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, reflects on "The Holy Family" <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

## Reflection on the Gospel-23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

(Mark 7:31-37)

Veronica Lawson RSM

From September 1 to October 4, we join with Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation. The 2021 theme, “A Home for All, Renewing the *Oikos* [household] of God” invites us to attend to those rendered homeless, birds and beasts and humankind alike so that there might be a home for all the species of the earth. Today’s gospel draws attention to the profoundly deaf who find themselves on the edge of the earth community. Without access to birdsong, to spoken discourse, to music and to the vast range of media communication, they often struggle to understand and to be understood. Their capacity to communicate their deepest wisdom, their hopes and dreams, their anxieties and fears, is limited not only by personal disability but also by the incomprehension and impatience of others.

Whatever degree of deafness is experienced, relief from such an affliction offers far more than physical healing. It brings insertion into the life of family, community, workplace and the wonderful world of God’s other than human creation. It opens up new horizons and unimagined possibilities. Sophisticated hearing aids and cochlear implants can transform the lives of those who suffer from serious hearing loss. We give thanks for the earth elements in cochlear implants, the silicone, platinum, titanium and ceramics and the rare earth elements in hearing aids.

In first century Palestine, chances of relief from hearing deficiency and associated speech impairment were minimal. Desperate people put their faith in folk healers who used their healing hands and drew upon their knowledge of the medicinal properties in certain herbs and other plants. Many turned to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, or his daughter Hygieia. Jesus was an effective healer who used some of the same methods as other healers of his time. He turns to the God of Israel (“looking up to heaven...”) as the source of healing power.

There is layer upon layer of meaning in today’s healing story. Habitat features significantly. Jesus travels from Tyre on the northern Mediterranean coast to the Sea of Galilee via the non-Jewish territory on the eastern side of the lake. The gospel writer is stressing the all-embracing nature of Jesus’ healing ministry. Land belongs to God and territorial claims on land are no barrier to Jesus’ healing ministry, a lesson Jesus himself has just learned from the Syro-Phoenician woman of Mark 7:26-30.

In Mark’s gospel, the healing power of God is available to Jews and Gentiles, male and female, young and old alike. It is available to those with bodily afflictions and to those who are paralysed by anxiety and fear. There is irony in the telling of the story: a Gentile deaf man can be brought from no hearing to hearing, from “speaking with difficulty” to clarity of speech, but Jesus’ own disciples will shortly fail to hear and understand, “Do you have ears and not hear?” (Mark 8:18). Let us open our ears to hear in the hope that we might understand what we have done to our planetary home and how we might renew the *oikos* of God.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First:** Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

**Second:** Eph 5:21-32    **Gospel:** Jn 6:60-69

### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First:** Is 50:5-9

**Second:** James 2:14-18    **Gospel:** Mk 8:27-35

