



▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**
701 FISKEN ST
BUNINYONG 3357



▶ **ST ALIPIUS**
82 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350



▶ **PARISH OFFICE**
84 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350
PH 5332 6611
OPEN TUE – FRI
10.00 AM – 1.00 PM

29 January 2023

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Happy are the poor in spirit

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 AM
Saturday 9:30 AM and 6.00 PM
Sunday 9.00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
10.30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)
10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 1 this week – 9:30 AM

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

THE COMBINED
COMMUNITIES OF ST ALIPIUS
PARISH REACH OUT IN THE
SPIRIT OF FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE, AND ACCEPTANCE, AS
GOD CALLS US TO IN THE
GOSPELS.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed: Mark O'Toole.

Anniversaries: Bernard Bradbury,
Fr Felix Celeste OSJ, Frances
Murphy, Fr Ray Sales OSJ, Fr
Adriano Sobremisana OSJ

Unwell: Remy Bourke, Anne D'Cruz,
Sr Joan Dalgleish, Ray Gregory,
Noreen Griffin, Heather Healy, John
Healy, Peter Martin, Betty McGarry,
Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan,
Trish O'Donohue, Barry Orchard,
Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott.

*Our parish is committed to the
safety, well-being, and dignity of all
children and vulnerable adults.*

*We acknowledge this land's
traditional owners and custodians
and pay our respects to Elders past,
present, and emerging.*



Parish Priest
Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

**Sacramental and Parish
Coordinator**
Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant
Natalie Shannon

**Parish Pastoral Council
Chair**
David Morrison

Finance Officer
Kerrie McTigue

Finance Chair
Paul O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer
Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordinator
David Santamaria
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry
Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

BACK TO MASS WEEKEND

For a variety of reasons, many parishioners stopped attending mass over the past few years, with many not having the chance to meet Fr Jorge yet. Let us invite those who have stopped coming to mass to re-join us for the following masses with a social gathering afterwards:

- Saturday 18 February, 6:00 PM mass at St Alipius, with live music, followed by a BBQ dinner in the parish hall.
- Sunday 19 February, 10:30 AM mass at Ss Peter and Paul's in Buninyong, with morning tea to follow.

There is a flyer for you to share with those whom you would like to invite to mass that week. Hopefully, we can encourage many people to join us then, and going forward, to celebrate mass together each week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caring Group afternoon tea

2:00 PM, 3 February, St Alipius Hall

Back to Mass weekend

6:00 PM, 18 Feb St Alipius, followed by a BBQ
10:30 AM, 19 Feb at Buninyong, then morning tea

LITURGY ROSTER

The February to April roster is published this weekend. If you would like a paper copy, please pick one up from the Sacristy.

We are looking for someone to update the OneLicense register of hymns we use each week. If you have 15 minutes spare each week (or half an hour fortnightly) to assist the Liturgy Team with this task, it would be most appreciated. Training is provided. Internet access is required. If you can help, please contact David: ballarateastliturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

ST ALIPIUS CARING GROUP

The Caring Group have been providing refreshments in our parish for a variety of occasions for many years. They are no longer able to do this but will continue to meet once a month to socialise. Everyone is welcome to attend these cuppas which are a great opportunity to catch up with fellow parishioners.

The next Caring Group get-together is for afternoon tea on Friday 3 Feb at 2.00 PM in the parish hall. All are welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

WELCOME FR BARRY

Welcome to Fr. Barry who joins us for masses again for the next two weekends. It is always great to see Fr. Barry return to St. Alipius and Ss. Peter and Paul, and we look forward to catching up with him over the next two weekends. Fr. Barry, we are grateful for your willingness to visit the parish for masses while Fr. Jorge is away – thank you.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Collection basket – **\$1,298**

Presbytery and Priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$787.70**

Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance.

For any queries or concerns, or should you wish to join our stewardship program to support our parish, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie on 5331 2933 or email ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

RCIC AT ST ALIPIUS

We are currently working with 14 children within our parish who have expressed a wish to become full members of the Catholic Church. To prepare them for this we are following the guidelines of the RCIA for Children of Catechetical age. It is a delight to work with these children and their families and share stories of our faith while answering their many questions. These children met late last year and will begin to meet again in early February. They will continue to meet fortnightly until Easter time at which time a date will be organised for them to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Please keep these children in your prayers and make them welcome at masses they can attend.

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY

The Ballarat Interfaith Network invites you to join their flag-raising event in celebration of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week on Wednesday, 1 February from 11.00 AM to 12.00 noon at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street, Ballarat. After the raising of our own unique Ballarat Interfaith Network flag, we will adjourn into the church for a keynote address from a member of the local Muslim community, prayers for peace offered by representatives of other faiths, and one or two musical performances. Welcome – Mayor of Ballarat, Cr Hudson. Muslim Keynote Speaker – Obaid Noor. Refreshments provided. Contact 0400 650 234.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

The children of our parish will be excited this weekend, as they prepare to return to school after the Christmas break. We hope that all students have had a wonderful holiday and are ready to return to a new year of learning.

A particular shout out to those children who are beginning school for the very first time and to those who are starting secondary school. May the coming year be successful and enjoyable for all.

BAPTISMS

Amelia Konings-Howard

Child of Christopher Howard and Nichole Konings

Esther Grace Lewis

Child of Adam and Amy Lewis

Hazel Elizabeth Peters

Child of Matthew Peters and Alicia O'Neil

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

Pope Francis

MASS OF THE OILS 2023

Each year, the Mass of the Oils is celebrated on Monday in Holy Week at St Patrick's Cathedral for all parishes within the Ballarat Diocese. Representatives from each parish come forward to receive the oils which will be used during sacraments in the coming year. There is an opportunity to come together with the priests and people of other parishes with the supper in the cathedral hall following mass. This year's mass will be on Monday, 3 April at 6.30 PM.

NLC AND APMN CONFERENCE

The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council are pleased to announce a combined liturgy and music conference to be held at the Brisbane Hilton from 28–30 September called "Mystery and Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration." The international keynote speakers are well-known British liturgical composer Bernadette Farrell and US liturgist and author Timothy O'Malley (Notre Dame). There will be many local expert workshop presenters and facilitators with 42 workshops on offer across the three days. In addition to the high-quality keynotes and workshops, there will also be opportunities to engage in facilitated discussions and to build networks with liturgists, musicians, and educators from around the country. The registration page will be opened soon, but to assist with your budgeting and planning, the full registration price for the conference is \$480.00.

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. The Pope's intention for January is for educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

ECOLOGICAL THEOLOGY

The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to develop and commit to a culture of life-long faith formation.

For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have offered regular adult theology classes. A new series begins on Wednesday, 22 February (afternoon group 1-3 PM and evening group 7-9 PM) at the Mercy Centre, 16 Gent Street, Ballarat East. This will be the first of six sessions, with the remainder as follows – 22 March, 26 April, 24 May, 28 June, 26 July.

If you are interested, kindly send your name, mobile number, and email address to Sr. Veronica at veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au and she will provide you with further information.

2023 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Expressions of interest are invited to join a fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 11–24 June. Arranged through Lifestyle Travel Ballarat and accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll. Visit Jordan, Petra, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, and Qumran. For further information, phone Fr Justin on 0448 220 685 or email info@lifestyletravel.com.au.

RITE OF ELECTION 2023

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of an adult who has undertaken formation on their journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. The Rite of Election for catechumens and candidates will take place at 12:00 PM, on Saturday 25 February at St Patrick's Cathedral, with Bishop Paul Bird CSsR presiding. At the conclusion, all are invited to join the bishop in the cathedral hall for a light lunch.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 5:1–12

We have become so familiar with Matthew's beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to those who suffer injustice and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing it. With the escalation of violence across the globe and with powerful leaders opting for military rather than diplomatic solutions to global conflicts or threats, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of the "Sermon on the Mount".

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor, on the gentle, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know what it means to mercy, on the pure in heart, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of 'blessed are...' (a better translation of the Greek *makarioi* than "happy are ...") provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those

whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit, and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus of Nazareth. He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is righteousness or right relationship.

God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God.

God's favour or blessing on those who live the gospel message comes in diverse forms: the *basileia* or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth for a heritage; the joy of being mercied; face-to-face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven were only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented it is little consolation to hear that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or



that their "reward is great in heaven". "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. "Heaven" is both present and future. Maybe the most urgent invitation is to mourn strategically the displacement, through war or climate crisis, of so many of earth's inhabitants who long for the blessing of God's kin-dom in the form of comfort and mercy and a share of the earth's resources. As we prepare for the Synod on Synodality (walking together on the journey of faith) to begin in October this year, we might take time to ponder the meaning of Matthew's beatitudes and the message of hope they offer to those who espouse their vision.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ZEPHANIAH 2:3, 3:12–13
1 CORINTHIANS 1:26–31
MATTHEW 5:1–12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 58:7–10
1 CORINTHIANS 2:1–5
MATTHEW 5:13–16