



▶ **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

5 February 2023

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

You are the light of the world

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Wednesday and 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 2 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

Anniversaries: Brian O'Neill, Tom Shannon.

Unwell: Remy Bourke, Anne D'Cruz, Ray Gregory, Noreen Griffin, Mary Hall, 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



BACK TO MASS WEEKEND

For a variety of reasons, many parishioners stopped attending mass over the past few years, with some 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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 has been published. 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

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.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,219**

Presbytery and Priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$423**
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

WELCOME FR BARRY

Welcome to Fr. Barry who joins us for masses again this weekend and next. 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. Fr. Barry, we are grateful for your willingness to visit the parish for masses while Fr. Jorge is away – thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Planning for the reception of sacraments in 2023 is well underway. Relevant dates for each sacrament are displayed in the foyer of each church. Preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation commences with information sessions for parents at St Alipius on Thursday 16 February at 10.30 AM and 6 PM. Parents are obliged to attend one of these sessions. For further information please refer to the parish website or call the parish office. Please pass this information on to interested families.

CONGRATULATIONS

As a parish, we offer our congratulations to Sisters Chris Coghlan and Carmel Giles who recently celebrated 50 years as Mercy Sisters and to Sister Veronica Lawson who will celebrate 60 years as a Mercy Sister this weekend. We are grateful for the presence of the Sisters in our parish and for the work they have done for so many.

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.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on 5 February this year. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with sacred scripture in various ways and settings.

BAPTISMS

Frances Lamb

Child of Lawrence Lamb and Abbie Fisher

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

Pope Francis

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 **February** is for **parishes**: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is asking for support to aid sisters in Kenya in building a new mother house and formation centre for their local community. Hunger, illiteracy, and lack of medical provision, combined with desperately poor roads and a lack of clean drinking water make life incredibly difficult for many people in Kenya. The diocesan congregation of the Visitation Daughters of the Immaculate Heart were established to help this disadvantaged population – but to continue their work they need your help! The sisters’ work includes caring for expectant mothers, acting as midwives, providing counselling, caring for the sick and looking after the elderly and orphans who are frequently abandoned by society. Your support will help these sisters to continue their mission by providing them with a permanent convent. To make an offering and learn more visit: <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject>

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

A parishioner requires assistance to pack up their house to move. If you can provide physical support on 25 February, please contact Cathy Prunty through the parish office. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2023

Bishop Paul will launch Project Compassion on Sunday, 19 February during the 5:00 PM mass at St Patrick’s.

PATCHEWOLLOCK FINAL MASS

All are invited to attend the final mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Patchewollock on Saturday, 18 March. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and Fr Anthony Nagothu, Parish Priest, will celebrate mass at 3.00pm. Following mass there will be a gathering at the Patchewollock Community Centre. Please bring food to share and your own drinks www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ouyen/

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.

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 YOUTH DAY 2023

World Youth Day will be held from 1–6 August in Lisbon, Portugal. Anyone interested in attending can register with the Archdiocese of Melbourne to join with them in pilgrimages they have on offer. More info at: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/world-youth-day/

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 5:13–16

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses two short parables to his disciples in the presence of the crowds. Parables were intended to tease their hearers, inviting them to see things from a new perspective, to see themselves in a new light. Jesus told these parables in early first-century Palestine with its particular symbol system, while we hear them through the multiple layers of our own twenty-first-century contexts and symbol systems. "Salt" and "light" have slightly different resonances in different contexts, as do "earth" and "world". Exploring those resonances or nuances can bring us to a deeper appreciation of the text.

This short reflection allows for a focus only on "the salt of the earth" parable or metaphor. For Jesus' Palestinian audience, salt was used to preserve and to season food. It also functioned as a cleansing or purifying agent. It could only lose its savour if contaminated by additives. We can resonate with all of that. For some of the Jewish rabbis, salt signified wisdom: a "salted" disciple was a "wise" disciple. In some parts of the ancient world, as in Pakistan today,

salt was used in dyeing processes as a way of intensifying as well as preserving the colour of fabrics. Many Westerners are not aware of this practice. These days we are rightly concerned about high levels of salinity in overworked soil. That was certainly not so for first-century Palestinians.

*To be salt of the earth is to
season the earth community*

When we declare someone to be "salt of the earth", we are generally referring to the sheer goodness of the person in question, her/his down-to-earth reliability, lack of pretentiousness and practical wisdom. To be salt of the earth is to season the earth community, to intensify its beauty, to be wise in one's judgments, to be just and compassionate in all of one's dealings. This parable, with its multi-layered symbolism, certainly teases the mind.

In the original Greek, the emphasis is on the first word in the sentence. Jesus is telling his hearers, disciples, and crowds, that they are the salt of the earth. They do not have to become the salt of the



earth; they are the salt of the earth. In short, he is affirming their worth. In its literary context, that assertion contrasts Jesus' followers with those who might persecute them. It affirms their capacity to stand strong in the face of opposition, "for the sake of justice". If they allow their commitment to be shaken, then the "salt" will be contaminated and the "earth" cannot be seasoned. As we reflect on the diverse metaphorical applications of salt and earth, we might take a moment to give thanks to God for the gift of the material realities that underlie these powerful metaphors. This weekend, as I celebrate six decades of consecrated Mercy living, I give thanks for the wonders of our planetary home and for all who have shown me what it means to be salt of the earth and light of the world.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SIRACH 15:15–20
1 CORINTHIANS 2:6–10
MATTHEW 5:17–37