



▶ **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

12 February 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Vast is the wisdom of the Lord*

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/](http://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 (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Counting team 3 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:** Doreen  
Blood, Rosaleen Cullen (Ireland),  
Elaine McCurdy, Fr Eliodoro, T.  
Tubesa OSJ

**Unwell:** Madeleine Ballinger .  
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](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

### Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn  
[stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com](mailto:stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com)

World Day  
of the Sick

FEBRUARY 11



## 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 from the foyer to share with those whom you would like to invite to mass next weekend. Hopefully, we can encourage many people to join us, and then celebrate mass together each week.

UPCOMING EVENTS
<b>Back to mass weekend</b> 6:00 PM, 18 Feb at St Alipius, followed by a BBQ 10:30 AM, 19 Feb at Buninyong, then morning tea
<b>Rite of Welcome for RCIA for Children</b> 6.00 PM, 18 Feb at St Alipius
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 22 February
<b>Parish Pastoral Council meeting</b> 27 February
<b>World Day of Prayer</b> 2.30 PM, Sunday 5 March, Ss Peter and Paul's

## 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](mailto:ballarateastliturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,100**

*Presbytery and Priest support.*

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$438.40**

*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](mailto:ballaratoffice@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, and 26 July.

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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, when 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.

### BAPTISMS

**Violet Anne Walker**

Child of Quentin and Sarah Walker

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

Pope Francis

## EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost and the death toll increases by the hour. Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help people recover and rebuild from this disaster. Visit [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/Turkey-and-Syria-earthquake/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/Turkey-and-Syria-earthquake/) or call 1800 024 413 toll-free to provide much-needed support by donating to Caritas' Middle East Emergency Appeal.

## 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](http://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.

## LENT WITH BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired, be refreshed, and be renewed! Sign up for Bruce Downe's free Lenten program and for 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. Visit <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent23> for further information and to register.

## 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.

## PROJECT COMPASSION 2023

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

## FURNITURE AVAILABLE

A parishioner is moving house and has an almost new bed and base and an extendable dining table with six chairs in excellent condition for sale. Please contact the parish office for details.

## 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>

# Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 5:17–37*

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words.

The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law ("I have come to..."), not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, *dikaiosunē*, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, the kin-dom "of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfills" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is

contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of the incarceration of children and the incarceration of anyone for minor crimes.

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*Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness*

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The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance: any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship. The third example on divorce is complicated



by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of *porneia*". *Porneia* referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not prohibited by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness eschews "fake news" and calls for honesty and transparency in everyday dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LEVITICUS 19:1–2, 17–18  
1 CORINTHIANS 3:16–23  
MATTHEW 5:38–48