



▶ **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

19 February 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord is kind and merciful

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9:30 AM

Ash Wednesday 12 noon and 6:00 PM

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 4 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: Mary Dyer

Anniversary: Jack Gittings

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.*



St Alipius
Parish Community

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

This weekend Fr Jorge and the parish warmly welcome everyone to mass at St Alipius, Ballarat East, and Ss Peter and Pauls in Buninyong.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Back to mass weekend

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

Rite of Welcome for RCIA for Children

6.00 PM, 18 Feb at St Alipius

Ash Wednesday mass times

22 February, 12 noon and 6:00 PM, St Alipius

Parish Pastoral Council meeting

27 February

World Day of Prayer

2.30 PM, Sunday 5 March, Ss Peter and Paul's

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Ballarat Committee of World Day of Prayer invites you to join WDP services in Ballarat and surrounds, including Ss Peter and Paul's at Buninyong at 2:30 PM on Sunday 5 March. WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year our sisters in Taiwan have chosen the theme "I have heard about your faith." Let us listen to these women's stories of faith and their prayers for wisdom in the face of the political isolation that their island home experiences.

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 them and their families and share stories of our faith while answering their many questions. The children first met late last year and 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 and their families in your prayers and make them welcome at masses they can attend.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to aid Caritas Australia this Lenten season as they help vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to assist communities to tackle poverty, food security, education, water, sanitation, and disaster risk reduction to build better futures. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the church foyer, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



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

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,003**

Presbytery and Priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$563**

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

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 and she will provide you with further information.

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. After 12 years of civil war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act now. Your generous support of the Caritas Middle East Emergency Appeal will provide emergency relief to help people recover and rebuild from this disaster. Call 1800 024 413 toll-free or visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/Turkey-and-Syria-earthquake/.

BAPTISMS

Harriet Kate Whitear
Child of Jane and Nicholas Whitear

Annabelle Louise Barnes & Rose Elizabeth Barnes
Children of Aaron Barnes and Ashley Burns

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

Pope Francis

LENTEN RESOURCES

There are a number of Lent prayer resources available from the diocese www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

POPE FRANCIS ANNIVERSARY

Pope Francis will celebrate the 10th year of his pontificate on 13 March. The Digital Synod has launched an online map featuring virtual candles representing people's prayers for the Pope. Visit <https://www.decimus-annus.org/site/index> to offer a prayer and light a candle.

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 5:38–48

Today's gospel is a continuation of the Matthean Jesus' teaching on the sort of righteousness to which his followers are called in their living of the Law, namely right relationship and justice. The Law of Moses included a law of retaliation designed to make punishment for wrongdoing to persons or property proportionate to the offence (Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20 and Deuteronomy 19:21). This was quite enlightened legislation at that time. In a series of striking images, Jesus invites his followers to go far beyond the strict application of the law and to embrace a new way of thinking about and acting towards those who have injured them or us.

Relinquishing your right to compensation is one thing. Giving more of your property to one who has stolen from you is quite another. Do we take this teaching literally or do we simply embrace the spirit of non-retaliation that seems to be at the heart of this teaching? A too-easy amnesty does not always bring justice. Last week's gospel reminded us that there is to be no place for uncontrolled anger or murderous thoughts in our hearts. Both that

teaching and this seem to be about taking responsibility for how we live. Harbours anger can have disastrous consequences for oneself as well as for others. It tends to become a state of being and to skew our capacity for right judgement. What happens to us may be beyond our control. What we do with what comes our way is for us to decide. Jesus makes it clear that we have choices in the face of life's struggles. The disciple is called to assume personal responsibility and to refuse the way of retaliation.

Jesus makes it clear that we have choices in the face of life's struggles.

The final example or antithesis in the list of six that Jesus offers in the Sermon on the Mount is the most confronting of all: there are to be no limitations on love. Loving one's enemies is quite a challenge, on a personal as well as a global level. We learn the hard way that we cannot change others. We can only change our attitudes and our approaches to those who harm us in any way. Catherine McAuley, the



first Sister of Mercy, wrote that her sisters “never let the sun go down on their anger”. I used to wonder how they managed that. Over recent years I have found that praying quite deliberately for those who give me a hard time or cause me grief is by far the most effective way of retaining my own peace of mind and of expelling retaliatory thoughts. For me, it is a matter of gently bringing these people to mind, of breathing in the loving kindness or *hesed* of God that suffuses the universe and of breathing it out to them. Such prayer enables me to think of them in kindly ways and act towards them without rancour, even when these sentiments are not reciprocated.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GENESIS 2:7–9, 3:1–7
ROMANS 5:12–19
MATTHEW 4:1–11