



▶ **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

26 February 2023

First Sunday of Lent

We do not live on bread alone

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Mon 11:00 AM (Sr Monigatti funeral)

Wednesday, Friday 9:30 AM

Saturday 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 5 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: Sr. Irene
Monigatti RSM

Anniversary: Joan Shannon,
Jacinta Wilson

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

Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn

stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



WELCOME BACK TO MASS

The attendance at Mass last weekend was heartening with many staying behind after the vigil mass for the BBQ and chat in the hall. It was a beautiful evening weatherwise and people gathered inside and out to share a meal and some good conversation. The feeling in the room was really positive and given that community is such an important part of our Catholic religion, we would hope to see our community grow, with more opportunities for such gatherings in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Pastoral Council meeting
Monday 27 February

Liturgy Committee meeting
5.30 PM, Tue 28 February, Presbytery

Caring Group
2:00 PM, 3 March, St Alipius Hall

World Day of Prayer
2.30 PM, Sunday 5 March, Ss Peter and Paul's

Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations
Saturday 15 April

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,442**

Presbytery and Priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$693.20**

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held at Ss. Peter and Paul's Buninyong at 7:00 PM every Tuesday night for the six weeks of Lent. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet at 2:00 PM, Friday, 3 March in St Alipius Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend for a cuppa and a chat. Please bring a small plate to share.

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

It was lovely to welcome the children from the RCIC to mass last weekend for the Rite of Naming. These children are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter Masses. They have been preparing since last October, gathering once a fortnight to learn more about our Catholic faith. The children are keen to learn and enjoy participating in discussions. They are accompanied by their parents at each of our sessions and parents are encouraged to join the discussions with their children. In more recent times we have been discussing and learning the Apostle's Creed. It was terrific to see most of these families join the community at the BBQ after Mass.

GET WELL LIST OF NAMES

We will be resetting the list of unwell people on the parish notice sheet on 12 March. Please contact the parish office if you would like any names kept on the list.

CHOIR FOR MASS OF THE OILS

Singers and musicians are invited to join the music group being formed for the Mass of the Oils. Practice times are at the Cathedral on Sundays at 6:15 PM after 5:00 PM mass on 19 and 26 March and 2 April. Register your interest with Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office – julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

SPORTS AND FAITH

Australian Catholics can hear from the head of the Vatican's Church and Sport Office during an online, national consultation later this month exploring sports and faith <https://nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge/the-bridge/national-consultation-to-explore-sports-and-faith>

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/

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.

BAPTISMS

Sid Jackson Gill
Child of Eammon and Emma Gill

Tadhg Francis Shaw
Child of Lachlan and Gemmah Shaw

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

Pope Francis

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 Downes'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.

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/

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of the diocesan e-News has been published with stories of news and events in the diocese. www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/. You can subscribe to receive e-News directly to your inbox.

PROJECT COMPASSION

After losing her father when she was just 10 years old, Laxmi, now 16, was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village, and hopes to become an engineer. Please donate to Project Compassion to help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**



You can donate through Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In its submission to the Plenary Council, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) recommended that "the traditional custodians of the land on which the Church, school, parish, or organisation stands be acknowledged in a prominent and appropriate manner. Verbal acknowledgement prior to meetings and mass is also encouraged". To this end, the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission has asked if parishes are not already doing so, that they add an Acknowledgement of Country to their weekly bulletin and to their websites and announced at liturgical celebrations in the parish.



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.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

First Sunday of Lent: Matthew 4:1–11

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is also a time to enter into the “wilderness” and grapple with the mysteries of life “in Christ”. It presents us with a challenge to take stock of our lives, see more clearly what is in our hearts, and discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. Today’s liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many humans before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [*Tested* is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is “*tempted*”].

Jesus is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world.

Forty is a significant number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Explanations of its significance vary: a round number suggesting a long period of time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness.

In Israel’s story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deuteronomy 8:2). In Matthew’s account, the “devil” is the “tester” or “tempter”, the instrument of God’s testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus’ relationship to God: “If you are the son of God....” The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God’s empire or the empire “of the heavens” rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed “of God”. This testing in the wilderness foreshadows later



events in the gospel such as Peter’s attempt at Caesarea Philippi to deflect Jesus from his mission and the bystanders’ challenge in 27:40 to prove he is “son of God” by coming down from the cross.

Most people of faith would agree that being son or daughter “of God” right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to all of Earth’s human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to Earth’s precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources. Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or of greed or status or entitlement so that, like Jesus, we may truly be “of God”.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
GENESIS 2:7–9, 3:1–7
ROMANS 5:12–19
MATTHEW 4:1–11

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
GENESIS 12:1–4
2 TIMOTHY 1:8–10
MATTHEW 17:1–9