



▶ **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

8 March 2023

Third Sunday of Lent
Harden not your hearts

St Alipius *parish*

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30 AM

Stations of the cross after Friday mass

Saturday 12:00 PM anointing, 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 7 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: Reynaldo
Suratos

Anniversaries: Roland
Dimaculangan, Noelene Fletcher

Unwell: Mary Hall, Peter
McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan

*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

stalpiusfuneral@gmail.com



ANOINTING MASS

After the anointing mass next Saturday 18 March at 12 PM, there will be a cuppa in the hall. It would be much appreciated if people could please bring a plate to share. If anyone who would like to attend needs transportation, please call the parish office on 5332 6611.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Anointing Mass

12.00 PM, Saturday 18 March, St Alipius

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

6.00 PM, Monday 20 March, St Alipius

Liturgy Committee meeting

5.30 PM, Tuesday 21 March, Presbytery

Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations

Saturday 15 April

PLANNED GIVING RENEWAL

The Parish Finance Committee discussed the need for a renewal of the parish's planned-giving program at its recent meeting.

We are seeking volunteers to join a planned giving program committee. Our goal is to renew and revitalise our parish's planned giving efforts and ensure the long-term sustainability of our community.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact the parish office and leave your details. You will then be invited to an information session to discuss the role further before committing. We look forward to hearing from you!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Ss Peter and Paul's community hosted the World Day of Prayer last Sunday and were thrilled with the excellent turnout. Days like this don't just happen and we would like to thank all who helped prepare for it.

VINNIES BREAD RUN

Each Monday night between 7.30 and 8.00 PM, Vinnies volunteers can be found in the St Alipius Church Hall providing bread to those in need. If this would benefit you or someone you know please call into the hall during this time. Please bring a bag to put the bread in.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held at Ss Peter and Paul's in Buninyong at 7:00 PM every Tuesday night during Lent. Stations of the Cross will follow the 9.30 am Mass each Friday morning at St Alipius. Everyone is welcome to attend.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$949**

Presbytery and priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$458**

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

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

During the coming week, 110 children will receive the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time during the second rite. These liturgies will be on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers. Special thanks to the schools who have supported the children and to the priests who have made themselves available for these liturgies.

FR JORGE'S ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD

Fr Jorge will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on Thursday 13 April. As a parish, we will come together on Saturday 15 April to congratulate Fr Jorge and give thanks for his work with us and those further afield. Mass will be followed by a gathering in the hall, with more information to be shared in the coming weeks. Please keep this date free. If people are looking to give Fr Jorge a gift in recognition of this occasion, Fr Jorge asks that you give money which he would use to continue his sponsorship of a seminarian in the Philippines.

BALLARAT EAST COMMUNITY DAY AT ST ALIPIUS PS

Stalls, music food and fun. Be a part of the festivities on Sunday 2 April between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at St Alipius Primary School grounds, 106 – 108 Victoria Street, Ballarat East.

SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION

In preparation for Easter, you are invited to gather on Monday 20 March at 6:00 PM in St Alipius, for the second rite of reconciliation. The second form of the sacrament of penance is a communal liturgical celebration that includes listening to the Word of God, followed by a homily, and an examination of conscience. Before the concluding rites, individual confession and absolution take place with people approaching a priest one at a time and privately confessing their sins. Penitents can be seen but not heard by others who are present. The second rite respects the privacy of each penitent within the communal nature of the sacrament.

BAPTISMS

**Jonty David Leehane, Levi John Leehane
and Angus Jack Leehane**

Children of Johnathan Leehane and Sophie Berlund

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

Pope Francis

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

Many people work quietly in our parish on a regular basis in the church, grounds, hall or even at home to make it a better place. To all who volunteer, we would like to say thank you. We appreciate your support.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from the parish, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



CHOIR FOR MASS OF THE OILS

Singers and musicians are invited to join the music group being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday 3 April at 6:30 PM. 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 at julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or call 5337 7159.

SLAVERY FREE CHOCOLATE

Easter chocolate is already on supermarket shelves, so let us recommit to buying slavery-free chocolate this year. It is also the right time to tell our families, friends, and communities about the exploitation of children in chocolate production, to encourage them to start buying slavery-free chocolate now – and to keep going after Easter. You can find the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard at www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate. The scorecard published in 2022 and updated before Easter, features most of your favourite brands and explains how they rate in several key areas including child labour, payment of a living income and the impact on climate.

VINNIE'S SCHOOL APPEAL

More than 1 million Victorian students headed back to or started school this year. For a rising number of their families, it is getting harder to find the funds to ensure that their children have everything they need to learn and grow. The Vinnies Education (Back-to-School) Appeal, which launched on 1 February, is needed more than ever. Visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023> to donate.

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. To offer a prayer and light a virtual candle, visit www.decimus-annus.org/site/index.

WALK FOR JUSTICE

This year's Palm Sunday Walk for Justice will call for Justice for Refugees, including permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. Walk with us this Palm Sunday, 2 April 2 at 1.00 PM for a group reflection, with the walk starting at about 1.30 PM. Meet at the right side of the State Library of Victoria, near the Joan of Arc statue and next to Little Lonsdale Street – you'll see a large 'CAPSA', 'Jesuit Social Services' or 'Xavier Social Justice Network' or 'CSSV' banner). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maeve at CAPSA, email info@capsa.org.au.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Third Sunday of Lent: John 4:5–42

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA program over the Lenten period will be introducing candidates to some of our most treasured gospel stories. In 1963, Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism, and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored. In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy. Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group.

A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might

simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. She responds, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" This response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah/the Christos and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people.

The woman becomes both disciple and missionary prophet.

Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she is said to have had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner: there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The



"husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus on this among scholars.

At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She takes the risk of sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and with Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world. She becomes both disciple and missionary prophet.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
EXODUS 17:3–7
ROMANS 5:1–2, 5–8
JOHN 4:5–15, 19–26, 39–42

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 SAMUEL 16:1, 6–7, 10–13
EPHESIANS 5:8–14
JOHN 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38