



▶ **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 March 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

With the Lord there is mercy

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Wed 10.30 AM Funeral Mass

Thurs 10.30 AM Funeral Mass

Fri 9:30 AM Mass & Stations of the cross

Saturday 9.30 AM, 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

Faithfully departed: Sr. Sheila
Belleville RSM, Remegio Gevero,
Noreen Griffin, Alice Westbrook

Anniversaries: Jim Dawson,
Gerard Mishkinis, Vincent
Mishkinis

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

stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



CATERING - FR. JORGE'S ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD

We plan to come together on Saturday 15 April to celebrate with Fr. Jorge the occasion of his 25th anniversary of priesthood. Following the 6:00 PM mass, we will gather to share a meal in the hall. Meat will be provided, but we are asking parishioners to provide a salad/side dish. If you are able to do this, please contact the parish office during office hours to let us know what you plan on bringing, so that we can avoid double-ups, and can cater for everyone. If you have any queries, please reach out to Cathy or Natalie.

FAITH AND REASON

St. Augustine and the early Church Fathers

This talk at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 21 April at 7 PM, will explore the relationship between philosophy and theology, beginning with Tertullian's acerbic comment, "What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" and ending with Augustine's conclusion that faith is the starting point of reason, not its end.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Liturgy Committee meeting

5.30 PM, Tuesday 28 March, Presbytery

Caring Group Afternoon Tea

2:00 PM Friday 31 March, Church Hall

Mass of the Oils

6.30 PM, Monday 3 April
St. Patrick's Cathedral

Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations

Saturday 15 April

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next preparation session for baptism will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall at 10.00 AM on Thursday 6 April. There will not be a 5:30 PM session because it is Holy Thursday.

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 also follow the 9.30 AM Mass each Friday morning at St Alipius. Everyone welcome.

LITURGY MINISTRIES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER VIGIL

With Holy Week and Easter approaching, the parish Liturgy Committee is calling for volunteers to help with liturgical ministries. Sign up via the sheet in the foyer of St Alipius or call the parish office. If you'd like to read the Passion, please speak with Susan Begbie (St Alipius) or Mike Maloney (Ss Peter and Pauls). For the washing of feet on Holy Thursday, we want a wide range of people including adults, seniors, adolescents, parents, single people etc. Those who already volunteer and those who are putting their hand up for the first time are all welcome to contact the office or speak with Fr Jorge or David Santamaria to help increase layperson engagement with our ceremonies this year.

CARING GROUP GATHERING

Everyone is invited to join the Caring Group for a cuppa on Friday 31 March at 2 PM in the parish hall. Please bring a small plate to share.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,146**

Presbytery and priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$542.20**

Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance.

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 planned giving program 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!

170 YEARS OF EDUCATION

Next Friday, March 31, the St. Alipius School Community will celebrate 170 Years of education with a Mass at 12.30 PM at St. Alipius Church. Our best wishes go to the staff and students on this special occasion.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday masses next weekend. Other liturgies during the week leading up to Easter will be as follows:

Mass of the Oils (Cathedral)	3 April	6.30 PM
Holy Thursday	6 April	7.00 PM
Good Friday	7 April	3.00 PM
Easter Vigil	8 April	7.00 PM
Easter Sunday	Regular masses	

During the mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, we will have the Washing of the Feet, and following mass, the Parish Hall will be open for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight. At the Good Friday ceremony, our community will gather for the Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. Our Holy Week Ceremonies will culminate with our Easter Vigil on Saturday evening where we will welcome Michael Marshall to full communion with the Catholic Church along with a number of children who have been preparing for the sacraments of Initiation through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for Children of Catechetical Age. Mass will begin on the east side of the church with the Blessing of the Fire and be followed by the Liturgy of the Word. Candidates will receive the sacraments throughout the Mass. We encourage parishioners to join us at each of these ceremonies.

BAPTISMS

Mabel Rose Steenhuis
Child of Jacob Steenhuis & Elena Jones

Billy Jack Watson
Child of Tray & Tessa Watson

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

PRIEST APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the following appointments within the Ballarat Diocese taking effect from 20 April:

Fr. Shaiju Mathew MST, administrator of Robinvale and Ouyen.

Fr. John Corrigan, assistant priest in the parishes of Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

Congratulations to the children who have recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Our thanks to the schools for their work in preparing these liturgies and to Fathers Eladio, Eugene, Ed, Abraham, Jim and Marcello for joining Fr. Jorge at these liturgies, their presence is greatly appreciated. These children will now prepare to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. Those who have already enrolled will receive an email, others should check the parish website for further information. Information Sessions will be held on Thursday 27 April.

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.

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 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 '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.

VOLUNTEER PASTORAL CARE

Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for volunteers Pastoral Care Workers to provide regular pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. If you are willing to commit to 2.5 hours per week and provide a listening ear, then Grampians Health Ballarat would like to hear from you. Contact Paul Ryan 5320 8634 or paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

PROJECT COMPASSION

This year met Laxmi, Priscilla, Thu and the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group who are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023 by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifth Sunday of Lent: John 11:1–45

Sunday's readings touch on the most profound of mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a newborn child or to see the sick restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, sudden death can bring unimagined grief and pain. The recent earthquake in Türkiye and Syria brought sudden death to tens of thousands of people and an extraordinary outpouring of grief. This unexpected tragedy has come at a time when thousands are dying every day in the world's major conflict zones and when extreme weather events continue to bring death and destruction and species loss. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs.

It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death:

"...from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and at the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

I am the resurrection and the life

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany.

Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus and the community around him, or

both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". Martha will later claim him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in



Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial".

As so often in John's gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama, and to bring us as actors in the theatre of life, to new levels of understanding and faith. Right now, in the aftermath of earthquake and in the face of ongoing conflict, we are called, as sisters and brothers across the globe, to open our hearts and share our resources so that some measure of "life" might be restored

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

EZEKIEL 37:12–14
ROMANS 8:8–11
JOHN 11:1–45

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 50:4–7
PHILIPPIANS 2:6–11
MATTHEW 26:14 – 27:66