

9 April 2023

Sunday of the Resurrection

He has risen from the dead



▶ **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

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9.30 AM
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 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: Dida Vidal (P)

Anniversaries: Isabel Britt

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
TBC
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry
Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com

HE IS  RISEN

CATERING - FR. JORGE'S ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD

Next Saturday, 15 April, remember to join us 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 have any queries, please reach out to Cathy or Natalie.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations
Saturday 15 April

Faith and Reason Talk

EASTER MESSAGE

During this Easter Season I pray that the grace and peace of the Risen Christ will be with you all. We remember that Christ's passion and death are in the past and that together we rise. We are celebrating Easter proclaiming the Risen Lord. Thank you for the warmth you share with our parish community. God Bless you and Happy Easter
Fr Jorge

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.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,631**

Presbytery and priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$423.23**

Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance.

PASTORAL FORMATION DAY IN BALLARAT

What do Catholics believe about Sacraments of Healing? How do Catholics celebrate reconciliation and forgiveness? How do priests, deacons and lay ministers care for the sick? What is Viaticum and how is Communion ministered to the sick? These questions and more will be investigated by the ACU Centre for Liturgy team during a pastoral formation day called, "Be not afraid: preparing and celebrating sacraments of healing." The formation day will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Glowrey Room, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat, 3 Lyons Street South from 9.30am – 5.00pm (registration from 9.00am). Cost is \$20.00 and registration (including lunch) is essential at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-formation-day-in-ballarat/>. For more information phone 02-9701 4751. All are welcome.

RCIA

At our Easter Vigil we welcome Michael Marshall who has prepared through the RCIA process for full initiation in the Catholic Church. Michael comes to us having been baptised, so with his family and friends we witness him receive the gift of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation and are delighted to have him join us in receiving the Eucharist. We celebrate with Michael and say thank you to Dallas and Kevin Wilkinson and the RCIA team for the work they have done in supporting Michael during this very special journey. We continue to pray for Michael.

RCIC

Along with Michael Marshall, the Easter Vigil provides us with the opportunity to welcome 19 children who have expressed the wish to be initiated into the Catholic faith. These children, along with their families have been preparing to receive the sacraments since last October and have been wonderful contributors to our conversations during the various sessions they have attended. Khloe, Claire, Macie and Ada will receive the Sacrament of Baptism during our Vigil, while Dhanna will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Kaiya, Eisha, Hannah, Addison, Milla, Isabelle, Misha, Keegan, Abigail, Jackson, Maddison, Charlotte, Edward, and August will be fully initiated. We ask you to pray for each of these children who we look forward to seeing many times into the future.

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PAUL

I write these words on March 30, 2023, exactly a year before we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat. It was on March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius IX issued a decree establishing the western part of Victoria as a distinct diocese, with the Murray River as the northern boundary. We continue to echo the Pope's decree in our diocesan vision statement, beginning with the words "We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea."

Our 150th anniversary next year will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care in our diocese today. The anniversary will also be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. It will be a change to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we can live as a truly Christian community, sharing the good news of Christ, in the years to come.

The Plenary Council encouraged us to find ways in which all members of the Church might be engaged in the life of the community and share the mission to spread the gospel. In a similar vein, Pope Francis has called us to develop a "synodal" way of living in which the whole community walks together. He has highlighted the value of listening to one another as we all seek to discern what the Holy Spirit wishes us to do in response to the many challenges facing the world in our time.

In line with the calls of the Plenary Council and Pope Francis, I propose some steps for us as a diocese in the next few years.

First of all, I ask each parish to make 2023 a year when you focus on the leadership in the local community, through forming or developing further a parish pastoral council or leadership team according to your local circumstances.

In 2024 as well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of our diocese, we will hold a Diocesan Assembly, bringing together representatives of the leadership teams in our parishes and schools, to consider how we might develop the leadership in our communities in the future.

Following the 2024 Assembly, we could form a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council to help us fulfil our mission to share the gospel with the wider community, as well as helping us develop the pastoral services we provide throughout the diocese.

Then, in 2025, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council would lead the preparations for a diocesan Synod to be held in 2026-2027. That Diocesan Synod would consider how we are to implement the various decrees of the Australian Plenary Council in our diocese.

I hope that all our parishes and schools and all the organisations in our diocese will walk together in these steps over the next few years.

As we approach the great feast of Easter, I take confidence in the promise of the Risen Christ, that he will be with us as we gather in his name and as we seek to fulfil the mission he has entrusted to us. As we look to the 150th anniversary of our diocese, I give thanks that Jesus has guided our communities through the years so far and I pray that he will continue to guide us in the years ahead.

COVID UPDATE FROM BISHOP PAUL

Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.

Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.

I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.

In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

THANK YOU

Throughout Lent and Easter many people have worked hard to prepare the different liturgies which have been celebrated, as well as preparing the church. We take this opportunity to thank anyone who has supported our faith community during this time, making our liturgies special. Please know that your help is greatly appreciated.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Easter Sunday: Matthew 28:1–10

Easter invites us to celebrate life in its fullest sense. It is anything but easy to celebrate life, however, when many are still dying from COVID and so much of the Earth's community is affected by the climate crisis. Resurrection faith calls us to be fearless in facing the challenges that confront us.

A faith-filled man and two faith-filled women prepare Jesus for burial. These three people are fearless in the face of possible reprisals for their support of a "political criminal". Joseph of Arimathea cares for Jesus out of his personal wealth, providing a clean linen cloth and his own newly rock-carved tomb. With his own hands, he performs the burial ritual, lays Jesus' body in the tomb, and rolls the stone into place. The women disciples who witness the closing of the tomb are both named Mary. One is known as Magdalene (the "Tower") and the other is the mother of two male disciples. These women have been towers of strength, contributing their goods and services to Jesus on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

The women set out at dawn "to see the tomb" This seems strange until we realise that they are functioning as witnesses, this time to the

dramatic opening of the tomb and the appearance of God's interpretive messenger. "Seeing" is a metaphor for insight. In the earthquake phenomenon and the allusion to lightning, there are echoes of other great moments of God's appearing to Israel, such as the encounter with Moses and the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai.

Resurrection faith calls us to be fearless in facing the challenges that confront us

The two Marys are the first to learn the news of Jesus' resurrection and the first commissioned to proclaim it. The women "see" the place where he was laid. They obey the angel's command not to be afraid but to go quickly to inform the scattered disciples that the resurrected Jesus has gone before them to Galilee, the place of mission, where they too will "see" him. Resurrection life energises these faith-filled women disciples/apostles and negates the death-dealing power of the Roman Empire. Ironically, the Roman tomb guards become "as though dead".

As the women hurry away from the tomb, Jesus comes to meet them



on the path or the road. He addresses them with a familiar greeting of joy, *Chairete*. This is the first appearance of the resurrected One and it draws from the women a profoundly reverential response: taking hold of him, they fall down in worship. Jesus reiterates the commission already delivered by the angel: not to be afraid and to let the men know what has happened. The male disciples will later be commissioned on the mountaintop (Matthew 28:16-20). We sometimes fail to notice that all are commissioned, first the women, then the men. Those "on the mountaintop" must not succumb to the temptation of remaining there. They must join those on the road in fearlessly bringing life to Earth's afflicted, the human and the more-than-human.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

ACTS 10:34,37–43
1 CORINTHIANS 5:6–8
MATTHEW 28:1–10

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 2:42–47
1 PETER 1:3–9
JOHN 20:19–31