

21 May 2023

The Ascension of the Lord
I am with you always

St Alipius parish



▶ **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

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tue, Wed & Thurs 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:

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Madeline Ballinger,
Maureen Herrera-Larios, Peter
McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan,
Carole Simmons, Kathy Townes

*Our parish is committed to all
children, young people, and
vulnerable adults' safety, well-
being, and dignity.*

*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
Bernadette Prestwood

Finance Chair
Paul O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer
Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordinator
Fr Jorge De Chavez, OSJ
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry
Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



FIRST EUCHARIST MASSES

As children from our parish prepare to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time, they are urged to attend our weekend masses. This gives us the opportunity to introduce the children to our community who are an important part of their journey. Please make these children and their families feel welcome in the coming weeks and keep them in your prayers. Masses for the celebration of First Eucharist will be held on the weekends of 27–28 May, 3–4 June, and 17–18 June.

LAUDATO SI' WEEK

Globally, Catholics are celebrating Laudato Si' Week from 21–28 May with the theme of "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity" to mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' historic encyclical, Laudato Si': "On the Care of Creation", and to reflect on the progress we have made in protecting our common home.

To respond to Pope Francis' call, parishioners are encouraged to watch the documentary *The Letter: a message for Our Earth*. In the documentary, four young people from across the world tell of their experiences, hopes and dreams for the world that they will inherit. The film and other resources can be accessed here: <https://laudatosiweek.org/> The film can also be viewed on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BI

UPCOMING EVENTS

Liturgy Committee Meeting

5:30 PM, Monday 22 May, St Alipius Hall

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection: *presbytery and priest support* – **\$1,104**
Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits: *parish buildings, office, admin, grounds maintenance* – **\$1,323.20**

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal will focus on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Vinnies is facing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time. Donations can be made at Vinnies shops, by calling 13 18 12, or at www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

VINNIES BREAD RUN

Vinnies volunteers provide bread to those in need each Monday between 7.30 and 8.00 PM. If this would benefit you or someone you know please visit the hall during this time. Please bring a bag to put the bread in.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK

In this National Volunteers Week we wish to say a big thank you to all who volunteer in the parish. There are many volunteers within the parish who make a difference and many of these people are doing things that others wouldn't be aware of. Without volunteers we would be lost, so please accept our thanks and appreciation for all that you do.

VINNIES RAFFLE

Please support the St Vincent's raffle by buying tickets at St Alipius this weekend. The prize is a beautiful rug made by Sr Angela.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Catholic Education Week will be celebrated from 21–26 May. The theme for this year is "Grace is the gift of God's presence in our lives". More information is available at dobcel.catholic.edu.au/news/catholic-education-week/

We pray: *We give thanks to God for our parish schools. Send your spirit to all involved in Catholic education. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.*

ACU LITURGY PODCAST

The ACU Centre for Liturgy presents Australia's first liturgy podcast, which features local and international experts exploring a wide range of liturgy-related topics, including thought-provoking discussions on Catholic liturgy, liturgical music, art and architecture, liturgy in Catholic schools, preaching and more. Listen at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/the-liturgy-channel>

SORRY DAY WEBINAR

Caritas Australia invites you to their Sorry Day webinar on Thursday, 25 May from 11.00 AM – 12.00 PM via Zoom. You will hear from Uncle Widdy (#36) and Uncle Bobby (#24), two survivors of Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. Caritas Australia's First Australians Programs team will also speak about what truth-telling and intergenerational healing means to our partners. Register at www.caritas.org.au/sorry-day-webinar

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Planning is underway for the second issue with the themes of Year of the Millet, Synod of Synodality, and Plenary Council continuing. You are invited to contribute and share significant events from the parish. Send your material to odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au by Friday 2 June. Photos should be sent as separate files and permission to be published should be sought from anyone in the photos. Occasionally these photos may be used in other Diocesan publications.

BAPTISMS

Hanz Errol Caguimbal

Child of Irol and Ma
Joyline Caguimbal

Harper Annie, Lilah Joy & Henry George Goodwin

Children of Adrian Gross and Amanda Goodwin

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

Pope Francis

PRAYING WITH THE POPE

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 areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – www.thepopevideo.org.

The Pope's intention for May is for **church movements and groups**: We pray they may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

THEMATIC ENVIRONMENT

The City of Ballarat is developing a Thematic Environmental History to understand the themes that have shaped the city, our buildings, commerce, services, communities, families, and social activities. This will include a review of the current extent of the heritage overlays and associated policies, as well as assess new heritage precincts and individually significant places. An invitation is open to everyone to attend a community consultation on Tuesday 30 May in the Trench Room at Ballarat Town Hall between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM.

CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 21–28 May, is "Do good; seek justice." (Isaiah 1:17). The Australian context is "Learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow." Resources for use in Australia are provided by the NCCA Faith and Unity Commission, in collaboration with the Faith and Order Commission of the Victorian Council of Churches, and are available at www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources.

"When we stop talking and listen, we hear that the church in Australia is built on stolen land, Indigenous land, and shares in a history of racism, massacre, abuse, stolen children, imprisonment and death in custody, and ongoing disadvantage. We hear that this legacy is really ours because we have explained, justified, or remained silent in the face of this reality. When we stop talking and listen, we make space to realise anew that we have acted in ways that deny the worth of some of God's people, equally made in God's image." Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White's sermon from the Day of Mourning service, 19th January 2020, Leichhardt Uniting Church.

VOICE WEBINAR SERIES

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) and Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) invite you to a series of webinars to discuss the upcoming referendum on Constitutional Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Voice to Parliament on the following Thursdays – 25 May, 29 June 29, and 27 July from 4.00 PM – 5.00 PM via zoom. The cost is \$12.00 per session or \$30.00 for all 3 sessions. CSSV and CSSA members are free of charge. Register at www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1052799?eid=1052799&. Enquiries to Kate Stilwell – office@css.org.au

MEDITATION COURSE

The Catholic Theological College is running an online Teaching Meditation and Prayer unit over two Saturdays in June and two Saturdays in October. Develop skills to teach meditation and prayer in a variety of contexts with an emphasis on silent meditation and establishing places of silence in a contemporary context. It can be undertaken as part of a qualification or for personal enrichment. For details ctc.edu.au/study/timetable/gctm-timetable/

CWL REFLECTION DAY

The CWL Ballarat Diocese Committee invites you to a reflection day at St Mary's Warracknabeal on Wednesday 24 May starting with 10:30 AM mass, followed by lunch and a guest speaker. Please contact Frances on 0458 317 815 or Carmel on 0401 175 045.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Sixth Sunday of Easter: Matthew 28:16–20

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As the confirmed death toll from Covid-19 approaches seven million, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic loss of species and of ecosystems, exacerbated by devastating bushfires and floods. Today's feast invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. Over Lent and Easter, we have been remembering his death and resurrection. The Ascension draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Risen One even in his absence.

While today's gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, it does not provide an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading (Acts 1:1-11). This Lukan story presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's

presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

The gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples". He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the



resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim the gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely, to baptise in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the One whom God has raised is with us to the end of time. The gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

ACTS 1:1–11
EPHESIANS 1:17–23
MATTHEW 28:16–20

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1–11
1 CORINTHIANS 12:3–7, 12–13
JOHN 20:19–23