



▶ **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

25 June 2023

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Do not be afraid*

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/)

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Tue – Fri 9.30 AM in the Parish Hall  
Saturday 9.30 AM, 6.00 PM  
Sunday 9.00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)  
10.30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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:** Jean Lewis,  
Cath Wheelahan

**Anniversaries:** Tom Bellingier,  
Paul Bellingier, Sr Dorothea  
Bellingier, Lena Macklin, Gary and  
Annie Landrigan

**Unwell:** Peter McLachlan, Sarah  
McLachlan, Carole Simmons,  
Shelley Pawang

*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.*



St Alipius  
Parish Community

### Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

### Visiting Priest

Fr Barry Ryan

### 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 Coordination

[www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

### Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn

[stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com](mailto:stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com)

**VINNIES WINTER  
APPEAL**



## CASSEROLE NIGHT THIS WEEK

The casserole night is on this Friday at Ss Peter and Paul's in Buninyong, commencing at 6:00 PM. Please bring casseroles or other food to share. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available. The cost to attend is \$15 per person. Everyone is welcome to join us for what promises to be an evening of good food and company.

## MORNING TEA AT ST ALIPIUS

The Parish Pastoral Council invites all to stay for morning tea in the St Alipius Hall after the 10:30 AM mass on Sunday 9 July. Please bring a plate of food to share.

## PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

We are holding a Trivia Night at 7:00 PM on Friday 4 August. Tickets are \$10 per person with tables of up to 8 people. BYO nibbles and drinks. Tea and coffee will be supplied. Please contact the office for tickets and if you can help with donating prizes for the evening.

UPCOMING EVENTS
<b>Buninyong Casserole Night</b> 6:00 PM, Friday 30 June, Ss Peter and Paul's
<b>Morning Tea after 10:30 AM Mass</b> 11:30 AM, Sunday 9 July, St Alipius Hall
<b>Confirmation Information Sessions</b> 10:30 AM or 6:00 PM, Thursday 13 July
<b>Parish Master Plan Discussions</b> After 10:30 AM masses on 16 July at Ss Peter and Paul's and 23 July at St Alipius
<b>Parish Trivia Night</b> 7:00 PM, Friday 4 August, St Alipius Hall

## CONFIRMATIONS

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin with parent information sessions at 10:30 AM or 6:00 PM on Thursday 13 July. If you or anyone you know has a child in Year 3 or older who would like to be confirmed, please contact the parish office, or refer to the parish website. Confirmation is the second Sacrament of Initiation and will be celebrated in September.

## DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT

Our Parish Vision Statement is printed on the front of this notice sheet. At our most recent Parish Pastoral Council meeting, the following Mission Statement was drafted:

Our mission at the Parish of St. Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel. Rooted in the spirit of faith, hope, love, acceptance, and Mercy, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Guided by God's call to service, we aim to build strong connections, provide spiritual nourishment, promote social justice, and offer support to individuals and families in their journey of faith. Through our dedicated interactions, we seek to deepen our relationship with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.

We invite and encourage all parishioners to consider the contents of the Mission statement and welcome your feedback.

## PARISH MASTER PLAN

The Parish Finance Committee is embarking on a process to establish a parish master plan to maximise the potential of our buildings and land. By generating income through these assets, we can better support the upkeep of our churches, our various ministries, programs, and ongoing pastoral initiatives, thereby serving our community more effectively.

We seek your insights, suggestions, and creative ideas. Together, we can envision new possibilities and identify sustainable income streams that align with the mission and vision of our parish. If you have expertise in real estate, business, or finance or simply possess a passion for our parish's wellbeing, your input is invaluable.

Please join us after the 10:30 AM masses on 16 July at St Peter's & Paul's and 23 July at St Alipius to discuss the parish's asset holdings and ideas for their future use.

## EUCHARIST

Congratulations to the children who received Eucharist for the first time in our Parish over recent weeks. Thanks to the staff from our local catholic schools who supported the families in this preparation and for their preparation of the weekend Masses. A big thanks to Father Jorge for helping almost 100 children prepare during Term 2.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

This weekend sees the beginning of the school holidays. We thank all our teachers and students for their work during the second term and wish you all a very safe and happy holiday. Keep warm.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,310
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$657.20

As a new financial year approaches, planned giving envelopes will be available for collection at the back of the churches this weekend. We thank all those who participate in the stewardship program for your contributions and invite anybody who would like to be part of this program to please contact the parish office.

## BAPTISMS

**Maxwell James Torpy**

Child of Luke and Sarah Torpy

**Allison Layla Gibbs**

Child of Jack and Shaedyn Gibbs

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

Pope Francis

## VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal will focus on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Appeal envelopes are located at the ends of the pews. People wishing to support the work of SVdP through our local conference can place their donation in an envelope and return it via the collection plate. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made at [www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal), at Vinnies shops, or by calling 13 18 12.

## VINNIES BREAD RUN

Each Monday night between 7:00 and 7:30 PM, Vinnies volunteers can be found in the St. Alipius Church Hall providing bread for those in need. If this would benefit you, or someone you know please call into the hall and bring a bag to put the bread in.

## JUBILEES OF ORDINATION

Bishop Paul will celebrate mass to acknowledge priests celebrating a Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood this year at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, 27 June at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. Fr Jorge and other priests of the diocese will concelebrate. All are welcome to attend. You are also invited to join the choir, which will be downstairs. Practice at 4:30 PM on the day of the mass.

## MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE

This unique Australian pilgrimage will take you on a journey to places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales. The pilgrimage is operated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place. It will be led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on 17 October and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on 28 October. Pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. Register at [www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/)

## PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of very affordable cards and gifts for sale. The current display shows items suitable for **First Eucharist**.

During a recent stocktake, many slow-to-move articles were identified. These have been placed on tables near the piety stall and are either free or \$2 each.

## COLLECTION FOR THE POPE

The annual collection for the Holy Father is taken up throughout the world on the weekend near the Feast of Ss Peter & Paul (June 29). Through this collection, we have the opportunity to support the Pope's pastoral care for people around the world.

## TRANSPORT FOR CARE

One of the major works of Aid to the Church in Need is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and reached through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you donate to help supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/transport](http://www.aidtochurch.org/transport)

# Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

*Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 10:26–33*

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia's detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif*. Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Hakeema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some first-century Christian groups, including Matthew's community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis-à-vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as suffered by Jesus and his followers. Jesus himself experienced fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his

disciples, not once but three times, not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najaf: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God would remain, in contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

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*Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus' response to suffering.*

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Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus' response to suffering. The disciples are sent to proclaim in the marketplace or from the "housetops" the gospel they have received in the security of the household. If they acknowledge Jesus, he will in turn "acknowledge" them before God. They can expect rejection and humiliation. This is not to deter them from their mission. They are



not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all of God's creatures, including the sparrows, they are precious in God's eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, even the hairs on their heads are numbered by God. Trust in God is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God's empire as opposed to the empire of Rome. Trust in God does not take away the pain. We join with asylum seekers, refugees, with the hungry and the homeless and, at this time of heightened sensitivity to racial discrimination, with the First Peoples of this country, for the justice that is their right. They are precious in God's eyes. They are precious in our eyes and must not be abandoned.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JEREMIAH 20:10–13  
ROMANS 5:12–15  
MATTHEW 10:26–33

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 KINGS 4:8–11, 14–16  
ROMANS 6:3–4, 8–11  
MATTHEW 10:37–42