

16 July 2023

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Listen anyone who has ears!

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/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Thurs 10 AM Mary Moran funeral mass

Fri 9.30 AM in the Parish Hall

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 5 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: Mary Moran,
John Kerrins

Anniversaries: Jason Luke Duck
OMI, Peter Michael Saunders

Unwell: Peter McLachlan, Sarah
McLachlan, Maureen Santamaria,
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

Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn

stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Master Plan Discussions

After 10:30 AM masses on 16 July at Ss Peter and Paul's and 23 July at St Alipius

Parish Trivia Night

7:00 PM, Friday 4 August, St Alipius Hall

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Tables are selling out for the Parish Trivia Night to be held at the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM on Friday 4 August. Tickets are \$10 per person with tables of up to 8 people. BYO nibbles and drinks, with tea and coffee supplied. Please contact the office if you can help with donating prizes. A raffle will be held on the night with some great prizes up for grabs.

VIGIL FOR REFUGEES

Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) Ballarat has organised a vigil to be held between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM on Wednesday 19 July at Catherine King MP's office, 5 Lydiard Street North, followed by vigil at Queen Victoria Square, opposite the Town Hall. The Town Hall's Alfred Memorial Bells will ring 10 times at 12 noon in recognition of the 10 years of trauma that refugees have endured. The action is to let the Albanese Government know it's time to end the suffering. More info is available at: <https://aran.net.au>, email: rballarat@gmail.com or call Margaret on 0402 498 644.

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, at Vinnies shops, or by calling 13 18 12.

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.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,024
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$428.20

Planned giving envelopes for the new financial year are available for collection at the back of the churches. Thanks to all who participate in the stewardship program for your contributions. We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

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.

NEW PARISH

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on 1 July. The newly established Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia comprises the territory that belonged to the parishes of Merbein (est. 1965), Mildura (est. 1906) and Red Cliffs (est. 1953). More information is available from www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/parish-of-saints-anne-and-joachim-sunraysia/

BAPTISMS

Ivar Cliff Taguibao

Child of Clifford and Shella Taguibao

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

Pope Francis

GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY

“His mercy is from age to age” (Luke 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be held on 23 July. The day is marked near the Feast of Ss. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Resources to celebrate this day are available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly-sunday-july-23-2023/

PIETY STALL

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.

MMHC OPEN DAY

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne are holding an open day on Saturday 29 July from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, with tours running on the hour. For information and bookings, visit www.mmhc.org.au/open-house-melbourne-at-mmhc/

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

Read about news and events of the diocese in the latest edition of e-News www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

A fundraising concert titled “Bold as Brass” featuring 36 musicians from Eureka Brass is to be held at the Ballarat Central Uniting Church, 103 Lydiard Street South, at 2:30 PM on Sunday 30 July. Tickets for adults are \$15, with children 15 and under free. Sponsored by the Little Cupcake shop, part of the proceeds will go to Sleepbus® who provide safe, temporary overnight accommodation, for the most vulnerable. Tickets are available from: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bold-as-brass-featuring-eureka-brass-tickets-590759065267?aff=ehometext>

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 July – **for a Eucharistic life**: We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and be opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL

CatholicCare Victoria helps individuals, families and communities access the care and support they need when they need it most. They believe that everyone deserves the safety and comfort a home can provide. This winter, you can support people who need a home. www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/16/winter-appeal

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

On Tuesday, 20 June, the Secretariat of the Synod published the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, for the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – commonly referred to as the Synod on Synodality. Read more at the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 13:1–23

During the recent pandemic, we necessarily distanced ourselves from others. Some of us focussed on the natural world so that our sensitivities sharpened, and our planetary awareness heightened. We became more attuned to the complexity of nature and its rhythms. We observed the diverse feeding habits of the birds in the backyard, for instance, and their communication patterns. There was new and renewed interest in gardening, in the growing of vegetables and fruit in pots or in built-up garden beds. Such changes in lifestyle conditioned us to use our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as today's gospel invites us to do. Jesus' directive, "Let anyone with ears listen", is a reminder that we do have ears and that we do not always hear, that we do have eyes and do not always see. Ann Lewin's words come to mind:

*"Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,
You have been prepared
But when you've almost stopped
Expecting it, a flash of brightness
Gives encouragement."*

(Watching for the Kingfisher, 2011).

To what sort of being, of looking and listening does today's gospel call us? The parable of the soil, of the seed, of the birds and the thorns, of the sun and the sower alerts us to Jesus' deep sense of connection with life in its multiple forms. It calls us to examine our connection with the natural world.

Let anyone with ears listen

For a long time, we have focussed on the human character in the parable, a character who evokes an agricultural world that is far removed from our post-industrial world, but not so far removed from the world of millions of people in our planetary home who live close to the soil and to earth's elements and who struggle to produce the food they need to stay alive. Is the Matthean Jesus presenting in the sower an image of an estate owner, or a tenant farmer or even a slave? Or is the reader being asked to imagine the sower, whether estate owner, tenant farmer or slave, as an image of an extraordinarily generous God whose life-sustaining gifts are there for all, no matter their readiness to



receive? It may not be one or the other but both.

What of the silty clay loam or red sandy soil, of the wheat or barley seed, of the birds and the thorns and the sun? We know that barley was domesticated some ten thousand years ago in what became bible lands and that these lands are also the original home of the finest bread-making wheat. The birds and the thorns and the sun are for another reflection. We bring our experience of looking and listening and being into dialogue with the parable and search out its meaning for us. We trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest if we but learn to look and to listen to the needs of a planet in peril.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 55:10–11
ROMANS 8:18–23
MATTHEW 13:1–23

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WISDOM 12:13,16–19
ROMANS 8:26–27
MATTHEW 13:24–30