



▶ **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

23 July 2023

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Let them grow together until harvest

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Wed and 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 6 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: Beth Flynn,
Mary Moran, Tony Corcoran

Anniversaries: Rohan Cosgriff

Unwell: Peter McLachlan, Sarah
McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon,
Maureen Santamaria, Carole
Simmons, Shelley Pawang, Colin
McKenzie

*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

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 TRIVIA NIGHT

Tables are selling fast 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, so please join us for a fun night.

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 our churches' upkeep, 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. Your input is invaluable if you have real estate, business, or finance expertise or simply possess a passion for our parish's wellbeing.

Please join us after the 10:30 AM masses on 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 mass on 23 July at St Alipius

Parish Trivia Night

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

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.

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/

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 positively impact 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	\$1,047
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$464.20

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.

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>

BAPTISMS

Harriett Anne, Imogen May, and Matilda Dan
Curtain
Children of Simon and Brittany Curtain

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

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.

TOILETRIES COLLECTION

Our local Vinnies are collecting toiletries for people in need. Please donate soap, toothpaste, or other toiletries, in the box on the Vinnies stall. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.

PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of very affordable cards and gifts for sale including some runout items on tables near the piety stall that are either free or \$2 each.

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/

MARY MACKILLOP OPEN DAY

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne is 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/

MARY MACKILLOP GRANTS

Applications will soon open for the Mary MacKillop Today (MMT) Community Grants 2024. Schools and community groups with a project that helps people may apply for a grant of up to \$10,000. Applications open Monday, 14 August. Apply at www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/grants/how-to-apply/

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 open to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

WOMEN DEACONS WEBINAR

ACU Centre for Liturgy is presenting an online public lecture titled, "Women Deacons and the Synod: What Happens Now?" on Monday, 7 August from 10.00 AM – 11.30 AM presented by Dr Phyllis Zagano, Hofstra University, New York. Registrations close on 4 August at www.acu.edu.au/publiclectureCfL. The Zoom link to join will be sent following registration. More information is available from <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/news-events-and-resources>

RESILIENCE WEBINAR

A free NCLS Research Webinar titled "Thriving and Resilient Leadership" will be held on Wednesday, 2 August 2, at 7.30 PM and will explore the latest findings and reflections on how Australian church leaders are coping and what factors contribute to their resilience. Findings are based on the results from the 2021–22 NCLS Leader Survey by NCLS Research. Tickets are available at <https://events.humanitix.com/ncls-thriving-and-resilient-leadership>.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 13:24–30

Experienced gardeners or farmers or bakers might take issue with Jesus' choice of images for God's empire or kin-dom of the heavens. They may be singularly unimpressed by the methods of the farmer-gardener-God presented in today's gospel reading. An "enemy" planting weeds "all through the crop" is no surprise to readers familiar with the earlier part of this parable chapter, although the landowner's decision to leave the weeds to endanger the wheat crop seems none too smart. Mustard, known for its propensity to grow wild and threaten the life of every other plant in the garden, makes for an equally strange kin-dom analogy. God's empire imaged as a baker woman taking yeast, a substance considered to be a corrupting influence in the first-century Jewish world, and mixing it into twenty kilos of wheat flour, stretches the imagination in other directions.

These images cut across the readers' expectations quite dramatically. What might they be telling us about God's kin-dom of the skies? In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, there is a movement from small to

great that communicates something about the power of God to bring abundance of life from the most inauspicious beginnings. They do not seem to fit with the parable of the wheat and the weeds until we look a little more closely. The element of danger to the life of the whole is common to all three parables. Maybe Matthew's Jesus is telling us that God is a God of risk who does not intervene but allows the weeds and endangering herbs to "infect" God's field. Harvest season will be time enough to divide the wheat from the weeds, the life-giving from the infectious. In the meantime, the good seed must take hold. The good will finally outweigh the evil. That is small comfort, of course, to those who suffer at the hands of evildoers.

*The good will finally
outweigh the evil*

In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, Jesus seems to be telling his hearers that their idea of infection or danger is different from his. At one level, he engages the more-than-human and



talks about respect for the complexity of ecosystems. At another, he is talking about societal inclusion: the people that many consider unclean or sinful or demon-possessed are not to be displaced from God's field or God's table. On the contrary, they may be the very ones who season the life of the whole. Life is messy after all, and God is in the mess. It is worth noting that the leaven parable offers one of the few occasions in the gospel where God is imaged as female. While we know that God is neither male nor female, most of us have been conditioned to use only male images for God. The parable of the woman kneading dough validates the potential of female experience to reflect the life and activity of God in our world.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 KINGS 3:5,7–12
ROMANS 8:28–30
MATTHEW 13:44–46