



▶ **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

27 August 2023

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord, your love is eternal

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tue 2:00PM – Maureen Santamaria
funeral

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 4 this week – 9:30 AM

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Maureen Santamaria

Anniversaries: Eileen

O'Meara

Unwell: Peter McLachlan,
Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor
McMahon, Colin McKenzie,
Patricia Murry, Carole
Simmons, Shelley Pawang,
Noreen White

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Visiting Priest

Fr Barry Ryan

Sacramental and Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Shannon

Finance Officer

Bernadette Prestwood

Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke

PARISH VISION

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.

PARISH MISSION

Our mission in the Parish of St Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel.

Strengthened 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 relationships with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

SOCIAL GATHERING

Do you enjoy a night out? Do you like a nice meal with good company? If your answer to these questions is yes, then join us at 6:00 PM on Wednesday 13 September at the Golden Point Hotel in Main Road. The Parish has booked a space and invites everyone to come together on this night. Names will need to be to the office by no later than Friday 1 September to allow for an accurate booking. Anyone who would like to attend, but needs transport, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office as we will organise the transport for you. Looking forward to another great gathering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish dinner at Golden Point Hotel

6:00 PM, Wednesday 13 September, 639 Main Road

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Social Justice Sunday is 27 August. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Social Justice Statement, "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" will be launched on Thursday, August 17 via a live stream on Facebook socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/07/20/listen-learn-love/

CONFIRMATION

Several children are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These children have been welcomed to masses on recent weekends and are preparing at home with their families. Please pray for these children in their final weeks of preparation. The children will be confirmed at liturgies during the week of September 4th.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1066
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$233.20

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.

PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of cards and gifts suitable for Confirmation all at very affordable prices.

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

If you would like to receive a statement for your contributions to the Stewardship Program over the past financial year, please contact the office.

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 provided to someone who will greatly appreciate it.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

St Vincent de Paul, Ballarat East needs your help. Can you spare a few hours a week to assist those in need? If so, please leave your details with the Parish Office.

VINNIES BREAD RUN

Each Monday night between 7:00 PM 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.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Live Your Best Married Life in Love" – every relationship is a journey, and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. The Marriage Encounter weekend in Melbourne on 3 – 5 November, gives married couples time to nurture their relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from the pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. For more information visit wwme.org.au. To book, phone Mercy & James on 0409 183 676 or email vicbookings@wwme.org.au

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal focuses on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Appeal envelopes are at the ends of the pews. To support the work of our local SVdP conference place your donation envelope on 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.

CARING GROUP

The caring group will meet at 2:00 PM on Friday 1st September in the St Alipius parish hall. All are welcome. Please bring a plate to share

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The latest edition of 'Our Diocesan Community' is available now in the foyers of our churches. Please take a copy to read and learn more about what's happening in various parts of our Diocese.

BAPTISMS

Bryce Michael Vargas
Child of James and Marianne Vargas

Layla May and Milly May Marshall
Children of Michael and Nicole Marshall

Daisy James Stevenson
Child of Brett and Jessica Stevenson

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

Pope Francis

FAITHFUL TOOLKIT

Majellan Media have launched "Faithful Toolkit" – a dynamic collection of smart apps on their website designed to nourish and foster your faith journey. Built with the wisdom of the church's teachings and augmented by the power of AI, these tools provide a new, interactive way to explore various aspects of faith. Access the kit here: <https://majellan.media/faithful-toolkit/>

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 August – **for World Youth Day**: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. Lord, hear us.

SEASON OF CREATION

Every year from 1 September – 4 October, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow", drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Next weekend is the annual Ballarat Clergy Support Fund: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, and others live in supported accommodation. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. Caring for those who care for us is the Church community's responsibility.



CSSV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Catholic Social Services Conference will be held from 21–23 February 2024, in conjunction with Catholic Social Services Australia at the Catholic Leadership Centre. The theme of the conference is "Commons, Commonality, Common Good." Early bird tickets and more information are available here: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1101016

INTERFAITH CONVERSATION

Garratt Publishing, in conjunction with Yarra Theological Union, is holding a new four-session webinar series exploring other religious traditions from a Catholic perspective – Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam. The webinars will take the form of a 'conversation' and will be hosted by a Catholic scholar well versed in inter-religious dialogue. Sessions will be held on Monday evenings 4, 11 and 18 September, and 9 October from 7.00 PM –8.15 PM online via Zoom. The cost is \$33.00 (+ booking fee) for all four sessions. To register, visit: www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/nostra-aetate-interfaith-conversations-for-today/

You are the Christ

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 16:13–20

“Be yourself. Everybody else is taken”, sings Melinda Schneider. The lyrics of this song, composed for Melinda’s dying father, affirm some fairly obvious truths.

Even though we know that “everybody else is taken”, most of us spend energy trying to measure up to other peoples’ expectations and fail to be truly ourselves. In our self-absorption, we can also misread others and fail to know them as they are.

Accepting ourselves and being accepted as we are is among the most precious of gifts. Jesus knew this. He was utterly true to himself, and he allowed others time to discover for themselves his real identity and the nature of his mission.

If the mission were to succeed, then his followers needed to look beyond their preconceptions about him and accept him as God’s anointed, as the revelation of the living God.

Jesus’ true identity is a key issue for Matthew’s community, as it is for us. From the outset, Jesus is presented as the anointed of God, the Messiah, or the Christos. Before his birth, the reader knows him as “Emmanuel”, God with us. What the narrator asserts at the outset, certain characters in the story come to understand. Jesus’

fearless teaching and his healing ministry bring the crowd to recognise him as a prophet and as the incarnate Wisdom of God.

*Jesus’ fearless teaching
and his healing ministry
bring the crowd to
recognise him*

The power of God at work in Peter leads him to a deep understanding of Jesus’ identity. Peter has faltered in the past and will falter again, even to the point of denying any knowledge of or association with Jesus. He finally arrives at deep insight, however, and proclaims his faith in Jesus as both Christ/Messiah and son of the living God.

Insight is a gift, and God can work wherever there is openness and goodwill. Peter is presented here as having both. He is declared “blessed” on account of this gift of insight and entrusted with the “keys” of God’s empire.

The specific power of binding and loosing that is given to Peter is subsequently given to the community of disciples (18:18). The saying is framed by instructions about dealing with transgressors and by the assertion



that where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, he is there in their midst.

“Binding and loosing” belong to all who gather in the name of Jesus whom Matthew presents as God-with-us, as prophet and Wisdom, as the Christ and as the revelation of the living God.

The exercise of the power “to bind and to loose” demands the same wisdom and insight as does the capacity to recognise and affirm the true identity of Jesus.

Gathering in the name of Jesus is a challenge at any time. It is a particular challenge in the face of the disillusionment and hurt caused by abuse of the most vulnerable in our midst. We pray for the wisdom to find new ways of being church and of truly dealing with transgression.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ISAIAH 22:19–23
ROMANS 11:33–36
MATTHEW 16:13–20

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JEREMIAH 20:7–9
ROMANS 12:1–2
MATTHEW 16:21–27