



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

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

10 September 2023

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Harden not your hearts*

# St Alipius parish

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Tue – 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 (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 6 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:

**Anniversaries:** Janette Pearse, Robert Stevenson

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

## 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.

[catholic.au/article/safeguardingsunday2023](http://catholic.au/article/safeguardingsunday2023)

**Supporting Safe Communities**

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2023**  
10 SEPTEMBER



## THANK YOU

We would like to thank Fr Barry Ryan, Fr. Jim McKay, and Fr. Kevin Maloney for celebrating our weekend masses during Fr. Jorge's absence. Their willingness to come to our parish so that we can continue to celebrate the Eucharist is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Fr. Eladio for celebrating our weekday masses with us. A big thanks also, to John for the wonderful job he has done around the grounds of St Alipius.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parish dinner at Golden Point Hotel**

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

## 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.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,039
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$573.20

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.

## LITURGY ROSTER

The St Alipius liturgy roster for October and November is being prepared. If you would like to volunteer for any of the following roles, please contact the Parish office: Altar servers, Special ministers, Readers, Welcomers, Sacristans, PowerPoint Operators, and/or taking up the Offertory gifts. If you're already on the roster and will be unavailable for any weeks during October and November, please let the office know.

## SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at this website: [www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023](http://www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023)

## PRAYER FOR SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

Gracious God, you love and care for all your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been abused, neglected, or exploited and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed. Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard. We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed, and they may find lasting peace. Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required. We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

## CONFIRMATION

We congratulate the 129 children who have been confirmed in our parish this week and thank their families and schools for the preparation they have done. These confirmation liturgies end the sacraments of Initiation for this year. Thanks to Fr. Jorge for all the work he has done in this area.

## LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary will host a 'Day of Reflection' on Wednesday, 27 September to commemorate their 1001st Legion of Mary Meeting. Father John Corrigan from Mildura will be the keynote speaker for the day. All members of the Legion of Mary Family, active, auxiliary, and past members, including parishioners from all Parishes of Ballarat, are cordially invited to join in celebrating this milestone that the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Nazareth Praesidium, Ballarat, has achieved. The day will start at 9.00 am and conclude at 3.15 pm.

## MERCY CHAPTER GATHERING

The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Chapter would be grateful for your prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, during the coming weeks as they gather for their Chapter – a time of evaluating the past and planning for the future.

Venerable Catherine McAuley, pray for us.

## SEASON OF CREATION

Every year from 1 September to 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/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/)

## BAPTISMS

### Arlo Jai Hunt

Child of Nathan Hunt and Nicole Diamond

### Hadley Maree and Ryker Sam Kermeen

Children of Sam Kermeen and Taylor Graham

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

Pope Francis

## CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked “Ballarat Clergy Support Fund”.

Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. Caring for those who

care for us is the Church community's responsibility.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

Pope's intention for September – **For people living on the margins:** We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions. May they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance. Lord, hear us.

## DIOCESAN ENEWS



The latest edition of e-News has been published. Scan or click the QR code to access. Subscribe to receive future e-News editions straight to your email via:

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/)

## VOICE CONVERSATIONS

A kitchen table conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn, and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months. Online sessions will be held on 11 September, and 28 September from 3.30-4.45 PM via Zoom. More information and registration details are available from [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/)

# Surrender Your Heart of Anger

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 18:15–20

As we mark the second Sunday of the Season of Creation, we are conscious of the need for the human community to be reconciled with Earth and with all that inhabits our common home.

The theme for the 2023 Season of Creation is “Let Justice and Peace Flow” and the symbol is “a mighty river”. Both theme and symbol are inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5: 24).

Today’s first reading from the prophet Ezekiel warns of our responsibility to warn transgressors.

The second reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans speaks of the debt of mutual love. The gospel reminds us of our responsibility to act in the face of transgression.

At the corporate level, we might ask if those who refuse to listen to the science on the climate crisis should be deterred by more stringent legislation and heavy penalties.

On the personal level, the shaming of offenders is rarely effective. So, what does a just society do with its persistent offenders, with those whose behaviour continually disrupts the very future of life on

the planet? There is no easy answer.

What does the gospel tradition offer in this respect? Today’s gospel indicates that the power to deal with transgression is firmly in the hands of the community.

All care must be taken to allow offenders to recognise and acknowledge their offences without being publicly shamed.

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### *Let justice and peace flow*

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If that fails, the matter is referred to a group of witnesses, in line with Israel’s ancient legal practice (Deuteronomy 19:15).

The next step is referral to the assembled community. Those who refuse to listen are to be treated as “Gentiles” or “tax collectors”.

Some scholars suggest that the Matthean Jesus is proposing expulsion of those who refuse to listen. Others consider that he is advocating the sort of compassionate approach he has personally shown to outsiders, to those in need of conversion.

Since every one of us needs conversion in relation to planetary health, compassionate persistence and leading by example are attractive options.



We do well to seek the wisdom of others. We have the assurance that Christ, God-with-us, is present in the assembly. We also have the assurance that our failure to deal with transgression can leave perpetrators unreconciled and susceptible to reoffending. We need to “lose” the sins of those who acknowledge their offences. In other words, we are called to forgive them and thus set them free from the burden of their transgressions.

While the gospel passage focuses on forgiveness, our first concern must be with those who suffer at the hands of offenders, including the Earth itself. We must “surrender to the sky [our] heart of anger” (James K. Baxter) and, at the same time, work actively to provide our planetary home and all of its inhabitants with the care that is surely needed.

#### THIS WEEK’S READINGS 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EZEKIEL 33:7–9  
ROMANS 13:8–10  
MATTHEW 18:15–20

#### NEXT WEEK’S READINGS 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SIRACH 27:30–28:7  
ROMANS 14:7–9  
MATTHEW 18:21–35