



▶ **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

17 September 2023

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord is kind and merciful

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-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 (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 7 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: Colin McKenzie, Josephina Jans

Anniversaries: Basil Gregory

Unwell: Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, 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.



SEASON OF
CREATION

PARISH DINNER

Last Wednesday night, 45 people from the parish came together for our Parish Dinner at the Golden Point Hotel. This was a very happy occasion where people enjoyed good food and excellent company. It was a great chance to catch up with Fr. Jorge after his extended visit to the Philippines and to meet some parishioners who are reasonably new to the parish. Plans for our next function are already underway. Keep Melbourne Cup Day free!



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$862
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$468.60

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.

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.

LITURGY ROSTER

The St Alipius liturgy roster for October and November will be published soon. Please let the Office know if you'd like to be emailed a copy of the new roster.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

This weekend is the beginning of the school holidays. We take this opportunity to thank teachers and students for all their hard work throughout Term 3 and wish them all the best for a safe and happy holiday.

SVDP NATIONAL CONGRESS

In late October, the St Vincent de Paul Society will hold a three-day National Congress in Sydney. As part of the preparations for this event, all conferences have been asked to share their stories and mission with their local community. Please check out the Ballarat East conference display – “The Hands Behind the Help” in the St Alipius foyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Liturgy Committee Meeting

5:30 PM, Tuesday 18 September, Presbytery

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Thank you to everyone who contributed \$903 to the clergy support collection over the past two weeks.

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.

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/

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.

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.

BAPTISMS

Hazel Gracie Head

Child of David Head and Shannon Clarke

Reign George Cuthbertson

Child of Daniel and Courtney Cuthbertson

Lonnie James Smith

Child of Brendan and Erina Smith

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

Pope Francis

ST BRIDGET'S REUNION

St Brigid's College Horsham invites past pupils of the Classes of 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 & 2013 for the milestone reunion.

The reunion will be held at St Brigid's College at 2:00 PM on Saturday 21 October.

Attendees can RSVP by calling the school office on (03) 5382 3545 or via this link:

<https://forms.gle/uKfjHb2KMsZ1huXa9>

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan where recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering, scan or click on the QR code.



MIGRANT SUNDAY – 24 SEPT

The theme of Pope Francis' Message for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is, "Freedom to choose whether to migrate or stay." The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) has created online resources available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/109th-world-day-of-migrants-refugees-sunday-september-24-2023/

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.

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.

SYNOD ECUMENICAL PRAYER

Catholic communities around the world have been invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of 30 September – 1 October in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. Fifteen people from Australia will be participating in the Synod and they have asked for the Catholic community's prayers as they prepare for their important task.

VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

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 October. The final session will be held on 28 September from 3.30 PM – 4.45 PM online via Zoom. More information and registration details are available from the diocesan website

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/

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/



Forgiveness from the Heart

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 18:21–35

The opening verses of this Sunday's gospel reading have Jesus advocating limitless forgiveness (not seven, but seventy-seven times). The parable that follows is anything but consistent with this teaching, however, and with the teaching of Jesus in the gospel as a whole.

We are all familiar with the beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall be mercied" (5:7) and with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (6:12).

How then do we read today's story of a king who is prepared to forgive the debt that his slave has incurred, only to resort to torture when that slave fails to forgive his fellow slave?

This story raises endless issues: the unquestioning acceptance of slavery and the plight of slaves; the absolute power of the king over his subjects; the institution of debt slavery; the treatment of women and children; the collection of crippling taxes to finance the power of the king; an unjust and cruel ruler as an image of the God of Israel; imaging God as a loving parent who nonetheless acts in tyrannical ways.

In other words, the parable encodes institutions and practices of the time that Jesus and the Matthean community seem to accept without question.

Does the parable come from the lips of Jesus or from the Matthean community?

It would be anachronistic to expect a critique of slavery in the first century since the institution of slavery was simply taken for granted in the Graeco-Roman world. It persisted without critique for some 1,800 years. It has now taken a new and sinister turn with the widespread practice of sexual and labour slavery of the vulnerable.

To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole of one's being.

It is totally out of character, however, for Jesus to image his "heavenly Father" as a merciless torturer.

It may be that Jesus did in fact tell such a story in another context and that the Matthean author has rather arbitrarily linked the sayings on forgiveness (forgiving 77 times and forgiving from one's heart) with this story.

It is conceivable that Jesus insisted on the consequences of refusing to forgive

While God is merciful and forgiving, disciples must not exploit God's capacity to forgive.



Bad behaviour is not to be tolerated. It has its consequences and those who exploit others or fail to forgive can expect to suffer the consequences of their actions.

Whatever we make of the story of the merciless king and the unforgiving slave, we might take on board Jesus' response to Peter. We might also note the reminder that true forgiveness is "from the heart".

In the biblical world, the heart was the core of the person's being, the seat of cognition as well as of emotion. To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole of one's being.

We are all in need of God's forgiveness if we are to find the freedom to address "from the heart" the plight of the planet

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SIRACH 27:30–28:7
ROMANS 14:7–9
MATTHEW 18:21–35

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ISAIAH 55:6–9
PHILIPPIANS 1:20–24, 27
MATTHEW 20:1–16