



▶ **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/)

8 October 2023

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*The God of peace will be with you*

# St Alipius parish

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

*Weekday masses back in the church*

Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30 AM

Saturday 9.30 AM, 6.00 PM

Sunday 9.00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weeks)

10.30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

### 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 3 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:** Shirley Mitchell

**Anniversaries:** John Barnett, Mary Cooper, Vera Gittings, Timothy McKeegan

**Unwell:** Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Patricia Murry, Carole Simmons, Brian (Jack) Patton, 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.



## MORNING TEA

Morning tea will be on in the St Alipius Hall after the 10:30 AM mass this Sunday 8 October.

## WELCOME FATHER CON

Our new parish priest next year will be Fr Concord "Con" Bagaoisan, who like Fr Jorge is a member of the Oblates of St Joseph and who has been living and working in Western Australia for the past sixteen years. Fr Con will be joining us for masses this weekend.

## MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

After the great success and fun that was had at last year's Melbourne Cup Luncheon, we have decided to hold the event again. You are invited to join us for a luncheon to celebrate the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday 7 November from 11 AM in St Alipius Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person. Lunch of chicken, salad and dessert will be supplied. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be supplied. Please confirm numbers with the parish office by 31 October. Prizes for the best male and female fascinators. Sweeps will be available. If anyone can bring a salad or a dessert, please let the office know.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Morning tea at St Alipius

After 10:30 AM, Sunday 8 October, Parish Hall

#### Melbourne Cup Luncheon

11:00 AM, Tuesday 7 November, Parish Hall

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$775
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$268

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 PM and 7:30 PM, Vinnies volunteers can be found in the St. Alipius Church Hall providing bread to 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.

## LITURGY ROSTER

The new liturgy roster for St Alipius for the next two months has been emailed to volunteers. There are paper copies in the church foyer. If you didn't receive the roster via email and would like to, please provide the office with your email address.

## MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Please contact the office if you would like any family members or friends who passed away in the past twelve months to be remembered in the mass of remembrance in November. Remembrance books will be placed in the foyers of both churches for parishioners to record the names of loved ones who have passed away.

## SYNOD OF BISHOPS PRAYER

The Vatican is asking all baptised people, regardless of whether they will be in Rome, to participate in October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops with their prayers. More information is available from the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/)

## PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in your name. With you alone to guide us, make yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in you our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of you, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

## SYNOD SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on social media: Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550920686593](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550920686593), Instagram: [www.instagram.com/16ordinarygs/](https://www.instagram.com/16ordinarygs/), Twitter: [https://twitter.com/i/flow/login?redirect\\_after\\_login=%2F16SynodAssembly](https://twitter.com/i/flow/login?redirect_after_login=%2F16SynodAssembly)

## 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.

## NATIVITY SCENE EXHIBITION

The Diocesan archive is presenting an exhibition of Nativity scenes from 20 November until late January 2024 and would like to include pieces from different parishes within the Diocese. If you have a Nativity scene you would like to put on display either in the archives or via the online display, please contact Samantha Fabry at [archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## SACRED HEART REUNION

A reunion of the Sacred Heart College Ballarat East class of 1965, plus anyone who attended SHC, will be held on Sunday, 15 October at GC's Ballarat from 11.00 AM – 3.00 PM. To attend phone 0419 902 538 or email [loisknights345@hotmail.com](mailto:loisknights345@hotmail.com).

### BAPTISMS

**Lucy June Hughes**  
Child of Brennan and Ashleigh Hughes

**Delilah Leanne Reus**  
Child of Michael and Emily Reus

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

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission has released presentations for the diocesan launch of the Social Justice Statement 2023: **Listen Learn Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**. This event is pre-recorded and in digital format so that parish and school communities along with individuals can access these resources at their convenience. Visit this link for more information: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/)

## WINTER APPEAL THANKS

The Ballarat East Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society is most grateful for the generosity shown by both parishioners and school communities to our recent winter appeal.

This year, in addition to the regular financial contributions via the envelopes, we have received a very large number of toiletry items. These donations have increased our capacity to help those most in need in our community in these particularly challenging economic times.

## WORLD MISSION MONTH

In his World Mission Day message for October 2023, Pope Francis reminds us through Luke 24:13-35, "hearts on fire, feet on the move", that the missionary journey of all disciples is that upon encountering Jesus, our hearts burn within, our eyes are opened and ultimately, our feet are set out on the way.

Catholic Mission has launched the World Mission Month 2023 Appeal, highlighting the Work of Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste. Sr Carolina, who is the face of the awareness and fundraising campaign, is a great example of the devotion of missionaries, dedicating herself to providing critical healthcare services to the rural community of Venilale in Timor-Leste. After decades of journeying with the Venilale community, Sr Carolina can summarise her understanding of Mission in a sentence: "Mission is where many people need you." Through Catholic Mission, you are invited you to journey with Sr Carolina, and walk alongside the Salesian Sisters and the resilient community of Venilale. Parishes, schools, and supporters across Australia will be encouraged to provide resources for the clinic to continue to provide life-giving services to the local community. You can contribute today by scanning or clicking on the QR code.



## REFERENDUM PRAYER EVENT

An online prayer service for the referendum: Moments of healing this country, "One Journey, Together" will be held on Friday, 13 October from 8.30 AM – 9.30 AM. This will be an opportunity to pause and to reflect on our hopes for the referendum, reconciliation more broadly, and for what will follow. Scan or click the QR code to register.



## 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 October – **For the Synod**: We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit toward the peripheries of the world. Lord, hear us.



# A Case of Systemic Injustice

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 21:33–43

The 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality, presently in session in Rome, is concerned with the call to integral ecology, to environmental as well as social justice. In other words, it is concerned with our hearing and responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of those rendered poor.

Among the most abandoned of Earth's "poor" are those who are still enslaved. While the international community has long since outlawed slavery, we have become increasingly aware of the persistence of a lucrative global industry structured around the sexual and labour enslavement of vulnerable people and exacerbated by the recent experience of pandemic.

Today's gospel features a parable about an absentee landowner with slaves to do his bidding.

Commentators focus on almost every aspect of this parable, particularly the judgement on the religious authorities who have rejected God's messengers. Few consider the fate of the slaves as slaves in the parable.

Our contemporary sensibilities in relation to slavery invite a new reading of such texts, a reading that critiques the power that some in the Earth community exercise over other humans and over the natural world that has for so long been treated as the property of humans to manipulate at will.

The frequent translation of the Greek *doulos* (m.) and *doulē* (f.) as "servant" rather than as "slave" masks the underlying reality that some members of the community, even within the circle of believers gathered at the Eucharistic table, were actually the property of others in the community.

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### *The son receives the same treatment as the slaves*

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The fact is that nobody in the ancient world, not even Jesus of Nazareth, questioned this situation. The injustice was systemic. It is not surprising, therefore, that the slaves in today's parable are considered by the "tenants" to be dispensable. Their role is to collect the fruit from the harvest on behalf of the absentee landowner.

The "tenants" clearly have no intention of parting with any portion of the produce, presumably the tax imposed on them as a condition of their tenancy. They react violently when confronted by the three slaves who are the landowner's emissaries. They beat one slave, kill another and stone yet another.

The slaves represent the landowner whose demands the tenants refuse to meet.



The landowner risks the lives of other slaves by sending yet another and bigger delegation. This second group of emissaries meets the same fate as their predecessors.

Finally, the landowner sends his own son in the expectation that the tenants will show him the respect they have denied the slaves, his property.

In fact, the son receives the same treatment as the slaves. He too is dispensable from the perspective of those wanting to seize "the inheritance", those wishing to take control of the vineyard for their own purposes.

As we reflect on gospel stories that take slavery for granted, we might commit ourselves to eliminating all exercise of power over others or over any "vineyard" entrusted to our care and to addressing issues of systemic injustice.

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 5:1–7

PHILIPPIANS 4:6–9

MATTHEW 21:33–43

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 25:6–10

PHILIPPIANS 4:12–14, 19–20

MATTHEW 22:1–10