

15 October 2023

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I shall live in the house of the Lord

St Alipius parish



▶ **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

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tue 6:30 PM Rosary for Jack Patton
Wed 10:00 AM (Jack Patton's funeral)
Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)
10:30 AM (2nd & 4th)
Rosary – Tuesday 6:30 PM

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: Jack Patton, Gary Werndly

Anniversaries: Fr. Denis Dennehy, Carmel Mitchell

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

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.



MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Our annual Remembrance Mass, **celebrating the lives of those who have passed away in the last 12 months** will be at 6:00 PM on Saturday 28 October at St Alipius. These people will be remembered at all masses that weekend. If you have lost a loved one in the past twelve months, but they weren't buried from our parish, please contact the parish office to have them remembered at this mass. A cuppa will follow the 6:00 PM mass at St. Alipius and the 10:30 AM mass at Buninyong. Please spread the word.

HALL UPDATE – THANK YOU

On behalf of the parish, we would like to extend our gratitude to Dallas and Kevin Wilkinson who have generously purchased new vertical blinds for the large windows at the east end of our church hall. These blinds were installed recently following a working bee that Dallas organised. Thanks to all who helped on this day, this end of the hall is looking fantastic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mass of Remembrance

6:00 PM, Saturday 28 October, Parish Hall

Melbourne Cup Luncheon

11:00 AM, Tuesday 7 November, Parish Hall

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.

WELCOME

Welcome and Thank Fr Matthew Thomas for joining us and saying our weekend masses with us while Fr Jorge is away.

REMEMBRANCE BOOKS

Remembrance books can be found in the foyers of both churches. These books have been placed there to allow parishioners to record the names of loved ones who have passed away at any stage. People whose names are recorded in these books will be prayed for during masses throughout November.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$972
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$375.70

We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

LITURGY NEWS

Those rostered on for roles at weekend masses will receive a reminder email from the office on Wednesdays.

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 displays – "The Hands Behind the Help" in the St Alipius and Buninyong foyers.

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

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/

PAPAL ENCYCLICALS

Pope Francis released 'Laudate Deum', his apostolic exhortation on the climate crisis. Officially titled, 'Laudate Deum: To all the People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis', the exhortation is a sequel to his exhortation, 'Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. Laudate Deum and further resources are available from www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/laudate-deum-apostolic-exhortation-of-pope-francis/



In his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si', Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

BAPTISMS

Sam Anthony Fletcher
Child of Ross and Claire Fletcher

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

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/

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, Instagram: www.instagram.com/16ordinarygsg/, Twitter: https://twitter.com/i/flow/login?redirect_after_login=%2F16SynodAssembly

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 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.

MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre & Museum Open Day is on Saturday, 28 October. Visit the Heritage Centre – a building initially purpose-built as a place of providence for women on the grounds purchased by Saint Mary MacKillop in 1901. Museum tours every hour from 10:00 AM (last tour at 3:00 PM); Mary's Little Lon Walking Tour at 11:00 AM (approximately 1½ hours); open access for visitors 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Book a tour at <https://www.mmhc.org.au/victorian-seniors-festival-at-mmhc/>

The Mary MacKillop Museum will present a selection of museum objects, in particular those that highlight the changes to the Sisters' Habit over time and Mary's canonisation. For some objects, it will be the first time they have been on display within the Temporary Gallery. Consider supporting a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a 2024 Josephite Calendar or Christmas present from the Museum Gift Shop. The shop stocks communion and confirmation gifts, devotional items, Vatican pieces, rosary beads, holding crosses, candles, cards, statues, crucifixes, books, and Peruvian handmade items.

When staying in Melbourne book a well-appointed 1 or 2-bedroom apartment at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in the heart of East Melbourne. Includes free parking and Wi-Fi. Phone Kate – 9926 9300.

2024 CONFERENCE TICKETS

The 2024 Catholic Social Services National Conference, "Commons, Commonality, Common Good" will be held from 21–23 February 2024 at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne. For early bird tickets, scan or click the QR code.



Sharing in the Banquet of Life

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 22:1–103

The increasing wealth of the few and the growing divide between rich and poor, particularly in the developing world, are challenging us all to consider our attitudes to the planet's resources and to the economic systems that maintain that imbalance.

The economic divide is highlighted by the vulnerability of those rendered poor or even homeless in our world.

Today's gospel brings a warning. Like the invited guests in Matthew's parable of the wedding banquet, we are in danger of turning our backs on a gracious invitation or "call" not only to share in but also to ensure that all God's creatures might share in the fruits of the earth.

The king's invitation to successive and diverse groups recalls Israel's prophetic tradition where God's ultimate reign is imaged as a feast of the best food and wine, not just for a privileged few, but for all.

Many other aspects of the parable are quite troubling. Its focus is on the human community. Privileged humans are the first to be invited: the invitation to the less privileged comes only after those on the initial guest list have refused to come. This aspect of the story hardly reflects the values of God's empire or reign.

Furthermore, the violent retaliation of the spurned host is hard to reconcile with an image of God's reign.

This is also true of the treatment of the guest without a wedding robe in a situation where none of the guests has had the opportunity to procure the right attire.

We are in danger of turning our backs on a gracious invitation

It becomes clear that this is not a story to be taken literally. Rather, it invites the reader to critique interpretations that see the king's behaviour as a reflection of how God deals with God's creation.

So, what might this story be telling us?

If we look again at the despotic aspects of the king's character, we might find there a reflection of our own capacity to look after ourselves at the expense of the vulnerable people in our world and of the other-than-human.

We might find an image of our nation's long-term redirecting of the



foreign aid budget towards keeping refugees from settling in our land.

On the other hand, if we put ourselves in the place of the original audience, we might find ourselves quite amazed at the inclusiveness of the king in a world where the people on the street would never have been invited to such a wedding banquet.

If we think about the wedding garment as symbolic of a "right" disposition or attitude in relation to the host, the company, and the riches to be shared, we might be drawn to handle Earth's precious resources with a little more care for the common good of all the inhabitants of our planet.

Our gospel tradition tells us that God's empire will be realised only when all have the opportunity to share in the feast of life and when other-than-human Earth inhabitants have the resources that enable them to flourish.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 25:6–10
PHILIPPIANS 4:12–14, 19–20
MATTHEW 22:1–10

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 45:1, 4–6
THESSALONIANS 1:1–5
MATTHEW 22:15–21