



▶ **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

21 January 2024

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Believe the Good News

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday – Saturday 9:30 AM

Saturday 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

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

No counting team this week

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:

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

PARISH TEAM

Parish Administrator
Fr Concord Bagaoisan, 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.



PARISH OFFICE REOPENS

The parish office reopens on Tuesday 23 January. Thank you for your patience over Christmas and New Year. Please note slight change in office hours. 9:00am to 12.00 pm Tuesday to Friday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Liturgy Committee

5:30 PM, Tuesday 23 January, Presbytery

Social Gathering

6:00 PM, Wednesday 24 January, Red Lion Hotel

RECONCILIATION SESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for children will be on 12, 13 and 14 March. Parent information sessions will be held in St. Alipius Church at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM on Thursday 15 February. Attendance at one of these sessions is compulsory if you wish your child to receive the sacrament. To receive the sacrament of reconciliation children must have been confirmed and be in Year 4 or later at school. The parents of children who were confirmed in the parish in 2023 will automatically receive an email. If you know of anyone who wants to participate in this program, please ask them to contact the parish office.

COMMISSIONING MASSES

As a part of the Diocese of Ballarat's 150 Anniversary, parishes throughout the diocese will be celebrating masses to recommission existing and commission new liturgical ministers, including extraordinary ministers of the holy communion, readers, sacristans etc. Details on how to register your interest to be commissioned or recommissioned will be provided in the coming weeks.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The Diocese of Ballarat requires that every person who performs tasks at mass must have a valid Working with Children Check. An audit is currently underway to ensure that everyone on the liturgy roster has provided the parish with a copy of their WWCC card.

Additionally, last year the Diocese produced an online course entitled Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. The Diocese requires all people who perform tasks at church to complete the training. The parish office team will contact people who have yet to complete the training with details on how to do so.



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

LITURGY ROSTER FEB – MAR

The St Alipius liturgy roster for February and March, including Easter Sunday, will be emailed to volunteers before the end of January. For those not on email, hard copies will be provided in the sacristy. Please remember to diarise when you are scheduled and if you are unable to attend, organise a replacement via WhatsApp or contact someone else on the roster. If you are unable to arrange a swap, please contact the Parish office. Volunteers are reminded to arrive at least 10 – 15 minutes before the start of mass to sign in and check that all other volunteers have turned up in case a last-minute replacement is required. Thank you.

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of e-News has been published and is available at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/. You can subscribe to be emailed future editions.

THANK YOU FROM SVDP

The Ballarat East Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society is most grateful for the generosity demonstrated by both the local school communities and parishioners to our Christmas appeal. We were also delighted with the response to our card and calendar sales - all stock was sold.

The money raised will help those most in need across Ballarat. Once again the true meaning of Christmas had been demonstrated by our parish.

BAPTISMS

Harvey Aurther and Stella Audrey McGuinness
Child of Sam and Courtenay McGuinness

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

Pope Francis

ENTRY CODES FOR CHURCHES

St Alipius and Ss Peter and Paul's have locks that require an entry code to open. For compliance purposes, the codes are changed periodically, and both will next be changed on 31 January. If you require the new codes, you will need to contact the parish office to complete a form and provide a copy of your working with children check (WWCC) card. This is the last week to contact the office before changes apply.



SAVE THE DATES

The Rite of Election will be held at 12:30 PM on Saturday 17 February at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

The Mass of the Oils will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday 25 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.

LAUDATO SI'

In his 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.

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, encourages us to **"Be compost smart"**. Did you know? Learning more about composting helps the earth. Instead of just food scraps, you can also compost cardboard, egg cartons, paper napkins, grass clippings and newspapers.



"We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing and its human roots, concern and affect us all."
Laudato Si' #14

reduce reuse recycle
rethink repurpose

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 January – For the gift of diversity: Let us pray that the Spirit helps us recognise the gifts of different charisms within the Christian community and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

FISHING TIPS FOR FR CON

If you have an interest in fishing, could you please share some local knowledge on the best fishing spots with Fr Con who is also a keen angler?

Expand Your Horizons

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 1:14–20

Most of the gospel readings for this year are from Mark's story of Jesus.

As with any story, it is best to read it from beginning to end, attending to the storyline, to indications of habitat and of time, to all the actors or characters in the story, human and other-than-human.

While the main character or actor is Jesus, there are other characters and character groups that claim our attention.

The “worlds” we encounter include the celestial world, the world of spirits and demons, the human, the animal, and the plant worlds.

In many ways, we can resonate with the worlds that Mark creates. In other ways, they are alien to 21st-century scientific sensibilities and experience.

We bring our consciousness of these differences to our reading of the text.

As we embark on this reading we might also become aware of what we bring to the text, “the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties” (GS 1) of our world today, a world still grappling with war, with planetary degradation and with growing economic inequality. What we bring to the text informs our understanding of the text.

As we read, we might think of this gospel as a two-act drama. The first act in the drama (Mark 1:1-8:26) raises the question, “Who is this?” The central scene (Mark 8:27-30) provides a partial answer: Jesus is the Messiah or God's Anointed One, the Christos.

Jesus is the Messiah or God's Anointed One

The second act of the drama (Mark 8:31-16:8) is full of surprises for its earliest audiences: Jesus is not a militaristic messiah, but one who is prepared to suffer death for the sake of God's empire; God finally triumphs over suffering and death.

The invitation to us as readers is to enter into the drama, to identify with the characters and character groups, and to hear the teachings of Jesus.

In the passage selected for today, Jesus announces his program and invites others to reorient their lives, to expand their horizons (“repent”) and to join him on a mission of proclaiming God's kin-dom, God's way of being in the world.



Jesus proclaims the advent of God's “time” or *kairos*, as opposed to ordinary clock time or *chronos*. It is crisis time, time to attend to the cries of the earth and the cries of those rendered poor in every age.

One might get the impression in the opening chapters of the gospel that the disciples are all men. We have to go to the end of the gospel to find that there are also women “who came up with him to Jerusalem” from Galilee. The central section of the gospel (Mark 9-10) makes it clear that there are children on the journey as well.

Let us therefore imagine a much more extended group around Jesus than today's little gospel reading suggests. Women, men, and children, all are invited to leave behind whatever gets in the way of bringing God's kin-dom into our world.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JONAH 3:1–5, 10

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29–31

MARK 1:14–20

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEUTERONOMY 18:15–20

1 CORINTHIANS 7:32–35

MARK 1:21–28