



▶ **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
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

28 January 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The people have seen a great light

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM

Friday – 10:00 AM (Funeral Mass)

Saturday 9:30 AM, 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

Counting team 1

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:

Patricia Murray, Peter Tung (QLD), Ida Perrelli In Bozzo

Anniversaries: Margaret Ann Quinn

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

On Wednesday night we filled the Nicholas Room at the Red Lion with people from across our parish to welcome Fr Con. Lots of fun was had as people chatted to Fr. Con, getting to know him a little better. There were certainly many laughs throughout the evening and even a song or two. This was another great social evening for our parish.



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

On Monday, we welcome back staff to all our Catholic schools in Ballarat and surrounds. Staff will begin their 2024 school year by gathering on Monday morning for mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The sounds of students will begin coming from school grounds in the days following. We do hope that staff and students have had restful holidays and are looking forward to their return. We ask God's blessings on all staff and students as this New Year begins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caring Group Meeting

2:00 PM, Friday 2 February, St Alipius Hall

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated. Here is a breakdown of donations over the holidays.

Date	Supporting our parish priests	Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.
24 Dec	\$797	\$293.20
7 Jan	\$1677	\$511.20
14 Jan	\$828	\$513.20
21 Jan	\$843	\$453.20

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

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet in St Alipius Hall at 2:00 PM on Friday 2 February. All are welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

MASS OF THE OILS

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

VISITING PRIESTS

This weekend we are pleased to welcome back Fr. Barry Ryan who will say Mass at Buninyong and welcome Archbishop Emeritus Sergio Utleg who will be visiting from the Philippines.

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

Stef Gina Ryan
Child of Liam and Amanda Ryan

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

Pope Francis

PROJECT COMPASSION

Mass to launch Project Compassion 2024 will be held at 5:00 PM on Sunday, 11 February at St Patrick's Cathedral. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be the main celebrant and will commission student leaders as Ambassadors for Caritas 2024. All are welcome to attend.



LITURGY ROSTER FEB – MAR

The St Alipius liturgy roster for February and March, including Lent and Easter, 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.

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the office hours for the parish will change for 2024. While the days will remain the same, we will now open from 9:00 am until 12 noon, rather than opening at 10:00 am. We hope this doesn't cause any inconvenience. We look forward to having you call in to say hello.

150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on 30 March. There will be several events planned to mark this occasion. The latest edition of ODC has a very informative article on the formation of the diocese, written by St Alipius parishioner Sr Berenice Kerr RSM.

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.



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.

A New and Authoritative Teaching

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 1:21–28

Today's gospel reading recounts the first episode in a section of Mark's gospel that focuses on a typical day in the ministry of Jesus as authoritative teacher and prophetic healer (1:21–38).

Jesus comes with his disciples to Capernaum. On the Sabbath day, Judaism's holy day, he goes into the synagogue, Judaism's local gathering place, and preaches. The verbal forms in the first sentence indicate that teaching in the synagogue was part of his customary activity. Jesus is thus located firmly within Israel's prophetic tradition of proclaiming God's word to the people.

In today's first reading from Deuteronomy (18:15–20), the term "prophet" appears eight times. Moses tells the people that God will respond to their request at Sinai (Horeb) and raise up from among them a prophet like himself, a mediator between God and the people, one who will speak God's word.

Prophets do not appoint or authorise themselves: God calls and authorises the prophets to speak the word of God. Failure to heed the prophets carries its own consequences as does the attempt to assume a prophetic role without God's authorisation.

Just as the prophets of old speak the authentic word of God only when they

are authorised by the God of Israel, so Jesus of Nazareth, later to identify himself in this gospel as God's prophet (6:4), speaks and acts "with authority". In other words, he speaks with the authority of the God of Israel.

In this first Markan story of his divinely authorised activity, Jesus is approached by a man "with an unclean spirit". The man's loud scream sets up a confrontation between the power of God mediated through Jesus and the forces of destruction that often take hold of human lives. Jesus silences and expels these destructive forces and thus renders a seriously troubled person whole.

Jesus speaks with the authority of the God of Israel

In the ancient world, such forces were often personified as demonic beings. Confounding such "unclean spirit(s)" or demonic forces brought social and communal benefits to the troubled person as well as physical and emotional healing.

God's reign or empire is made real through a healing action that is perceived as "a new teaching". In this



instance, Jesus' words, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" affect the cure of a deeply troubled person.

For Jesus and his disciples, as for us, congruence between words and actions is integral to authentic gospel proclamation. While words have their place, we teach primarily by who we are and what we do.

Jesus is demonstrating to his newly formed group of followers that the gospel they are to proclaim is grounded in the ordinary struggles of ordinary people.

This gospel carries the power to lift the burdens and restore the troubled of our world to wholeness and health.

We may wish to acknowledge the "unclean spirits" that take hold of us from time to time and thus open ourselves to the power of God mediated through God's healer-teachers in our time.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEUTERONOMY 18:15–20

1 CORINTHIANS 7:32–35

MARK 1:21–28

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JOB 7:1–4, 6–7

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16–19, 22–23

MARK 1:29–39