



▶ **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

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

25 February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

This is my son, the beloved

St Alipius parish

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM

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 5

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: Laurie Mullane, David William Quinn

Anniversaries: Joan Shannon

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Pam Hill, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Administrator
Fr Concord Bagaioisan, OSJ

Visiting Priest
Fr Barry Ryan

Sacramental and Parish Coordinator
Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant
Natalie Shannon

Finance Officer
Bernadette Prestwood

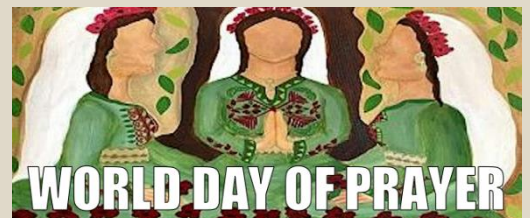
Child Safety Officer
Emily Clarke

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.



PROJECT COMPASSION

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa, and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations. Learn about these women and how Project Compassion helped them here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10823301/video/885560092>

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by calling 1800 024 41, visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or scanning this QR code.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Baptism Preparation

10:00 AM or 5:30 PM, 7 March, St Pat's Hall

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Before children under the age of seven are baptised in our parish, their parents need to attend an information session, which will next be held on Thursday 7 March at 10 AM or 5.30 PM (choose one) in the small hall at St. Patrick's Cathedral. No registration is required. For further information please call the parish office.

MERCY PLACE VOLUNTEERS

Mercy Place is seeking volunteers for a range of roles. Volunteers might spend time one-on-one with residents, taking them for walks in the garden, going on bus trips, reading a book or newspaper, helping them in the garden, or just having a chat. The hours are organised to suit the volunteer. If interested, please see the flyer in the church foyer for more information.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,020
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$378.20

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

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet at 2:00 PM on Friday 1 March in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa and a chat. Please bring a small plate.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP)

WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The theme this year is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-6. Our Christian sisters invite the global church to pray for peace, justice, and freedom for every individual irrespective of nationality, religion, or origin.

World Day of Prayer services in Ballarat and Creswick this year on Friday, 1 March as follows:

10:00 AM	St Bridgit's Catholic Church 96 Inglis Street, Ballan
10:00 AM	St Peter's Anglican Church 1307 Sturt Street West, Ballarat
2:00 PM	St Mary's Anglican Church, Birchip
6:00 PM	St Paul's Anglican Church 3 Humffray Street, Bakery Hill
7:00 PM	St John's Anglican Church 103 Napier Street, Creswick

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. This year the Mass of the Oils will be live-streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivlKiHSs?feature=share>

PALM SUNDAY PEACE WALK

The focus of the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace this year is on the impact of war where people have been forced to flee to seek places of refuge within their own country (internally displaced) or as refugees and asylum seekers to other countries. The program will commence at 10:30 AM at the Parliament Gardens, Spring Street/Albert Street, Melbourne, with an interfaith segment and prayers for peace, followed by speeches/presentations from 11:00 AM and the Palm Sunday 'Walk for Refugees' concluding by noon.

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

A copy of the annual report from the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/

150 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have received all the gifts we enjoy.

As we mark the 150th anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat, we give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us.

We recognise the communities who have lived on this land from ancient times. We honour the Aboriginal peoples, here for tens of thousands of years. We honour those who came from overseas and settled here before our diocese began. Yet our anniversary shines a special light on our years as the Diocese of Ballarat, a community of communities from the Murray to sea.

We remember those who have gone before us, those who laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and our social services and health care.

We acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our history. We celebrate the achievements, and we ask pardon for the failures to live our Christian faith to the full.

May this anniversary year be a season of renewal for our diocese. Inspired by the Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist, may we follow the example of Jesus and the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

May we reach out in humble service, welcoming all and caring for all creation. May we grow in love day by day. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

BAPTISMS

Elizabeth Njoki Devine

Child of Kennedy Wainaina and Belinda Devine

Chet Wylie Brooks

Child of Mathew and Paige Brooks

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

Pope Francis

COMMISSIONING MASSES

On Pentecost Sunday, the Parish will commission new and recommission existing liturgical ministers, including readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, PowerPoint operators, musicians, sacristans, and welcomers. Information on how to sign up to continue or start volunteering in one or more of these ministries, and what the tasks involve, will be provided in the coming weeks, continuing this week with the art and environment ministries.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT

The many volunteers who clean our churches, tend the gardens, and set up visual displays for masses, such as the Advent wreathes, nativity scenes etc., are perhaps the least visible ministry, yet their work is so prominent. There isn't a formal roster for these tasks, and the work is done by very few people, so volunteers are needed.

POPE'S MESSAGE FOR LENT

Pope Francis' Lenten message is focused on God's call to leave behind the bonds of slavery with the title, "Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom", which is from the Book of Exodus (20:2). Read the message at www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/doc/uments/20231203-messaggio-quaresima2024.html or view it at <https://youtu.be/zXPPVtpHBM?t=408>

WISDOM AT THE CATHEDRAL

You are invited to a one-hour session in the Wisdom at the Cathedral series at 7:00 PM on Thursday 29 February. Fr Bill Lowry will discuss *Discerning God's Will in Your Life*, including the processes employed by the saints and the Lord himself in discerning the Father's will for their lives. The venue is the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms and entry is by donation. A cuppa will follow. Contact Fiona Bradley at fionalouisebradley@gmail.com for additional information.

LENT RESOURCES

Lent prayer resources are available from the diocese www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/

MISSION: TRANSFORM LIVES

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from all sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community.

Experience the joy as you assist in changing lives. Learn more at <https://palms.org.au/> or ph. 02 9560 5333. Join the Mission webinar on 5 March from 6.00 PM – 6.30 PM. Details: <https://palms.org.au/event/global-development-webinar/>. Join the two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 6 May at <https://palms.org.au/encounters/timor-leste-cultural-encounter/>.

EASTER CHOCOLATE

Catholic Earthcare asks us to purchase brands that use sustainably sourced cocoa. Look for logos like these on the packaging.



Call to Listen

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

2nd Sunday in Lent: Mark 9:2–10

The wilderness was the geographical and key symbolic focus of last week's gospel story. This week, the focus is a mountain.

Wilderness and mountain remind us that God's Earth itself is the locus of mystery and grace, the place of Earth-divine encounter.

The mountain, like the wilderness, links Mark's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites.

Moses' encounter with God on the mountain of Sinai was a defining moment in the life of the people: the Israelites entered into covenant with God at this mountain and received the Law that was to guide their lives as a people.

Some centuries later, at a time of crisis in Israel's life, the prophet Elijah returned to this mountain and experienced the presence of God in the gentle breeze (1 Kings 19:10-13).

In the gospel passage for today, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and is "transfigured" before them and "his clothes become dazzling white." In the Book of Revelation, white clothes come to symbolise the clothing of martyrs, of those who die for their faith.

Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, appear and enter into

dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet.

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate. If he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the "wilderness" and comes to terms with what it involves on this unidentified mountain.

The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus

The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus that was announced in the opening words of the gospel and proclaimed at his baptism in the Jordan. It calls for a response from the disciples who have ascended the mountain in his company: they are to listen to him.

In the two preceding scenes, Jesus has spoken of the suffering that he and his followers will have to face. These words are crucial to an understanding, not only of Jesus, but of what it means to follow him. They fall on deaf ears.

Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents"



and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the courage and the good sense to return from the mountain and follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain.

We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience.

While so many lives and so many life forms are obliterated by fruitless wars and unsustainable dependence on fossil fuels, we are called to "listen" and come to terms with the costs involved in maintaining the struggle for a sustainable, safe, and peace-filled world.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

GENESIS 22:1–2, 9:13, 15–18

ROMANS 8:31–34

MARK 9:2–10

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

EXODUS 20:1–17

1 CORINTHIANS 1:22–25

JOHN 2:13–25