

12 May 2024

The Ascension of the Lord  
*Lord, send out your spirit*

# 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  
9:00 AM – 12:00 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/)

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM

Kath Reynold's funeral Tue 1:00 PM

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 2

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

## WE PRAY FOR

**Faithfully departed:** Kath Reynolds

**Anniversaries:** Mae Armstrong, Brian & Joan Blood, Mary Dowling, Arthur Gore

**Unwell:** Socorro De Chavez, Luka Fletcher-Leskarac, Max Green, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

## PARISH TEAM

### Parish Priest

Fr Justin Driscoll

### Assistant Priest

Fr Matthew Restall

### Visiting Priest

Fr Barry Ryan

### 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.

WEEK of  
**PRAYER**  
for CHRISTIAN UNITY  
2024

## COMMISSIONING FOR MINISTRY

Across the parishes of our ministry district, many people serve through liturgical ministries, others in ministries of pastoral care, and outreach, some in ministries of Christian initiation, faith formation and Catholic education, and others in leadership and stewardship.

As part of the Diocese of Ballarat's 150th anniversary, those members of our parish who engage in ministries will be commissioned for their service. Commissioning will occur at all masses celebrated next weekend on the feast of Pentecost (18 – 19 May). We will acknowledge those members of our parish who have responded to the call to particular ministries within our communities and are willing to commit themselves to continued service in the name of our church communities.

The commissioning also provides us with an opportunity to express our gratitude to all who serve in the great diversity of ministries, for as St Paul writes '*There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*' (1 Corinthians 12,4-7).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Commissioning for Ministry Masses**  
Pentecost weekend – 18 and 19 May

**Parish Meeting - Acknowledgement of  
170 years of Parish**  
26 May @ 3pm in the parish hall

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 170 OF ST ALIPIUS PARISH

There will be a meeting in the church hall on Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 3pm to discuss ways of acknowledging the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Alipius. All welcome to come and share ideas.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated. The figures shown below are for the past two weeks:

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,087
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$915.40

## PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, and others who show us a mother's love, that we may show them reverence and love. We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care. We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and that their family and friends support and console them. We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort. We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The annual Catholic Education Week mass and dinner were held at Damascus College where 34 staff members who have served in Catholic education for 30 years were acknowledged. These included Jane Clark (St Francis Xavier Ballarat East), Jamie Lamb (St Patrick's Gordon), Steven Mifsud, Cathy Prunty, Judy Vanderkley and Hamish McCrum (all of Damascus College).

The gathering acknowledged seventeen 2024 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards nominees, including Caitee Carter (St Alipius Primary), Tony Haintz (Damascus College), and Cathy Prunty (Damascus College).

Congratulations to Cathy Prunty, our Parish Coordinator, who was one of the recipients of the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards for her work at Damascus College for *Empowering All to Flourish*.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed between Ascension and Pentecost. The theme for 2024 was chosen by a group from Burkina Faso, "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself..." (Luke 10:27). The National Council of Churches in Australia has provided promotional and worship and reflection resources at [www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources](http://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources)

For those in the Ballarat area, there are gatherings at different churches on different nights of the week at 7:00 PM and all are welcome to attend each service. A light supper will follow each prayer gathering.

Tuesday 14 May – Peel Street Church of Christ, 37–39 Peel Street South, Bakery Hill.

Wednesday 15 May – Ballarat Central Uniting Church, 101–103 Lydiard St Street, Ballarat.

Thursday 16 May – St Patrick Cathedral, Sturt Street.

Friday, 17 May – Christ the King Anglican Cathedral, 49 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER

God, who is Spirit, who is Christ, you call us into community. A community for the common good, a community of oneness in our diversity. People from every nation, tribe, culture, and language. Unite us as we seek to live out your love. You call us from the comfort of our familiar circles and call us to be loving neighbours. To go where our neighbour is, to help them in their need and let them help us in ours. We are your family, a part of your kingdom of humankind, each a beloved sibling to share in grace. Bless us with your wisdom, that we may walk and work together. United we pray. Amen.

## BAPTISMS

**Nico Thomas and Maya Grace Hutchinson**  
Children of Casey Hutchison and Jenee Mitchell

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

Pope Francis

## NATIONAL FAMILIES' WEEK

National Families Week aims to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society. The week is celebrated to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May. Catholic Care's theme this year is "Building Compassionate Families and Communities." The week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities and the importance they play in our lives and community. Resources are available from [www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/103/familyweek](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/103/familyweek)

## SAFETRAC ONLINE COURSE

Volunteers from our parish will have received an email from Safetrac requesting that they complete the online training module. For those who have received this email, please complete the training by 31 May. If you need any support with your online course, please make a time with Cathy who is happy to help out.

## SOCIAL EVENING

There will be a social evening on Thursday 20 June at 6pm, which will give us the opportunity to gather as a parish and spend time with our new priests, Fathers Justin and Matt. This will take the form of a dinner, with further details being made available when the venue is confirmed. If you would like to attend the dinner please call the parish office to book.

## TAP AND GO MACHINE

The Tap and Go machine continues to be available in the entrance to our parish churches at Ballarat East and Buninyong. This is a simple two-step process which enables people to give to the church using a card rather than cash. If you would like to use the machine but are unsure, please ask.

## 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 May – **for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians**: Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

## FAITH SEMINAR SERIES

The Engaging Your Faith online seminar series consists of nine stand-alone sessions on a range of themes presented by the Catholic Theological College to explore personal, theological, and spiritual development. The cost is \$25.00 per session, and they are open to anyone to attend, beginning 14 May. For details, visit:

<https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

## DAMASCUS COLLEGE SRT RIDE

Broken Hill to Ballarat is a long way. The Damascus College Sustainability Racing Team found this out last week, but despite the distance their ride to raise money for the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Centre was completed successfully. Students were still smiling when they were welcomed into the grounds at Damascus College at 2.30 pm on Friday to the cheers of staff, students and families. We congratulate these students on their amazing efforts and thank them for seeing a need and doing something about it, in true Mercy tradition. The team have raised close to \$10,000 for cancer research.



# Proclaim the Good News

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Feast of the Ascension: Mark 16:15–20

The feast of the Ascension invites us to face the universal experience of loss, the loss of a loved one or of something precious to us, and to face this experience in a transformative way.

In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been remembering his death and resurrection. The liturgy now draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of the One who has been raised.

The physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence. Like the early Christians, we need time to grasp each dimension of the one great mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We need time to ponder the implications of this great mystery for ourselves and for our planetary home.

Today's gospel passage receives little attention in commentaries and classes because, along with the immediately preceding passage (Mark 16:9-14), it is a late addition to the original text of Mark's gospel.

The author of these verses is familiar with the similar commission to proclaim the good news to all nations

and to baptise in the name of the Trinity, found at the end of Matthew's gospel.

In Mark 16:15, the command is to go "into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation (*ktisis*)." It is a more inclusive vision than Matthew's and opens a space for an ecological reading of the text, an extension from the human to the other-than and more-than-human elements of the Earth community.

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### *The time is fulfilled*

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The command to proclaim the good news, the gospel, recalls the first words of the Markan Jesus, "The time is fulfilled, and the kin-dom of God has come near; repent [=expand your horizons], and believe in the good news" (1:15).

If we were to accept that our mission in the "in-between times" is to bring the gospel to all creation, then we might take more seriously God's command in Genesis 2 to reverence and protect the earth (usually translated as "to till and to keep"). We might stop polluting the air that all creatures need for life. We might also



read the affirmations of Genesis 1 through the lens of Mark 16 and respect once more the intrinsic goodness of all creation as a gospel imperative.

The "Ascension" event recounted towards the end of the passage presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the cosmos. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and Jesus is caught up into God's realm.

The vertical movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' return to "the right hand of God" ensures a different kind of presence in the church despite his seeming absence, one that enables believers to stop "looking up to the heavens" (Acts 1:11) and to continue the healing and re-creative ministry of Jesus "to all creation".

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

ACTS 1:1–11  
EPHESIANS 4:1–3  
MARK 16:15–20

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1–11  
GALATIANS 5:16–25  
JOHN 15:26–27; 16:12–15