

21 July 2024

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

They were as sheep without a shepherd

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

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Mon & Tue 5:30 PM,

Wed – Fri 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 this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Elaine Seuren

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Rose Davis,
Socorro De Chavez Shelley
Pawang, Peter McLachlan,
Sarah McLachlan, Carole
Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest

Fr Matthew Restall

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Leadership Formation Session
10:30 AM – 4:00 PM, 4 August, Buninyong

Trivia Night
6:30PM for 7PM start, 30 August, Parish Hall

SEA SUNDAY

Sea Sunday is a day when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be an Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Funds collected will be used to provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. To donate or for more information go to

www.stellamarisaustralia.org

Prayer for Sea Seafarers from Pope John Paul II

*Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean,
guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas
that they may reach the haven of peace and light
prepared in Him who calmed the sea.*

*As we set forth upon the oceans of the world
and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary,
the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.
Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,
that in heart and mind, work and deed,
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,
we will always look to Christ and say,
"Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"*

Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!

Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.

PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Catholic Social Services Victoria has published a brochure, "Let's build respectful communities" for parishes across Victoria that provides information about recognising, responding to, and preventing domestic violence, as well as further resources for those seeking help. The brochure forms part of CSSV's ongoing work within the Catholic community to build capacity for the prevention of family and domestic violence. For more information and to download the brochure, go to the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/prevention-of-domestic-violence-against-women/>

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Plans are in place for another trivia night in our parish. Please keep August 30 free so that you can join us and share your wealth of knowledge. If anyone has, or knows of someone who may be in a position to donate an item for a raffle to be held on the night, please contact the parish office. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

On Thursday we welcomed approximately 120 families to parent information sessions for the upcoming sacrament of Confirmation. Fr. Justin spoke to the families about the sacrament and offered them the chance to ask questions. Each of these families will work with their children over the coming weeks to educate them about the sacrament. The children will receive the sacrament at evening liturgies during the first week of September. Families have been invited to attend Masses on the last two weekends in August where their children will be introduced to the congregation. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE

Diocesan Social Justice Commission Reflection Day

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Further details to come. Registration will be required to attend. Save the date flyer available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ballarat-diocesan-social-justice-commission-reflection-day-with-michael-mcgirr-saturday-september-7-2024/>

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

Planned Giving receipts are now available. If you wish to receive a statement for your contribution to the Planned Giving program, please contact the parish office. The statements will not be sent out automatically this year.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$955
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$373.20

Planned Giving envelopes for the new financial year are available in the rear of our churches.

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE WORKSHOP

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community – including schools, parishes, diocese, organisations and religious orders – to join its 2024 Season of Creation convocation. Taking place from Thursday, September 12 to Saturday, September 14, the convocation will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Attendees will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform earnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves. More information is available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-earthcare-to-host-season-of-creation-workshop-in-september/>

CARITAS FILM SCREENING

Caritas Australia, Catholic Earthcare and Being with God in Nature invites you to an online screening of "Teilhard Visionary Scientist" by filmmakers Frank and Mary Frost on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 6.00pm (AEST). This film tells the story of an early 20th-century French Jesuit priest and scientist who, in relentless pursuit of the everlasting on earth, encounters fame, love and implacable opposition from his church. The film weaves together, largely in Teilhard's own words, themes from his life, including scientific adventure, the search for meaning, unresolved conflict with authority, the primacy of spirit and the power of love. More information available at

<https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/> . Scan or click the QR code to register.



SYNOD OF BISHOPS



Australia's Catholic bishops have welcomed the release of the working tool for members of the Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The document, known in Latin as the

Instrumentum laboris, originated from over 100 reports provided to the General Secretariat of the Synod including one submitted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The General Secretariat also considered reports submitted by parish priests who attended a three-day working session, which involved Australian clergy. And more than 200 comments were received from universities, associations of the faithful and other international entities. The *Instrumentum laboris* is not a magisterial document or a catechism, but a way to encourage prayer, dialogue, discernment and the "maturing of a consensus", according to an explanatory paper. It was written by a group of theologians as well as members and consultants of the XV Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod. To read the *Instrumentum laboris*, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY PREPARATION

In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Clergy in parishes, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. Ballarat dates are: August 4, 10.30am – 4.00pm, Ss Peter and Paul's Church, Buninyong, August 13, 5.00pm – 8.30pm, OLHC Church, Wendouree.

“Come Away to a Desert Place”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In every life, there is need for a balanced rhythm of work and re-creation. With so much pain and suffering in our world, the demands of living a gospel way of life can overwhelm us and cause us to act as though everything depends on us. While we can never really escape the responsibility of being there for those in need, today’s gospel reminds us that there is a time for being out on mission and a time for being with the one who calls and sends us.

The apostles have been busy—preaching, healing and driving out the “demons” as instructed. They now report back to Jesus with an account of their activities. Jesus listens and invites them to take time to rest and recuperate. The implication is that they have truly given themselves to the mission. “Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while” is the invitation that he extends to them. The reference to desert evokes the wilderness of Sinai through which the people of Israel are said to have travelled for forty years. For the contemporary

reader, it evokes the diversity of life in the desert, on the one hand, and the desertification of so much of the earth’s surface as a result of tree-clearing and mindless destruction of forests on the other. The “rest” that Jesus proposes is short-lived: the crowds pursue him. His response to these crowds is a physical one: he is “moved with compassion”. The Greek verb for being moved with compassion suggests a “gut” reaction in Jesus: he is physically affected in the depths of his being by the plight of the people who are “like sheep without a shepherd”, and he is ready to do something about it. As the story continues, we find Jesus inviting his disciples to accept responsibility for relieving the hunger of the people in the desert. “You give them something to eat” is his instruction to those who would turn the people away. Like the Israelites of old, the afflicted Earth community in any age needs good leaders or “shepherds” who will “practice justice and righteousness in the land”,



as the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us. The Hebrew word for justice refers to justice in the law courts. The word for righteousness is about right relationship at every level. Jesus demonstrates for his disciples and for us what justice and righteousness entail. As the gospel story unfolds, we find that Jesus’ disciples are well-meaning, though slow to learn. They are a bit like us in that. The more we take time to reflect, however, the more likely we are to respond with the compassionate heart of the “shepherd”, and the more likely we are to achieve lasting justice and right relationship in a world of unconscionable disparities and unprecedented displacement of peoples and of other-than-human species.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JEREMIAH 23:1-6
EPHESIANS 2:13-18
MARK 6:30-34

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

KINGS 4:42-44
EPHESIANS 4:1-6
JOHN 6:1-15