

4th August 2024

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'I am the living bread come down from heaven'

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

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 7

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:

Maureen Brandenburg, Bob Salazar (Philippines)

Anniversaries:

Margaret Dunn

Unwell: 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.

Community
Remember Revitalise
Hope

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$892
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$343.80

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

BISHOP PAUL VISITING

As part of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, Bishop Paul is visiting each of the 29 parishes of the Diocese. He will celebrate the Masses in our Parish on the weekend of September 14th – 15th with 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Alipius and 9.00am Sunday Mass at Ballarat East and 10.30am Mass at Buninyong. How might we recognise this visit of Bishop Paul to our Parish? Please forward your suggestions to the Parish Office in the coming weeks.

ANNIVERSARY PREPARATION

In December 2024 the 170th anniversary of Eureka and the 150th of the opening of the current St Alipius Church will be acknowledged. As a parish we will recognise these anniversaries on Saturday December 14th with the 6.00pm Vigil Mass followed by a byo picnic in the Church grounds. Do you have photos, stories or both which might be of interest to fellow parishioners? If so remember that we are looking to collect these as we plan an event to recognise 150 years of our church. Whether from Ballarat East, Buninyong or Clarendon we are keen to gather as many stories and photos as we can to share with those who attend this function, but we cannot do it without your help. Next meeting is on Sunday 11th August in the hall at 3 PM.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH

In preparation for the Ballarat Diocesan Assembly (November 15th - 16th), formation gatherings are being held to inform and explore the focus of the Diocesan Assembly. Each of the 29 parishes of the Diocese will be invited to nominate two delegates to attend the Assembly that will be held at Federation University, Mt Clear.

Pope Francis is providing leadership for a synodal Church and the Plenary Council of the Australian Church has recognised that the practice of synodality requires greater transparency in decision making, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised, giving witness to the equal dignity of women and men. The Plenary Council has affirmed a culture of synodality for parishes and dioceses, where healthy and fruitful relationships between clergy and laity “recognise different but complementary charisms and opportunities for co-responsibility”, and desire “consultative and collaborative approaches to governance at all levels in the Church.” The emphasis on listening and discernment for a synodal Church reveals how the People of God may be more centred on Christ, build healthy and respectful relationships amongst ourselves, and be effective missionary disciples in the Spirit.

Members of our Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council and Liturgy team have all been invited to attend, together with all interested parishioners. Please register to attend one of the formation gatherings to be held on Sunday August 4th from 12 Noon at Ss Peter & Paul Church Buninyong (following 10.30am Mass), and also on Tuesday August 13th from 5.00pm at OLHC Church Gillies St Wendouree.

Please register your attendance with Jane Collins in the Pastoral Ministry Office,
jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAFETRAC MODULE

There are still several people who have not completed their Safetrac module. If you are having issues completing this please contact the office as it is well overdue.

BAPTISMS

York James & Navy William Hutchison-Liston
Children of Joshua Liston and Maddison Hutchison

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

Pope Francis

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/>

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/>

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR RCIA

Are you someone or do you know someone who... Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. For information please contact Dallas 0412 532 572, Kevin 0421 959 960 or the Parish Office on (03) 5332 6611.

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

Thursday August 8 is the Feast Day of St. Mary of the Cross Mackillop. A prayer for her Feast Day is below:

God, through the intercession of Mary MacKillop, we pray that the fire of your compassion will ignite many hearts.

May Mary's attentiveness to your dream inspire us. May her energy to overcome injustice empower us. May we, like her, make manifest your Presence in our troubled world.

We pray that the beacon of her holiness shine as a blessing for the universal Church and our world.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Plans are in place for another trivia night in our parish. It will be held on August 30th, doors open from 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM start. 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.

Life-Sustaining Bread

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The question of the crowds "Rabbi, *when* did you come *here*?" has to do with time and place. They address Jesus as teacher, as one who can lead his questioners from one physical and metaphorical place to another. His response to their question introduces a discussion about bread. This opens up for readers through the ages a whole world of earth activity, of sun and soil and seed and plant, a world of planting and harvesting, of processing and cooking.

We have become so familiar with many of the sayings of Jesus that we can easily fail to notice the earth elements or the constructed environment in the text and treat them simply as backdrop for human activity rather than as having value in themselves. Jesus' claim "I am the bread of life" invites us to consider bread as matter essential to life as well as a metaphor for God's incarnate Word. It invites us to consider what both material and symbolic dimensions of the statement might mean for living a gospel way of life.

We might note the close attention in this passage to the material and social context of Jesus' words. Boats, a town (Capernaum), the sea (of Galilee), the land on the "other side" all feature in this text. For those who have visited Galilee and seen the first century boat preserved in Kibbutz Ginnosar, reference to boats might evoke the diversity of wooden materials used in boat construction, in this case mostly oak and cedar. It might also alert us to the human communities that interacted with the material world to build the boats so integral to the life of the lake communities. Those who have seen images of Capernaum will be aware of the basalt building materials used in the construction of the houses and might be led to wonder at the extraordinary processes of rock formation. The Sea of Galilee has agency in so many gospel stories. Here it is mentioned in passing, but must not be ignored, especially as we become aware of how perilously endangered it has become since its

waters have been exploited for irrigation over several decades. The "other side" evokes the rich agricultural land generally referred to as the "bread-basket" of the region. Mention of the crowd introduces children as well as women and men searching for Jesus. In other words, the text invites us into the whole Galilean world encoded in the text. Ironically, the words of the Johannine Jesus with their focus on the symbolic meaning of the bread turn his questioners away from the physical, material Earth elements that constitute both bread and flesh. Pope Francis invites us again and again to value and respect the material world. In these troubled times when the riches of the planet are concentrated in the hands of so few, those hungering for life sustaining bread can rightly expect to find their hunger satisfied by the disciples of the one who claims to be the "bread of life".

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXODUS 16:2-4, 12-15

EPHESIANS 4:17, 20-24

JOHN 6:24-35

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

KING 19:4-8

EPHESIANS 4:30-5:2

JOHN 6:41-51