

18th August 2024

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

‘My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.’

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 11:00 AM Mercy Place

Thursday 10:30 AM Ballan

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 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: Bill Jeffrey, Brodie Toohey, Kiara Ghambir (Year 1 St Alipius School), Vin Brandenburg, Lorna Lange

Anniversaries: Nicholas James McGuigan, Jim Dawson

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	\$769
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$422

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Finance Council Meeting
Thursday August 22nd at 7.30 am, Presbytery

Liturgy Team Meeting
Thursday August 22nd at 5.30 pm, Presbytery

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

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Over the next two weekends, the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be introduced at our Masses. These children have been preparing for the sacrament at home with their families and supported with further learning within their Religious Education classes at school. The children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at evening liturgies during the first week in September. Please make them welcome and keep the children and their families in your prayers during this special time.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM – ONLINE STUDY

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. Cycle 6 begins September 2. There are 40 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. For more information email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

PREPARING FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

During the week many gathered at OLHC Wendouree in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly that will focus on Leadership and Governance in a Synodal Church. Parishioners, priests, Religious, St John of God Healthcarers, staff from Catholic schools, CatholicCare, Diocesan Commissions and Councils gathered from Ararat, Ballarat, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Beaufort, Bungaree, Daylesford, Donald, Gordon, Redan and Wendouree.

Our parish of Ballarat East and Buninyong will now be invited to nominate two delegates to send to the Diocesan Assembly that will be held at Federation University on Friday evening November 15th and Saturday November 16th. Prior to the Assembly, delegates from parishes, clergy, religious, Diocesan Commissions, Boards and Councils, Catholic education, CatholicCare, Catholic organizations and agencies within the Diocese will be required to engage in some preparation (some will be online).

Our Parish Pastoral Council will discern the two delegates who will attend the Diocesan Assembly. Parishioners are invited to nominate other parishioners to be considered to be one of the parish delegates. Please forward your nomination to the Parish Office with the name of the person being nominated, qualities that you see in them that make them a suitable parish delegate and include your name as the parishioner nominating them.

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.

BAPTISMS

Willow Kylie & Tayte Watson Prato
Children of Luke and Kym

Charlie Willow Farrugia
Child of David and Rachael

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

Pope Francis

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

As we enter the final month of Winter we would like to acknowledge the wonderful support we have received from both the parish and school communities for our current appeal.

We recently received a donation of 4 hand made quilts which we are raffling with all proceeds going to our Winter Appeal. Tickets- \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3 will be available in the foyer. Winners will be announced Saturday 31st.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Issue 2 for 2024 of Our Diocesan Community is available now in church foyers. Don't miss your copy. Sit down with a cuppa and the ODC magazine and find out what's happening in the diocese. This edition is also available to view online.

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ODC-July-2024-1.pdf>

ACU BIG SING FOR A BIG CAUSE - AUGUST 25, 2024

The Australian Catholic University, in partnership with St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne) and St Patrick's College (Ballarat) is hosting "Big Sing for a Big Cause", which will see singers, choirs and instrumentalists combine for a special performance, raising funds for those affected by homelessness. The concerts will be in Ballarat and Melbourne, performing Street Requiem, a piece co-composed by Dr Kathleen McGuire, a renowned composer and ACU senior lecturer in Music Education. Donations will be raised for Peplow House (a ministry of CatholicCare Victoria) and ACU's Urgent Financial Hardship Grant. For more information go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/acus-big-sing-for-a-big-cause/>

POSITION VACANT: PASTORAL CARE AT MERCY PLACE BALLARAT AGED CARE

A permanent part-time position is available at Ballarat Mercy Place Aged Care. Applications are available on the seek link

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standout&ref=search->

[standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3f0a0309916d6ede9fc496a3](https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standout&ref=search-standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3f0a0309916d6ede9fc496a3). For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email:

BWurlod@mercy.com.au

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Have you booked your table for our trivia night? Our parish trivia night will be held on August 30th, doors open from 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM start. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles. What a great way to end winter and welcome the spring! A fun night is assured with some great prizes and raffles.

ANNIVERSARY PREPARATION

Another great meeting was held last Sunday, in preparation for the acknowledgement of the anniversaries of our parish and the events of Eureka. It's time to save the date now and let people know that we will recognise these anniversaries on Saturday December 14th with the 6.00pm Vigil Mass followed by a b.y.o. picnic in the church grounds. We continue to receive great photos and stories of days gone by and we thank the many parishioners who have provided them, but ask you to keep looking and thinking about what you could contribute to recognise 150 years of our parish. 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. Watch this space for more information over coming weeks.

MERCY PLACE THANKS BISHOP PETER

Since Mercy Place opened in 2018, retired Bishop Peter Connors has celebrated Mass in their Chapel most weeks. Bishop Peter has decided that the time has come for him to 'retire' from this weekly commitment. On **Wednesday August 21st 11.00am Mass** will be celebrated in the Chapel at Mercy Place with an opportunity to thank Bishop Peter for his ministry at Mercy Place.

The Banquet of Life

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



In this week's gospel passage, we continue our reflection on John 6. John's gospel was written towards the end of the first century. The Bread of Life discourse probably reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements in the discourse that would seem to be out of place from the lips of Jesus during his lifetime. The hearers of these words have lived and worshipped as followers of Jesus for some decades. They have gathered each week for the breaking of the bread and reflected deeply on the mystery of the Word made flesh, the mystery of life in Christ.

If there were eucharistic overtones subtly present in last week's gospel passage (John 6:41-51), they become quite overt as the Johannine Jesus responds to yet another objection from his opponents in this week's gospel.

Like the Israelites of old in the desert wanderings, these people are more than ready to grumble: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52).

Jesus does not really respond to the question "How....?" Rather, he goes on to tell those who want to hear that "life" for them depends on their eating his flesh and drinking his blood. The Johannine Jesus uses the present as well as the future tense.

It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet along. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation.

The life they experience in eating his flesh and drinking his blood is a present reality for them as well as a promise of on-going life. For the Israelites, life was in the blood: blood poured out of a person or of an animal meant life poured out. Clearly "life" is being used in John 6 for the quality of life the believers have come to experience through their incorporation into and participation in the community of the baptised, the sort of life that is not destroyed by death.

Life in the community unites the believers intimately with the risen Christ as well as with the God of

Israel whom the Johannine Jesus generally consistently refers to as "Father".

The first reading for today reminds us that other metaphors such as Wisdom were available to those of Jewish heritage for imaging the divine.

Wisdom is a female way of imaging the divine. In John's discourse, Jesus becomes Wisdom extending an invitation to the banquet of life. We keep receiving and accepting that invitation. It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet alone. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation. In the strength of the sustenance we receive in this banquet, we are also invited to bring a quality of life to all beings that struggle to exist, the human and the other-than-human. The potential for this is as boundless as the generosity of our God "enfleshed" in Jesus of Nazareth.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PROVERBS 9: 1-6
EPHESIANS 5:15-20
JOHN 6: 51-58

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JOSHUA 24:1-2,15-18
EPHESIANS 5:21-32
JOHN 6:60-69