

Faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

**Priests** Frs Justin Driscoll & Matt Restall

**Ballarat East Parish**

Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson  
03 5332 6611  
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00PM

**Bungaree and Gordon Parishes**

Aileen Toohey  
0492 903 409  
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

# Ministry District Newsletter

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults  
**Child Safety Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Aileen Toohey**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (C)

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday Feb 25th	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday Feb 26th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Feb 27th	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
	10:30 am	Funeral mass for John Quick Ss Peter and Paul's Buninyong	
Friday Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Saturday Mar 1st	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> - Vigil		Sunday Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Gordon
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

**THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Lavinia Mary Spiller, Anne Kane, Patrick Shanahan, John Quick

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME**

Jack Gittings, Laurie Mullane, Joan Shannon

**THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL**

Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, Socorro De Chavez, Joan Egan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons, Owen Widdison

### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

**Ballarat East Parish:**

Rose Consignado, Judith Glaubitz, Martin McGettigan, Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart.

**Bungaree Parish:**

Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree), Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Mahar & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).

**Gordon Parish:**

Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN OUR PARISHES

Saints Flexible Learning (Bakery Hill & Bungaree), St Brigid's Ballan, St Alipius' Ballarat East, St Francis Xavier Ballarat East, St Mary's Clarkes Hill, St Patrick's Gordon, Damascus College Mt Clear & Dunnstown, Emmaus Mt Clear.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Casserole Night

February 28<sup>th</sup> 6 pm – Ss. Peter & Paul's,  
Buninyong

### Baptism Preparation

March 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am or 5.30 pm  
Mary Glowrey Hall – St. Patrick's Cathedral

## SS. PETER & PAUL'S SOCIAL NIGHT

Ss. Peter & Paul's are hosting a Casserole/ Salad Night on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 6.00pm at St Peter & Paul's Church Hall in Buninyong. \$15 covers all wine beer and soft drink. Any profit to parish funds. Please bring a casserole or salad to share. All welcome.

## THANK YOU



**CatholicCare**  
VICTORIA

The CatholicCare  
Victoria team extends

its heartfelt gratitude to your parish community for your contribution to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. As the recipient of the \$5,000 donation from the Bishop's Christmas Appeal proceeds, your generosity and compassion will help us to continue supporting families, individuals, children, young people and the elderly, in our community. We are the Catholic Church's mission in action and we empower people to live their life to the full. Our services range from supporting people who need help accessing aged care services, and remaining independent at home, those that are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness; and those that are experiencing challenges with their mental health, or with relationships in their family. When families breakdown, we are there to ensure both parents and children have the support they need for their wellbeing and future. We have many services available in the Ballarat region and across Victoria. If you or someone you know needs support, please call 1800 123 228 or visit our website at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au). Without the support of the parish communities like yours, we would not be able to continue our mission to build thriving communities, where everyone belongs. Together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of people every day.

## RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin in the parish with a Parent Information Session on Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>. These meetings are compulsory for parents wishing to have their child receive the sacrament for the first time. Meetings will be held in the parish hall at 10.30 am and 6pm on this day. This sacrament precedes the preparation for the Sacrament of Eucharist which will in Term Two. If you are aware of anyone who would like to know more about this program, please ask them to contact the parish office.

## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

This year the season of Lent begins on March 5<sup>th</sup>. A number of Ash Wednesday Masses will be said across the Ministry District. Times are as follows:

Vigil Mass:	6.30 pm	Dunnstown
Wednesday:	9.15 am	Gordon
	9.30 am	Ballarat East
	10.30 am	Ballan
	11.00 am	Mercy Place
	6.00 pm	Buninyong

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC)

A recent status check for our Working with Children Checks indicates that some parishioners have cards which have expired, while others have new cards which we have yet to witness. It is important that all WWCC are up to date. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible if you are unsure of the status of your Working with Children Check. Thank you.

## ECUMENICAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FRIDAY MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>

St Paul's Uniting Church Ballan, 10.00am  
Brown Hill Uniting Church, 10.00am  
Skipton St Uniting Church Redan, 2.00pm  
Ballarat Central Uniting Church, 5.00pm

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests: \$923  
Maintenance of parish buildings: \$383.60  
Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.  
Counting team this week: No. 2

## BAPTISMS

Oliver Jordy, Charlie Jac, Quinn Pippy  
& Harry Mac McMaster  
Child of Simon and Sachja McMaster

## EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Due to a change made by Google to the sending of emails to Gmail accounts, we have had some difficulty with the sending of our bulletin in recent weeks. If you have not received your emailed copy of the bulletin in the past couple of weeks, please call the office and let us know.

## 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. The next Cycle begins March 10. There are 37 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. Scan the QR code for more information or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurjja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & AT RISK ADULTS

The parishes within our ministry district are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults. As part of our commitment volunteers are asked to have a Working with Children Check (WWCC), which lasts for five years before needing to be updated. Along with the WWCC, we also ask our volunteers to complete a Safeguarding module. This module is different to the WWCC in that its aim is to educate volunteers so that they might recognise people who are at risk. We also have nominated Child Safety Officers within our parishes. At Ballarat East this is Emily Clarke, Principal at St. Alipius' School. Emily can be contacted through the school office. In the parishes of Bungaree and Gordon the Child Safety Officer is the Parish Co-ordinator, Aileen Toohey.

## RCIA

St Alipius Parish is currently preparing four candidates (baptised) and catechumens (unbaptised) to be confirmed in the Church at Easter.

Beris, Iris, Vicky and Braydon have been accompanied over recent months by members of the parish community and on Saturday were part of a Retreat Day with Presentations and Testimonies from Parishioners.

The Rite of Naming for the RCIA will take place at the Vigil Mass this weekend.

The Rite of Election for catechumens and candidates will take place on **SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 at 12.30pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat**. The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. Everyone is welcome to attend this ceremony. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey together to deepen their faith and seek Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for us all.

## RCIA FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

The RCIA program also caters for children who are old enough to want to learn more about the church. Last weekend at 6pm and 9am Masses we met Lawrence, Halle, Millie, Arthur, Arlo, Claudia and Henry who are coming together to learn more about the Catholic faith. On their first evening together they enjoyed exploring the church and asking some great questions. In the weeks leading up to receiving the sacraments of Initiation in May, these children will work with us in the parish, but also at home with their families. Please continue to pray for these children and their families.

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

We urgently need your support. The ceasefire means more aid can assist people in Gaza, but the need is immense and the recovery long. Gaza's people cannot recover alone. They need the support of the global community to survive and rebuild. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413.

# The Way of Compassion and Love

Reflection on the Gospel – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C  
(Luke 6:27-38)

-Veronica M. Lawson



The classic message of today's gospel is addressed to "those who are listening", those who hear, those who are paying attention. To hear, to pay attention and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to be compassionate as God is compassionate, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible in those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

Luke's late first century communities were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (*hesed*) and womb-compassion (*rahamim*).

They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (*mishpat*) and right relationship (*sedeqah*) between people and nations, ever ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice and wrongdoing.

The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct. God-like compassion remains the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship.

Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division. There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of our planetary home. And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love. Countless troubled communities continue to yearn for such God-like compassion.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Samuel 26:2, 7-9  
Corinthians 15:45-49  
Luke 6:27-38

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

### Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:4-7  
Corinthians 15:54-58  
Luke 6:39-45