

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**

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

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
	6.30 pm	St. Brendan’s Dunnstown (Ash Wednesday Vigil)	
Ash Wednesday Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 am	St. Patrick’s Cathedral	
	9:15 am	St. Patrick’s Gordon	
	9:30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
	10:30 am	St. Brigid’s Ballan	
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
	6:00 pm	Ss Peter and Paul’s Buninyong	
Thursday Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Friday Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Saturday Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Mar 8 <sup>th</sup> - Vigil		Sunday Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

**WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:**

**THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Marko Mihaljevic, Patricia Briody (Lexton)

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME**

Barry Ridsdale

**THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL**

Megan Dunn (McGuigan), 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 Consignano, 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).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Baptism Preparation

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

### Reconciliation Information Sessions

March 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am or 6pm  
St. Alipius Parish Hall

### Caring Group Gathering

March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm  
St. Alipius Hall – All Welcome

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation

March 18<sup>th</sup> following the 5.30 pm Mass

## LENT

### POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE FOR LENT



“Let Us Journey Together in Hope” is Pope Francis’ message for Lent 2025. He reminds us that we cannot stay where it is comfortable, that we must always accompany others, and that we must

always do everything with the hope that never disappoints. To read the message scan or click the QR code.

### THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR LENT

Michael Leunig

*On this day (at this time), your gift to us O God, help us to move simply: To look softly: To allow emptiness: To let the heart create for us.*

Jim Quillinan (*Along the Track*)

Lent is not just a time for penance, or self-denial, it also offers us the gift of time to reassess, to think again, so that we can become more sensitive and aware of the invitation of God to friendship. As Boris Pasternak put it: When God knocks on the door of your life, it is often no louder than the beating of your heart and so it is very easy to miss it. Lent is offered to help us not to miss it.

### LENTEN REFLECTIONS IN THE MINISTRY DISTRICT



Following 10.30am Mass at Ballan on Thursdays March 13<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>. 10.30am.

Facilitated by Dr. Rosemary Canavan, the Lenten Reflection will be guided by the framework of the *Conversation in the Spirit*. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the Gospel and readings of the week as we come together as one ministry district. All are welcome to attend.

Fr Matt will be guiding a Lenten and Easter reflection group at St Alipius every Saturday during March and April between 10.15am and 11.00am. To join, email Fr Matt at: [matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### INTRODUCTION TO THE IGNATIAN WORKOUT FOR LENT RETREAT

This Lent, become a spiritual athlete and join Tim for *The Ignatian Workout for Lent*. Each Monday he’ll share audio reflections accompanied by suggestions for prayer and action. The online retreat begins this week of and continues through Easter Week.

[The Ignatian Workout for Lent: An Online Retreat with Tim Muldoon](#)

## PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

Please pray for health and healing for Pope Francis, entrusting him to the healing care of our Lord.

*O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favourably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd.*

*Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Source: [USCCB](#).

## DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of e-News has been published and is available to view at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/> or you can subscribe on this page to receive future editions straight to your email address.

## 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.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> RITE OF RECONCILIATION

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation Service will follow the 5.30 pm Mass on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.

## EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Last weekend we sent emails to all those who usually receive the bulletin in this manner. Unfortunately when we returned to the office on Tuesday we found that many of them had 'bounced'. If you did not receive your email we apologise but unfortunately it is beyond our control. The issue only relates to gmail addresses so we hope that everyone else is receiving their bulletin. We will try again this weekend, as at this point we have no other options. If you have an email address that is not gmail, please feel free to pass it on as that would solve our issue to some degree.

## 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.

## AGED CARE PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION SESSION

On Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup> there will be an information session for those who would be interested in finding out more about support the pastoral care of residents in our local aged care facilities. If you are interested in attending this session please email Fr. Matt.

[matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8, 2025

God, whose love and goodness gathers us in: we pray for women all over the world, especially those challenged by poverty and other injustice. Stir us to know women's dignity. Quieten us to listen to women's voices. Awaken us to see women's realities. Strengthen us to stand for women's rights. Fill us with hope to make a better future together. Amen.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/international-womens-day-reflection/>

## CARING GROUP GATHERING

The Caring Group will be in the parish hall next Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. All are welcome to attend for a cuppa and a chat. Please bring a small plate.



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

### Project Compassion Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



**UNITE  
AGAINST  
POVERTY**

**this Lent**

**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

**Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

## 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: \$1000

Maintenance of parish buildings: \$478

Thank you to all pa

rishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

Counting team this week: No. 3

# On Being Like the Teacher

Reflection on the Gospel –

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 6:39-45)



“Everyone who is *fully qualified* will be like the teacher,” says the Lukan Jesus. What might it mean to become “fully qualified” for discipleship? For Jesus, being fully qualified in the ways of discipleship is not so much a matter of acquiring book knowledge as it is a question of being like the teacher. This is not to discount the importance of acquiring a deep knowledge of the tradition. Jesus certainly knew his own tradition well. Luke presents him as literate, as capable of reading from the sacred scriptures in the Nazareth synagogue and of interpreting the prophetic texts for the assembled congregation. In today’s gospel selection, Luke also presents Jesus as familiar with the secular wisdom of his age. The sayings about the blind leading the blind and the log and speck have clear parallels in ancient literature. Jesus’ closest followers were educated business people with an appreciation of and commitment to their traditions. They were fully qualified in the sense that they had the personal resources to make a difference in the lives of those on the edge. The primary qualification for the disciple is, however, to be “like the teacher”. Jesus wants his followers to live out in their lives the pattern of his life of attentiveness to the pain of the world, his life of compassion and justice and mercy. Seeing with clarity (without a log in one’s eye) is at the heart of the gospel way of life that he proclaims. This theme of

“seeing” permeates Luke’s writings. Seeing and understanding one’s own self is part of that, as is the capacity to see and to understand the rhythm of the forms of life that constitute one’s habitat. The recurrence of agricultural images in Jesus’ sayings is quite remarkable. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, a Jewish village in Lower Galilee, home to vines and olive trees, to goats and sheep and some four hundred human inhabitants. From early childhood, Jesus saw the processes involved in ensuring that the vines produced grapes. He knew the importance of the water from the spring for nurturing the grain crops in the valley close to his home. He knew that brambles and thorns did not yield any edible fruit. It would seem that being “like the teacher” includes the virtue of “attunement” to the natural world, a concept I am learning about from friend and moral theologian Richard Wade.

Finally, to be a disciple is to be a “good person”, one who produces “good treasure” out of the abundance of one’s heart. In the Jewish tradition, the heart was the seat of wisdom and knowledge as well as the seat of emotions. In 1 Kings 12:3, for instance, God is said to give Solomon a wise and discerning heart/mind. The Hebrew word for heart (*lev*) is often translated into English as “mind”. Heart and mind are as one-so must it be for us as we strive to be good disciples.

## THIS WEEK’S READINGS

### Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

## NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13