

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

1st Sunday of Lent (C)

9th March 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday Mar 11 th	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday Mar 12 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Mar 13 th	9.30 am 10.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East St. Brigid's Ballan	
Friday Mar 14 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Saturday Mar 15 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Mar 15 th - Vigil		Sunday Mar 16 th	
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

Pauline Prince, Max Hills, Gary Johnson, Kay Cocking, Helen Johnson

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

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 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).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Finance Council

March 13th @ 7:30 am

Liturgy Committee Meeting

March 13th @ 5 pm

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

March 18th following the 5.30 pm Mass

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

March 20th @ 6.30 pm

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are currently considering the reintroduction of Children's Liturgy within the parish. This program has been quite successful in the past and we would love to be able to offer it again. To run Children's Liturgy we would require two adults for each session, so we are asking for an indication from anyone who may like to know more about what is involved. At this stage we would plan to have the program on Saturday evenings where children would leave the church after the opening prayer and return during the Procession of Gifts. While our children participate in a program, hearing scripture and discussing it at a level which is appropriate to them. If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact Cathy at the parish office.

BAPTISMS

Matilda Wren Sternberg

Child of Brian Sternberg and Emma Davie

Evelyn Brielle Lemasson

Child of Christopher and Cassandra Lemasson

LENTEN REFLECTIONS IN THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

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

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](#)

AGED CARE PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION SESSION

On Thursday March 27th 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

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests: \$1013
Maintenance of parish buildings: \$283.20
Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

Counting team this week: No. 4

PARISH DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently looking to update the parish directory, so if you are a member of a current group within the parish please collect a questionnaire from the foyer of the church and complete it. The completed form should be dropped into the parish office by March 20th. We thank you for taking the time to help us update our parish related information.

EXECUTIVE REPORT FROM THE 2024 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

In early 2024 Bishop Paul Bird asked the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Panel to facilitate a Diocesan Assembly as part of its 150th year anniversary celebrations. Delegates from all communities including our twenty-nine Parishes, Diocesan Agencies, Councils and Commissions, Catholic Education, Catholic Health and Aged Care, Catholic Social Services, Clergy and Religious Congregations within the Diocese were invited to attend over two days at the gathering held in November. The focus of discussion at the assembly was leadership and governance and how each can be promoted within our Diocesan communities to build a synodal, missionary church. In preparation for the assembly, there were many smaller gatherings throughout the Diocese to reflect on existing leadership within our communities and to share thoughts in a prayerful atmosphere, which followed a method of 'Conversations in the Spirit'. This process of 'Synodal Conversations' was then also the methodology adopted at the assembly.

Delegates from our Ministry District were Rachel Allen & Cathy Prunty (Ballarat East), Di Reynolds & Damian Ryan (Bungaree), Mark Conlan and Sue Daly (Gordon) as well as Frs Justin & Matt.

The Key Themes from the assembly are:

- Mission & Identity
- Relationships
- Transformation & Conversion
- Formation
- Structural Change
- Trust

The executive report can be found on the Diocesan website and the most [recent news](#)

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT SPRINGBANK

St Michael's Church, Springbank, will celebrate its 125th Anniversary with Bishop Paul Bird at a Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 29, 2025 commencing at 6.30pm with a light supper to follow. All welcome.

CHOIR FOR MASS OF THE OILS 2025

Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 14, 2025. Practice times are Sundays, March 30, April 6 and April 13 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

ANOINTING MASS

Volunteers are needed to help transport people to the anointing mass at St Alipius at 11:30 AM on Friday, April 11. The mass will be followed by a light lunch in the hall. Please let the office know if you can help transport people who would like to attend.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE BALLARAT 2025 REUNIONS

Damascus College warmly welcomes the Classes of 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 to celebrate the 2025 Reunion Day! Join us as we reconnect, reminisce, and honour these milestone anniversaries on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear. The day will begin with a free welcome reception from 2.00pm – 4:00pm (doors open at 1.30pm for registration). Enjoy light refreshments, drinks, a campus tour, and some simple formalities during this shared gathering, followed by a group photo. The after party for each cohort will continue at their own private individual locations from 7:00pm onwards. Full event details and tickets at

<https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>

“Power-With” rather than “Power-Over”

Reflection on the Gospel-1st Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 4:1-11)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Lent is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the “wilderness” or “desert place” and grappling with the mysteries of life. While deserts are often depicted as uninhabited or desolate regions, anyone who has spent time in such places knows that the desert supports a rich diversity of other-than-human life. Human retreat to the wilderness can be an opportunity to encounter God in the unfamiliar and to understand oneself in relation to the other-than-human. It can reveal to us our capacities for right relationship with God, with each other, and with the Earth. Right relationship resides in “power-with” rather than “power-over”.

In Israel’s story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness...testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deuteronomy 8:2). Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many human beings before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the Greek *peirazein* than the usual “tempted”].

The three-fold drama of the testing of Jesus in the wilderness is about the proper exercise of power and about trust in a loving God. In refusing to turn the stones of the wilderness into bread in order to satisfy his own hunger, the

Lukan Jesus demonstrates that he is not prepared to exercise power over the other-than-human Earth, even if he had the capacity to work such magic. By refusing to accept the “glory of all the kingdoms of the world”, he shows that power over the human communities of the Earth is not “of God” and that worship belongs to God alone. Finally, in refusing to cast himself from the parapet of Israel’s holiest shrine, the Jerusalem Temple, he makes it clear that he is not prepared to test the power of God to rescue him from a self-inflicted death or to use God’s holy place to such ends. The Lukan Jesus passes the tests that the people Israel failed in the wilderness of Sinai.

Adelaide priest, Michael Trainor, in a wonderfully sensitive reading of Luke’s gospel, detects three ecological ethical principles in today’s gospel reading: 1) Earth is to be cared for and treated respectfully, not ravaged through greed; 2) All ecological and environmental engagement is grounded in and enhanced by one’s communion with God; and 3) Earth’s resources are to be respected by all and not usurped as a means of power and control by one over another (*About Earth’s Child* 2012, 107-109). These principles derive from today’s gospel story as a whole with its three-fold testing and from Jesus’ three-fold response to these tests. As Earth’s people and Earth’s bounty are exploited to wage war in so many places, we pray with all our being that peace and order will prevail.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

1st Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

2nd Sunday of Lent
Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
Luke 9:28-36