



St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong

Updated April 2026

Parish Office: 86 Victoria St., Ballarat East

Mobile: 0437 505517

Email: [ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Website: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-east/>

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9am till 12 noon

## **St. Alipius' Church**

82 Victoria St

Ballarat East

### **Mass Times**

Saturday 6pm (5pm during July – Sep)

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays 9.00 am

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10.30 am

## **Ss. Peter & Paul's Church**

701 Fiskens St

Buninyong

### **Mass Times**

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10.30 am

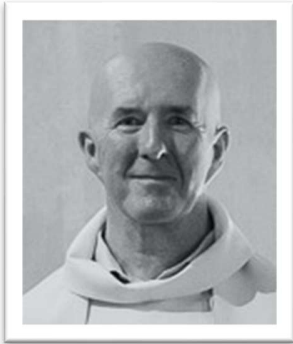
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 9.00 am

### **Other**

Baptisms, Marriages & Reconciliation by appointment

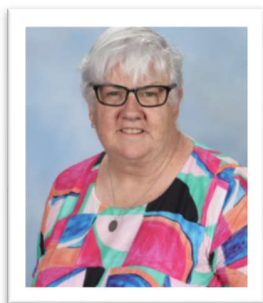
*Please refer to our parish bulletin which can be found on our website for weekday  
Mass times.*

# Personnel



**Fr Justin Driscoll** has been a priest of the Diocese of Ballarat for 35 years, serving in a variety of roles and ministries. Prior to this appointment to the Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon parishes he's served in all of the parishes of the Greater Ballarat area at various times. In addition to parish ministry, he leads adult faith and spiritual formation opportunities, retreats for staff in Catholic education and healthcare as well as facilitating retreats for clergy throughout Australia. He continues to accompany pilgrims to Ireland, the Holy Land, in the footsteps of St Paul and the Aussie Camino. [justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Fr Shaiju Mathew** is a priest of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle from Kerala, India. He arrived in Ballarat in March 2020 as COVID lockdowns commenced and served in the Cathedral parish before being appointed to Mildura and the Sunraysia parishes. In 2023 he was appointed Administrator of the parishes of Ouyen and Robinvale, before joining us at Ballarat East in May 2025. [Shaiju.mathew@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Shaiju.mathew@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



**Cathy Prunty** has been our Parish Co-ordinator since August 2022 and a parishioner in the parish since 1996. The role of Parish Co-ordinator includes the co-ordination of the Sacraments of Initiation which sees Cathy working with the parish schools, supporting young children who are preparing to receive these sacraments. Cathy loves working with people of all ages and enjoys the variety which her job brings.

**Natalie Gleeson** has been a member of our parish since childhood and became the Administrative Assistant in August 2022. Natalie is well known to parishioners, having first served the parish as an altar server. In recent years, as part of her role, Natalie has organised several social events which parishioners have enjoyed. Nat is responsible for ensuring that the weekly bulletin is completed and received by all on a weekly basis.



# Parish Committees

## **Finance Council**

The Parish Finance Council is currently chaired by Paul O’Beirne. Paul is joined on this council by Greg O’Beirne, John White, Paul Dempsey, Carmel Flynn and Brett Holloway. Justin Driscoll, Shaiju Mathew (Co-Pastors), Cathy Prunty (Parish Co-ordinator) and Jackie Wrigglesworth (Finance Officer) are ex-officio members. The Finance Council meets monthly to consider income and expenditure in the parish.

## **Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently chaired by Martin McGettigan. Other members of the council include Jan Cosgriff, Dianne McKeegan, Judith Glaubitz and Rose Consignado. They are joined by ex-officio members Frs Justin Driscoll, Shaiju Mathew (Co-Pastors) and Cathy Prunty (Parish Co-ordinator). The Parish Pastoral Council meets monthly and is responsible for the pastoral needs of parishioners. Among other things the council agenda can include policy, maintenance, social activities, outreach and safeguarding. At each meeting there is a report from one or both co-pastors.

## **Liturgy Committee**

The Liturgy Committee coordinates the liturgical life of the parish including the various liturgical ministries, provides formation and plans and prepares the various feasts and seasons of the Church liturgical year. Marg McCarty, Mike Maloney, Rose Consignado, Michael Goss, Tim Healy and Liz McCartin are members of this committee. Ex-officio members are Frs. Justin and Shaiju and Cathy Prunty.

*If you would like to have one of our committees discuss any issue, please leave your name and contact number at the parish office and someone will be in touch.*

# Liturgy in the Parish

**Altar Servers** – Children can become altar servers after they celebrate their First Eucharist.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** – Children's Liturgy caters for kinder and school aged children. During liturgies children are invited to participate in prayer, reflect on the gospel in relation to their lives and share their reflections and participate in creative activities.

**Sacristans** – The Sacristan prepares the church for Mass and after Mass puts the vessels away and ensures that the church is left neat and tidy. They are rostered on a regular basis.

**Communion Ministers** – Communion Ministers assist in distributing communion during Mass and take communion to the sick and housebound.

**Music** – Music is integral to liturgical celebrations. Musicians and singers assist the assembly to fully participate in liturgy. At times when musicians are unavailable, recorded music is used.

**PowerPoint Preparation & Operation** - In conjunction with the liturgy committee, parishioners reflect on the readings and choose music accordingly. This music is embedded in PPT's, along with some prayers and responses of the Mass according to the guidelines of the Ballarat Diocese. Parishioners are rostered to operate the PowerPoint throughout the Mass.

**Readers** – Reading rosters are prepared regularly in our churches for both the readings of the day and the Prayers of the Faithful.

**Prayers of the Faithful** – These are written each week by parishioners rostered to do so who have read and prayed the Scripture readings of the day, brought them into dialogue with events that are occurring in the world, church and local community and composed prayers for the community to pray.

*Formation and training is available for all of these ministries. If you are interested in joining one of these ministries, please leave your name and number with the parish office and someone will contact you.*

# Sacraments in the Parish

**Baptism** – The Sacrament of Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation, and we welcome the opportunity to accompany parents who seek baptism for their child. Beginning the journey in faith as parents, attendance at a preparation session is a pre-requisite. These are held in the hall at St. Patrick's Cathedral on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 10.00 am or 5.30 pm and aim to provide the parents with relevant information and support. Baptisms can be booked through the parish office at any time and are usually celebrated after 10.30am Mass on Sundays at either Ballarat East or Buninyong.

**Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist** - Sacramental preparation for Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist is family based, Catholic school supported and co-ordinated by the parish. Preparation for Confirmation is open to children who are in Year 3 at school or older. Information sessions for families are held at the beginning of each period of preparation and materials are available. Parents of children attending government or independent schools should contact the parish office when they feel that their child is ready to participate in the sacramental program.

**RCIA – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is a process for people who are interested in becoming Catholic. The journey for those who choose to explore and seek full initiation into the Catholic Church occurs gradually and in the midst of the faith community and is marked by several distinct steps and ceremonies. Initiation into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist occurs at the Easter Vigil Mass. There is a team of parishioners who accompany the catechumens and baptised candidates and others who serve as catechists and sponsors.

**RCIA for children of catechetical age** – The RCIA has a process for children who are over the age of 7 years which supports them if they are seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church. These children are always supported by their parents during this time and receive the sacraments when ready to do so.

**Marriage** – Couples seeking to celebrate their Marriage according to the Rites of the Catholic Church are asked to contact one of the priests who will guide them in their preparation. At least one partner needs to be Catholic for this to occur. Marriages can take place in St. Alipius or Ss. Peter and Paul's Church or at another suitable venue. For some this is not a Church building. Please talk with one of the priests about the possibilities.

# Catholic Education in our Parish

Our parish encompasses a variety of Catholic education opportunities catering for students from kindergarten through to Year 12 and beyond . The governance of these education facilities varies with St Alipius Kindergarten governed by Eureka Community Kindergarten Association (ECKA), Damascus College, Emmaus Primary, St Alipius Parish School and St Francis Xavier Primary governed by Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) and Saints College governed by Edmund Rice Education Australia, Victorian School Limited (EREA). For information regarding any of these facilities, please contact each place directly.

<p><b>St. Alipius Kindergarten</b> 78 Victoria St, Ballarat 0408 276 830 <a href="mailto:alipius.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au">alipius.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p><b>St. Alipius Parish Primary School</b> 106 Victoria Street, Ballarat East Principal: Emily Clarke Phone: 5331 1816 <a href="mailto:alipius@saballarat.catholic.edu.au">alipius@saballarat.catholic.edu.au</a></p>
<p><b>Emmaus Catholic Primary School</b> 1503 Geelong Road Mount Clear Principal: Ethan Corfee Phone: 53302266 <a href="mailto:admin@emtclear.catholic.edu.au">admin@emtclear.catholic.edu.au</a></p>	<p><b>St. Francis Xavier Primary School</b> 100 Fortune Street, Ballarat East Principal: Mark Hogbin Phone: 5331 6311 <a href="mailto:office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au">office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au</a></p>
<p><b>Damascus College</b> Coeducational Catholic Secondary 1412 Geelong Road, Mount Clear Principal: Steven Mifsud Phone: 5337 2222 <a href="mailto:info@damascus.vic.edu.au">info@damascus.vic.edu.au</a></p>	<p><b>Saints College Flexible Learning</b> Humffray Street, Ballarat Principal: Troy Strybosch <a href="mailto:ballarat@saints.vic.edu.au">ballarat@saints.vic.edu.au</a></p>

# Sisters of Mercy

The Sisters of Mercy have been a presence in Ballarat East since Mother Agnes Graham founded the community in 1881. Since that time they have made a significant contribution to the history of the city and surrounding areas, particularly in the area of education but more recently in social welfare and pastoral care, carrying out the ministry founded in Dublin in 1931 by Venerable Catherine McAuley. Refugees and asylum seekers have been a particular focus of the Sisters' ministry for several decades. The Sisters of Mercy have an office in Victoria Street.

## Parish Safeguarding

---

Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children,  
young people and vulnerable adults

---

Safeguarding Officer: Emily Clarke 5332 1816

The Safeguarding Officer for St. Alipius Parish is Emily Clarke who is the principal of St. Alipius Primary School. Anyone who has concerns about the safety or wellbeing of children, young people or vulnerable adults in our parish should contact Emily.

As part of the safeguarding guidelines in our parish Working with Children Check (WWCC) and Safetrac are required by volunteers. A WWCC is valid for 5 years and a copy must be provided to the parish office by volunteers whenever the check is updated.

In line with the WWCC, the diocese asks that parishioners do a Safeguarding online module which increases volunteers' confidence in recognising when someone may not be safe. This module takes about 30 minutes of your time and we are very grateful for people's willingness to do this to ensure that our parish is a safe place to be.

Parish office staff are very willing to assist you in this area.

# Parish Groups

**Caring Group** – The Caring Group gathers on the first Friday of each month in the parish hall for a cuppa. Everyone is welcome to join them at 2pm for a chat.

**Family Group** - The St. Alipius Family group meets once a month for a meal at different venues. It provides an opportunity for people to enjoy a social occasion with other members of the parish.

**Funeral Ministry Team** – The funeral ministry team accompanies the family of a loved one who has died. They will support them in preparing a Funeral Mass or Funeral Prayers (including music and readings). They coordinate with the priest and the Funeral Director and then make arrangements for the use of the Church. Catholic funerals may be held in one of our Churches or at the Funeral Directors or another suitable venue. Sometimes the funeral is simply prayers at the graveside or the Crematorium Chapel. Catholics may be either buried or cremated. Each November the Funeral Ministry Team prepare a Remembrance Mass, inviting families who have had someone die during the past twelve months to attend.

**Christian Meditation** – Each Monday afternoon, members of the Ministry District come together in the parish hall for Christian Meditation. Everyone is welcome to attend these sessions which begin at 5pm.

**St. Vincent de Paul** – The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor, with love, respect, justice, hope and joy. Other activities supporting the poor in the community are organised on a needs basis. Members of our Ballarat East Conference serve at the Ballarat Assistance Centre on a rostered basis. Contact 5334 2844 or <https://www.vinnies.org.au>

For more information on any of these groups, please contact the parish.

# Aged Care Facilities in the Parish

Within our parish there are six aged care facilities:

- Calvary Kirralee, 207-213 Richard Street Ballarat East
- Estia Health, 112-114 Whitehorse Rd Mount Clear
- Eureka Village Hostel, 16-40 Balmoral Drive Ballarat East
- Geoffrey Cutter Centre, Kenny Street Ballarat East
- Mecwacare Aged Care, 508 Kline Street Canadian
- Mercy Place Aged Care, 60 Corbett Street, Ballarat East

Mass is celebrated in the Chapel at Mercy Place each Wednesday at 11.00am for residents and families with parishioners welcome to attend.

Catholic residents in other facilities enjoy visits from generous members of our parish who visit regularly to take communion. Our co-pastors say Mass in these facilities on a rotating basis.

We appreciate that there are many parishioners who live at home but cannot attend Mass. If you are aware of anyone in this position who would like to receive communion, please let the parish office know.

---

Are you new to the parish? We would love to hear from you. Please write your details below and drop them in to the parish office at your convenience.

Name:

Phone Number:

Email: