

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

Palm Sunday

13 April 2025 Year C



MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses

Tuesday Apr 15 th	10:30 am	Funeral Mass – Louis Kervarec
	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East
Wednesday Apr 16 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome) – Anointing Mass
Holy Thursday Apr 17 th	6.30 pm	St. Michael’s Bungaree
	7.00 pm	St Alipius Ballarat East
Good Friday Apr 18 th	3.00 pm	St. Michael’s Springbank
	3.00 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East

Weekend Masses

Saturday Apr 20 th – Easter Vigil		Sunday Apr 21 st – Easter Sunday	
7.00 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

Louis (Ray) Kervarec, Fr. Kevin Murphy, Socorro De Chavez (Fr Jorge’s Mum), Lynette Alison

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Neil Hanrahan

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Troy Watson (Steenhuis family) 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

Mass of the Oils

Monday 14th April @ 1 pm
St. Patrick's Cathedral

Way of the Cross Ballarat North

Beginning at St. Columba' Church
Good Friday @ 10 am

PARISH THANK YOU

In recent weeks the parish is pleased to have been able to show their appreciation to a number of people who have been working quietly to support our parish. Most of these people have been doing this work over a number of years and we are very grateful for the time they have given.

Greg O'Beirne, Teresa Fletcher and Maria Jones have each been recognised for their work on the Parish Pastoral Council. While Teresa is taking a well-earned break, Greg is now sharing his talents with the Parish Finance Council and Maria has moved to the St. James Parish. Mark Hogbin was also recognised for his work on the Parish Pastoral Council where he was the principal representative from our local parish schools. Arnoud Goossens has also been thanked for his work on the Parish Finance Council. Arnoud has stepped away from the PFC in recent times after working for many years in this area. Last, but certainly not least we are pleased to recognise the work of Elaine Loader. Elaine worked tirelessly for close to 30 years to keep up the parish registers for the sacraments. Her beautiful handwriting has recorded baptisms, confirmations and deaths and was a contribution which very few knew about and for which we are extremely grateful. We offer our thanks to each of these people and all who contribute in some way to parish life.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests: \$1013

Maintenance of parish buildings: \$ 493

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

LITURGY ROSTERS

Liturgy rosters for the coming months have been prepared and emailed out. If you missed out on your roster please let the office know.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND

The Good Friday Holy Land Collection is extremely important, and a mission that we all can assist with. The hope is that parishioners will again be as generous as they have always been. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. The Franciscan Leader of the Custody of the Church in the Holy Land has written *"the most important social activity is our schools. We have 18 schools in the Holy Land. These schools are crucial because they provide not only cultural education but also human and religious education. We stress the importance of living together and the values of (papal encyclical) "Fratelli Tutti."* Our Magnificat music school is a rare example of coexistence: Most of the teachers are Jewish and most of the students are Muslim and Christian. Through these efforts, we hope to foster a mentality of living together and counter the polarization fueled by politics and ideology."

PILGRIMAGE WITH ST PAUL - MISSIONARY OF HOPE

In this Jubilee year, dedicated to becoming Pilgrims of Hope, pilgrims are invited to experience the world of the early Christian communities. The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. The proposed itinerary departs Melbourne on Sunday, September 21st 2025 with the pilgrims arriving in Istanbul and proceeding to Adana, Tarsus, Antioch, Ephesus, Troas, Kavala, Philippi, Thessalonica and Athens with the possibility of an extension to Rome. For further information please contact Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong Street North (PO Box 740), Ballarat, 3350, ph. 03 5331 8077, email info@lifestyletravel.com.au or Fr Justin Driscoll justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MASS OF THE OILS 2025

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils this year on Monday, April 14, 2025 at Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 1.00pm. Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall. The Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/qUVA7OFoZ9c?feature=share>

FR MATT'S FAREWELL – APRIL 27TH

The Ministry District is farewelling Fr. Matt on Sunday April 27th at the Wallace Hotel from 12 noon onwards. To assist us in booking reservations, please indicate your interest with Martin McGettigan (Ballarat East), Damian Ryan (Bungaree) or Mark Conlan (Gordon) or contact the parish office on 5332 6611 by Wednesday 23rd April.

MINISTRY DISTRICT ASSEMBLY FACILITATORS AND DELEGATES GATERING

On Wednesday April 16th the six delegates from our Ministry District parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon, together with other parishioners who were delegates from other parts of the Mission of our Diocese (Catholic education, Religious life...), table facilitators of the spiritual conversations as well as workers for the Assembly have been invited to gather at Buninyong with Bishop Paul and Archbishop Charles Balvo, the Papal Nuncio to Australia, visiting the Diocese of Ballarat during Holy Week.

In the Easter Season, our parishes will engage with the final report of the Assembly on Leadership and Governance for a Missionary Synodal Church with the eight key themes that have emerged – Synodal conversations, Mission and Identity, Relationships, Transformation and Conversion, Formation, Structures, Trust and Recognising existing challenges.

PARISH BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION

In recent weeks our parish has changed the system we use for storing data electronically. With the migration to the new system we will be changing the way that we distribute the parish bulletin each week. As a result of this you will now be need to be a 'subscriber' to our bulletin and at any time you will have the option to 'unsubscribe'. In order to subscribe you can use the following link or QR code and from there it is very straightforward. If you need help doing this you are most welcome to call into the presbytery during office hours and we will be happy to provide the support you need.

<https://www.catholicparish.app/subscription?id=0010l00000Eh7RBIAZ&req=subscribe>



CALLING ALL SINGERS

This Tuesday, the 15th of April at 3pm, a rehearsal will take place for all those who are willing to be part of a choir for the St Alipius Holy Saturday Vigil Mass. If you have a voice, can hold a note and enjoy singing, come a long and use your gift for the Glory of God and to help the congregation raise heart and mind to God this Easter.

HOLY WEEK IN OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

Monday April 14 th	Mass of the Oils	1.00 pm	St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
Holy Thursday April 17 th	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	St. Michael's, Bungaree St. Alipius, Ballarat East
Good Friday April 18 th	Buninyong Churches Way of the Cross Ballan Stations of the Cross Celebrations of the Lord's Passion	8.30 am 10.00 am 3.00 pm 3.00 pm	Meet at the Town Hall steps St. Alipius, Ballarat East St. Michael's, Springbank
Holy Saturday April 19 th	Easter Vigil fire and Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	St. Brendan's, Dunnstown St. Alipius, Ballarat East
Easter Sunday April 20 th	Easter Sunday Masses	9.00 am 9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am	St. Patrick's, Gordon St. Alipius, Ballarat East St. Brigid's, Ballan Ss. Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Journeying Together in Hope

Reflection on the Gospel-Passion Sunday Year C

(Luke 22:14-23:56)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Jesus of Nazareth is executed in Jerusalem when the city is filled with pilgrims who have come to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover which commemorates God's deliverance of God's people from slavery in Egypt. A year after his execution, when his friends and family journey together once more for the Passover feast, they find new meaning in the celebration. Every Passover from now on will mark the anniversary of Jesus' death and will be celebrated through the lens of their experience of his life, death and resurrection. They will share their memories of the one they loved so deeply and reflect on the meaning of his life in the light of their wisdom traditions. Every element of the Passover story will echo with resonances of the life of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. They journey together in hope. It is not surprising, then, that these final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of the Jesus' story to be committed to writing. Neither is it surprising that each of the canonical gospels includes an account of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection and that each approaches the events from its own particular perspective.

There are several features unique to Luke's account. In my view, the most remarkable is Jesus' readiness to forgive his executioners even while they continue to mock him. "They do not know what they are doing," he says. As we are aware, "not knowing" or ignorance can have disastrous consequences.

Another unique Lukan feature is Jesus' capacity to reach out to others, to "turn towards" the women of Jerusalem, to receive their compassionate mourning and to express his own concern for them. In line with his overall intention to demonstrate that Christianity is no threat to the Roman Empire, Luke repeatedly points to the innocence of Jesus. In Luke's gospel, Jesus is the rejected prophet who trusts utterly in God and into whose hands he entrusts his Spirit. He dies with the same sort of dignity that has characterised his entire life.

It is easy to let our own hurt find expression in criticism of others whom we fail to understand. It is also easy to retaliate in the face of unjust accusation and insult. It takes courage to name unjust treatment for what it is, to forgive wholeheartedly, to retain our peace of mind and to trust in the power of God to break through the ignorance that engenders violence. Palestinian activist Lucy Nusseibeh, founder of MEND (Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy) and the members of the Israeli Peace Now movement have learned that lesson and are promoting the way of non-violence in the face of unconscionable destruction. As we enter into the mysteries of Holy Week, we might pray for the grace to act, like these Palestinian and Israeli activists and like the beleaguered citizens of Ukraine, with the dignity of the Lukan Jesus and thus circumvent the cycles of violence wherever might be.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Palm Sunday - The Passion of the Lord

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14 – 23:56

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Resurrection

Acts 10:34, 37-43

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Luke 24:1-12