Ministry District Newsletter

All Saints Day Year A - Nov 1st, 2026

Incorporating the faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke's Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon & Springbank

Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

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Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
Safeguarding Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke 5331 1816; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Cathy Prunty 0437 505 517

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

Monday November 2nd	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East (All Souls)
Tuesday November 3rd	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East
Wednesday November 4th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East
Thursday November 5th	10.30 am	Funeral Mass for Anka Turkovic St Alipius' St Brigid's Ballan
Friday November 6th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday November 7th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

WEEKEND MASSES - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday November 7th		**Sunday November 8th**	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong **Bungaree Cemetery**
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Anka Turkovic

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Valerie Adams, Grace Bartaska, Eris Blood, Bob Conroy, Bart Fuller, Christine Hall, Marge McGuigan, Jack Molloy, John Ronan, Joseph Toohey, Paul Wheelahan

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Eileen Carey, Billy Forbes, Patrick Landrigan, Aurelia Masi, Bernadette O'Loughlin, Marcia O'Neill, Sebastian Steenhuis, Richard Wade, Owen Widdison

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

All Saints Day

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
Matthew 25:1-13

NOVEMBER -
REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Within our Catholic tradition the month of November includes remembering and praying for the faithful departed. It's anchored liturgically by All Souls' Day on November 2nd, but the Church's ancient practice of praying for the dead continues across the whole month. This weekend we welcome to St Alipius' Ballarat East and Ss Peter & Paul Buninyong, the families of those whose funerals we have celebrated over this past year. Welcome to those who have joined us for our remembrance Masses. In the coming weeks Masses will be celebrated at the cemeteries (weather permitting) at Bungaree (Pootilla) at 9.00am on Sunday November 8th and at Gordon at 11.00am on Sunday November 15th (Ballan Mass will be at 9.00am on that Sunday).

CLERGY APPOINTMENT

Bishop Mark has appointed Fr Michael McKinnon as the Administrator of the Ballarat Cathedral Parish (Ballarat, Ballarat North and Beaufort), commencing the weekend of 14th-15th November. Fr Mick has been working as a missionary with the Columbans in the Peru for the past 6 years.

RCIC PROCESS

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children of Catechetical Age (over 7 years) is a process designed for children who have not been baptised and wish to learn more about it. This process allows for older children to prepare for and receive the sacraments of initiation bringing them into full communion with the Catholic Church. If you are aware of someone who would like to know more about this process, please encourage them to contact Cathy at the parish office.

ST ALIPIUS' CARING GROUP

The caring group will meet in St Alipius' Parish Hall on Friday 6th November at 2 pm. Everyone welcomed. Please bring a plate to share.

EUREKA, RIPON & WENDOUREE CANDIDATE FORUM

Ebenezer St.John's Presbyterian Church
212 Armstrong Street South,
Ballarat Central

Tuesday, 10 Nov
7:00 pm

FIND OUT MORE AT
MEETyourCANDIDATES.ORG.AU

NOVEMBER DATES

November 5th
Baptism Preparation
Mary Glowrey Rooms (Cathedral Precinct)
10 am or 5.30 pm
*
RCIA Inquiry
11.30am @ St Brigid's Ballan

Ballarat East Liturgy Committee Meeting
The Hub @ 5.30 pm

November 6th
Ballarat East Caring Group afternoon tea
St Alipius' Parish Hall @ 2.00 pm
*
Trivia Night
St Alipius Parish Hall. Doors open 6.30 PM for 7 PM start

November 8th
Remembrance Mass
Bungaree Cemetery @ 9.00 am

November 10th
Mass for Clergy Jubilees
St Patrick's Cathedral @ 5.00 pm

November 11th
Ballarat East Finance Meeting
Parish Hub @ 7.30 am
*
Dunnstown Remembrance Day
St Brendan's @ 11.00 am
*
Gordon Leadership Team Meeting
St Brigid's Ballan @ 7.30 pm

November 15th
Remembrance Mass
Gordon Cemetery @ 11.00 am

November 19th
Damascus College Year 12 Graduation Mass
St Patrick's Cathedral @ 5.00 pm

November 22nd
St Mary's School Clarkes Hill Thanksgiving Mass
St Mary's @ 1.30 pm



BAPTISMS

Buninyong November 1st

Eleanor Setori & Violet Mary Setori Gibb
Daughter of Alexander and Meaghan

We acknowledge this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Wednesday 11th November, the Damascus College Year 8's at Dunnstown invite the Dunnstown Community, families and friends to St Brendan's Church for a Remembrance Day Service,11.00am – 11.20am. They invite you to join them as they remember those who served our country, There will also be Mass at Mercy Place Ballarat East at 11.00am, commencing with a minute's silence.

MASS TO CELEBRATE CLERGY JUBILEES OF ORDINATION

Mass to acknowledge priests celebrating a Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood this year will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Clergy Jubilarians this year are: Frs Dan Arundell & Damien Heath – 70 years; Fr Denis Ryan – 40 years; Fr Marcello Colasante – 25 years. Bishop Mark will be the main celebrant and con-celebrants will be priests celebrating a jubilee. All are welcome to attend.

BALLARAT REFORM LEAGUE CHARTER MONSTER MEETING ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday November 11th 6.00pm – 7.00pm, St Paul's Bakery Hill will commemorate the 1854 Monster meeting of miner's and residents who adopted the Ballarat Reform League Charter. This momentous assembly held on the site of St Paul's Bakery Hill marks a cornerstone leading up to the Eureka Rebellion and the seeding of Australia's democratic traditions. All welcome to attend.

2026 ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES

Dallas Wilkinson & Fr Shaiju are offering to lead a series of four Advent reflections based on the 'Way of the Heart' from the Archdiocese of Brisbane ($5). On each of the four Saturdays of Advent they'll commence with 9.30am Mass at St Alipius, with Reconciliation available after Mass, then move to the parish Hub for an hours reflection. Commencing on Saturday 28th November. RSVP 0412 532 572

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Bishop Mark will establish the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), an important step in our ongoing journey of renewal, discernment and shared mission. Emerging from the insights of the 2024 Diocesan Assembly and the wider synodal journey of the Church, the Council will provide a forum for prayerful reflection, consultation and advice to assist in discerning the future direction of the diocese. Members of the diocesan community are invited to prayerfully consider whether they may be called to serve on the Council. Further information about the role of the DPC, the nomination process and formation program is available from your parish office and the diocesan website https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/service-and-agencies/pastoral/diocesan-pastoral-council/. Together, we seek to listen to the Holy Spirit and discern how God is calling us to respond to the opportunities and challenges of our time.



Time to Listen Anew

Reflection on the Gospel

Feast of All Saints Year A

(Matthew 5:1-12)

Veronica Lawson RSM

We have become so familiar with the beatitudes that there is a danger of our listening only to the mellifluous flow of language and of failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to those who suffer injustice and to those who choose non-violent ways of addressing it. With violence sweeping the globe and affecting the dispossessed quite disproportionately, it is time to listen anew to these opening words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus of Nazareth knew in his body the experience of displacement: from Bethlehem to Egypt; from Judaea to Galilee. He shared the experience of Galilean peasant farmers and artisans. His words are grounded in the stories, the music, the poetry, the law and the history of his people. They foreground the qualities of those whom we honour as saints, those who are remembered by name and those who are not.

The mountain setting establishes Jesus as wisdom teacher like Moses of old. God's favour rests on the poor/the humble/the "grounded", on the gentle, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on those who know how to mercy, on the pure or single-minded of heart, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. The repetition of "blessed are…" (a better translation of the Greek makarioi than 'happy') provides multiple links with Israel's collection of sacred songs, the Psalms. For Israel's lyricists, God's favour or blessing is on those whose hope is in God, on those whose delight is in God's way, on those who take refuge in God, on the guileless in spirit and on those whom God forgives. The content of the beatitudes echoes the voice of Israel's prophets, especially Isaiah 61. God's spirit is upon Jesus of Nazareth.

He brings the good news of God's present and future favour or blessing to the destitute and to those who mourn. The distinguishing mark of God's favoured ones is righteousness or right relationship.

God's favour or blessing comes in diverse forms: the basileia or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth as a heritage to be protected; the joy of being mercied; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". If heaven is only a place to be enjoyed in the afterlife, it is little consolation for the desperately poor or for those who are persecuted or misrepresented to know that "the empire of the heavens is theirs" or that their "reward is great in heaven". "Heaven" is better understood as a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents. Maybe the most urgent invitation in our present context is to mourn strategically the displacement of so many of earth's inhabitants who, in these liminal times, long for the blessing of God's kin-dom in the form of comfort and mercy and a just share in the earth's resources.

