Ministry District Newsletter

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Oct 25th, 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		
Tuesday October 27th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East
Wednesday October 28th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East
Thursday October 29th	10.30 am	Funeral Mass John Conroy St Brigid's Ballan
Friday October 30th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday October 31st	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

WEEKEND MASSES - All Saints Day			
Saturday October 31st		**Sunday November 1st**	
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

Darryl Clark, John Conroy, Brian Dalgleish

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Bronislaw Blazek, Kevin Cummings, Mary Donegan, Vera Gittings, Bill Hall, Catherine Hayward-Brown, Richard Keating, Kathleen Kennedy, Henry Nolan, Martin Seiger

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Matthew 22:34-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

All Saints

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

REMEMBRANCE MASSES

Remembrance Masses will be celebrated across the Ministry District during the month of November to remember those who have died in the past 12 months. Dates, times and venues are as follows:

Sat 31st Oct - St Alipius' Ballarat East, 6.00 pm
Sun 1st Nov - Ss Peter & Paul's Buninyong, 10.30 am
Sun 8th Nov - Bungaree Cemetery, 9.00 am
Sun 15th Nov - Gordon Cemetery, 11 am

If you have had a loved one die in the last twelve months, whose funeral wasn't celebrated in one of the churches of our Ministry District, please contact the parish office to have them remembered at the appropriate Mass.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Bishop Mark writes "Establishing a Diocesan Pastoral Council marks an important milestone in the life of our diocese. It reflects our shared commitment to fostering a culture of prayerful discernment, collaboration and participation in the mission entrusted to us by Christ. The Council will provide a vital forum through which the voices, experiences and gifts of the faithful can contribute to the ongoing discernment of our local Church. Together, we seek to recognise where the Spirit is leading us and how we may respond faithfully to the challenges and opportunities of our time…" The strength of the Diocesan Pastoral Council will depend upon the wisdom, faith and commitment of those who are willing to serve. We need people from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and communities who are passionate about the life and mission of the Church. Whether you bring experience in parish leadership, ministry, professional life, or simply a deep love for the Church and a desire to contribute, your voice and insights can help shape the future direction of our diocese.

EUREKA MEET YOUR CANDIDATES FORUM

On behalf of the churches in the electorate of Eureka, Ebenezer St. John's Presbyterian Church is holding a Meet Your Candidates Forum ahead of the Victorian state election at Ebenezer St. John's Presbyterian Church on Tuesday November 10th at 7.00 pm.
More details are available at:
https://meetyourcandidates.org.au/forum/?id=vic26-eureka

UPCOMING DATES

October 31st
Mass of Remembrance
St. Alipius @ 6 pm

November 1st
Mass of Remembrance
Ss. Peter & Paul's @ 10.30 am

November 5th
Baptism Preparation
Mary Glowrey Rooms (Cathedral Precinct)
10 am or 5.30 pm
*
Liturgy Committee Meeting
Ballarat East Parish
The Hub @ 5.30 pm

BAPTISMS



Saturday 24th October
St Alipius'

Max Charles Carter
Son of Brenton and Caitee

Sunday 25th October
Ss Peter and Paul's

Alice Josephine Cullinan
Daughter of Thomas and Tamara

THE MISSION WE SHARE
~CO-RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHURCH~

Notre Dame University's Global Centre for Catholic Leaders is hosting Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General for the Synod on Synodality at a public session in Melbourne on Wednesday November 4th 9.00am - 12pm.
This will be an opportunity to hear from the Cardinal, reflect through spiritual conversations on what we hear and ask questions like: is synodality here to stay? What does synodality mean for the way we lead and govern? What kind of formation do we need for synodality? How do we build co-responsibility in our communities? The link to book directly is here:
https://payments.nd.edu.au/CardinalMarioGrechMelbourne

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

ABSENT FROM THE TABLE

~Catholics in Australia who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass~

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference commissioned the National Centre for Pastoral Research to study the factors influencing the reduction in the practice of regularly attending Sunday Mass. According to the research released, Catholics in Australia who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass remain deeply connected with their faith. The report can be accessed at https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/absent-from-the-table-australian-catholics-who-do-not-regularly-attend-sunday-mass/

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.

Parishioners are welcome to join the choir for this Mass. Rehearsal will be held on Sunday, November 8th at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass).

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Parishioners from across the Ministry District are invited to keep Sunday 6th December 2026 from 6.30 pm free for a Christmas get together at Donegan's farm. More details to come.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS - CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the many Year 12 students in our parish who have just completed their schooling. These students are currently preparing for exams and we keep them in our prayers. Fr. Justin has, or will in coming weeks, celebrate Mass with these students as part of their graduation.

2026 ADVENT REFLECTION SERIES

Please join us at St Alipius parish for a series of 4 Advent reflections based on the Diocese of Brisbane's 'Way of the Heart' ($7).

For each of the four Saturdays of Advent we'll start with Saturday morning 9.30am mass (confession available after mass) and then move to the parish Hub for an hours reflection.

Session 1 - 9.30am Saturday 28th November
Session 2 - 9.30am Saturday 5th December
Session 3 - 9.30am Saturday 12th December
Session 2 - 9.30am Saturday 19th December
RSVP to Dallas 0412 532 572



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLARKES HILL – CELEBRATING OUR STORY

Join the St Mary's Primary School, Clarkes Hill community for a special afternoon of memories, stories, laughter and connections, to celebrate everything that has made the school so special over the past 80 years.

All current and past students, families, staff members and friends are welcome.

Sunday , November 22, 2026 from 1.30pm – 5.00pm.

RSVP by November 6, 2026 to office@smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au or ph. 5334 5280.

More information is available from the diocesan website.

https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/celebrating-st-marys-primary-school-clarkes-hill/

Intensity of Love is the Issue

Reflection on the Gospel

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 22:34-40)

Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel has Jesus affirming the most central of Jewish traditions, namely the command of Deuteronomy 6 known as the Shema (so called from the first word in the statement meaning "hear"). The words of the Shema are recited repeatedly every day by every faithful Jew: "Hear, O Israel: YHWH is our God, YHWH alone. You shall love YHWH your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." Although not a prayer in itself, the Shema is an integral part of Jewish liturgy and prayer. It is a creedal statement that continues to function like an overture to Jewish life and practice. The doorpost at the entrance to a Jewish home generally features a tiny rectangular box known as a mezuzah. It contains a scroll bearing the text of the Shema. Those who enter touch the mezuzah with the greatest reverence. When I first encountered this practice, I was deeply affected by the power of the symbol to link one with the deep story of Judaism.

In Matthew's story, Jesus the Jew provides an honest response to the less than honest questioning of an expert in Jewish law. He overlooks the hostility of the lawyer and evokes the text of the Shema. Jesus thus invites the lawyer to return to the heart of their shared tradition. He links the teaching of the Shema on wholehearted love of God with a second commandment taken from Leviticus 19, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself". The lawyer's unfair "testing" of Jesus is evidence that this is precisely what he fails to do: he addresses Jesus as teacher, a term of respect, and yet fails to show him the respect due to him as neighbour.



For Jesus, the Law and the prophets can be summed up in the commandments to love God with all of one's being and to love one's neighbour as oneself. Not just love, but intensity of love is the issue here. One is to care for others as one cares for oneself. We see such intensity of love in those who are prepared to risk their lives for others: dedicated health professionals and countless first responders such as paramedics and fire-fighters. During the COVID pandemic, front-line health workers were three times more likely to be infected than others and yet few hesitated to turn up day after day for their patients. The World Health Organisation estimates that some one hundred and eighty to two hundred thousand health professionals lost their lives to the virus. The commitment of such people functions like the mezuzah in our lives: it draws us back into the heart of the gospel tradition and calls us to a deeper, more intense love. It might also help us to deal with the insincerity of those who seek to score points by undermining the dignity of those who work for justice.