Ministry District Newsletter

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Nov 15th, 2026

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

Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

Staff: Cathy Prunty (Parish Co-ordinator)
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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 November 17th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East
Wednesday November 18th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East
Thursday November 19th	10.30 am 11.00 am	St Brigid's Ballan Calvary Kirralee
Friday November 20th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday November 21st	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

WEEKEND MASSES - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	
Saturday November 21st	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East
Sunday November 22nd	
9.00 am	Buninyong/Gordon
10.30 am	Ballarat East/Ballan
1.30 pm	St Mary's School Clarkes Hill

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Carol Stewart, Joan Thoms

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Paul Bound, Joe Fitzpatrick, Fredrick Giles, Harry Hooker, Margaret Mullane, Mary O'Leary, Frank O'Loughlin, Mick O'Loughlin, James Simpson, Eileen Stewart, Mary Toohey

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Eileen Carey, Billy Forbes, Bernard Jarvis, Patrick Landrigan, Bernadette O'Loughlin, Sebastian Steenhuis, Richard Wade, Owen Widdison

MINISTRY DISTRICT END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Please note change of date

The Gordon Parish is hosting our celebration for parishioners and friends from Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke's Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank church communities who are invited to gather at Donegan's Farm Gordon, Sunday evening, November 29th (please note that this is the correct date). $45 per person for a 2-course meal, commencing with nibbles. To book for this celebration, contact the parish office on 0437 505 517, email ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au or add your name to the sign-up sheet in each of our churches.

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 those who have joined us for our annual 11.00am Mass at the Gordon Cemetery (weather permitting) and thank those who have made these preparations. (Please note that the Ballan Mass will be at 9.00am on Sunday).

WANTED URGENTLY

OLHC Parish Wendouree is seeking a suitably qualified chef (with remuneration) to oversee the cooking of the long running OLHC Christmas Day lunch. An experienced team plans and purchases supplies, along with a committee of volunteers to provide support . The chef is required to commit to working Christmas Eve (8:00am - 4:00pm) and Christmas Day (9:00am - 1:00pm).
Please contact the committee, 0436 019 823

ST. BRIGID'S VISION & MISSION

On Monday, November 30th at 2.00 pm, St. Brigid's school Ballan will launch their renewed Vision and Mission at a liturgy to celebrate the beginning of Advent. Parishioners and friends are invited to attend the church for this celebration followed by afternoon tea. To attend please contact the school office on 5368 1015.

NOVEMBER DATES

November 15th
Remembrance Mass
Gordon Cemetery @ 11.00 am

November 18th
Parent Information Session Rite of Christian Initiation for Children
St. Brigid's Ballan @ 4.30 pm

November 19th
RCIA Inquiry
St Brigid's @ 11.30 am

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

November 25th
St. Alipius' PPC Meeting
The Hub @ 5.30 pm

November 29th
Ministry District End of Year Celebration
Donegan's Farm @ 6.00 pm

ST. ALIPIUS' ADVENT VIGIL MASSES

At St. Alipius' Church we're getting excited as Advent approaches. At our 6.00 pm Vigil Masses throughout Advent we hope to have music with our pipe organ played each week. Along with this beautiful music, there will be Children's Liturgy of the Word. The children will leave the main part of the church after the opening prayer and celebrate age appropriate readings of the Mass, before returning to the assembly for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The leaders of the Children's Liturgy will have Working with Children Checks. We would love to have you join us as this will be great preparation for Christmas.

2026 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Thursday December 24th

5.30 pm	St Brigid's Ballan
6.00 pm	St Alipius' Ballarat East
6.30 pm	St Peter's Clarke's Hill
7.00 pm	St Patrick's Gordon
7.30 pm	Ss Peter & Paul Buninyong
9.00 pm	St Alipius' Ballarat East



Christmas Day Friday December 25th

9.00 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East
9.00 am	St Brendan's Dunnstown

BALLARAT EAST FINANCE COUNCIL

The Finance Council continues to meet at 7.30am on the second Wednesday of each month. The members are Paul O'Beirne (chairman), Paul Dempsey, Carmel Flynn, Brett Holloway and Greg O'Beirne with Frs Justin & Shaiju, Cathy Prunty and Jackie Wrigglesworth ex officio members. One of the current projects is the property at 2 King St Ballarat East (the white house!) that has been in a state of disrepair for many years. The Finance Council is working through the necessary steps with Ballarat Council and Heritage authorities to seek approval to demolish this building. Temporary fencing has been erected to deter any entrance to this building.

BAPTISMS

Ss Peter & Paul's

Neave Winter & Nyla Lily Kelly-McLean
Daughters of Matthew and Jessica

Heidi Kuzmich
Daughter of Joshua and Chloe

Bella Grace Edmends
Daughter of James and Anna

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Sunday, November 15, 2026

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The World Day of the Poor is an opportunity for all Christians to draw closer to Christ by encountering those who live in poverty in the community,
Pope Leo's message for the 10th World Day of the Poor, reflects on God as "the refuge of the poor," urging Christians to rediscover the central place of the poor and examine our commitment to justice, solidarity, and human dignity. Read his message at https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/poor/documents/20250613-messaggio-giornata-poveri.html
Bishop Tim Harris, Chair of the ACBC Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, has issued a media release titled, "Leave your comfort zone on World Day of the Poor". Read this message at https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/leave-your-comfort-zone-on-world-day-of-the-poor/

CHRISTMAS CAROLS @ BUNINYONG



YCW CRICKET CLUB LUNCHEON

Former players, family and supporters of the YCW cricket club are invited to a end of year get together at Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday December 6th at 12.00 pm. For more information or to book please call Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.



Contemplating the Eternal Verities

Reflection on the Gospel

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 25:14-30)

Veronica Lawson RSM

In answer to my greeting, “G’day Muff, what are you up to?”, my polymath brother-in-law, David (nicknamed Muff), would invariably reply, “Just contemplating the eternal verities!” The ensuing conversation would confirm the veracity of his response: contemplating the eternal verities was a way of life for my brother-in-law.

As the end of the church year approaches, the liturgy presents us with texts that invite us all to consider the big questions of life and death, including the day of reckoning that will inevitably confront each one of us. Matthew’s parable of the talents is part of a discourse about the final realities. It is sandwiched between the parable of the ten lamp-bearers, five of whom are unprepared for the bridegroom, and the end time judgement of the nations.

The previous story has concluded with the warning: “Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” This is usually interpreted as a reference to the future coming of Christ. Today’s story continues this motif. It opens: “For it is as if a man going abroad summons his slaves and entrusts his property to them….” Once more, we find slavery taken for granted. Once more, we might take this as a reminder to commit ourselves to the elimination of all power over others. The slaves are entrusted with phenomenal wealth: ten talents, five talents, and one talent respectively. A talent was a measure of weight, one silver talent being the equivalent of 1000 days wages for an ordinary labourer. The scenario is dramatically far-fetched, as is often the case with parables.

The slaves are given amounts “according to their ability”. They receive no instructions, but later events indicate that the master expects a good return on his money, despite the prohibition on usury in that society. The first two slaves deliver and are invited into “the joy of the master”, another possible reference to the end time when God will embrace those who are faithful to their mission. The third slave does what was expected in that culture: he buries his talent. He also provides a reasonable rationale for his action: the master is a hard man who inspires a fear-ridden response. The master does not resile from this description and expels “into outer darkness” the one who challenges his behaviour.

Is the master an image of God? Some elements in the story point in this direction. Other features, such as the concentration of wealth in one person and the treatment of the fearful slave, inhibit an unequivocally affirmative answer to this question. In face of present inequities, even within the most affluent countries, we may find ourselves in sympathy with the third slave insofar as he challenges the violent and exploitative actions of the master. Parables are open to multiple interpretations and the eternal verities cannot be encapsulated in one story or one image. They bear ongoing reflection and call us to responsible action for the sake of the equilibrium or balance that Pope Leo advocates.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Matthew 25:31-46