Ministry District Newsletter

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Nov 8th, 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 November 10th	9.30 am 5.00 pm	St Alipius' Ballarat East Clergy Jubilarians' Mass St Patrick's Cathedral
Wednesday November 11th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East St Brendan's Dunnstown
Thursday November 12th	10.30 am 11.00 am	St Brigid's Ballan Mecwacare Canadian
Friday November 13th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday November 14th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

WEEKEND MASSES - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Saturday November 14th		**Sunday November 15th**	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East **Ballan**
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong **Gordon Cemetery**

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

William Barry, Richard Butler, Joe Fitzpatrick, Matthew George, Catherine Keating, Jack McEldrew, Lyn O'Brien, Connor Prunty, Mary Ryan, Maudie Smallman, Dorethea Toohey, Frank Teuma, Steven Tingate, Patricia Towns

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

NEXT 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

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 Mass at the Bungaree Cemetery, Pootilla (weather permitting) at 9.00am. Next Sunday, November 15th we gather at Gordon Cemetery for 11.00am Mass. (Ballan Mass will be at 9.00am on that Sunday).

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.

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. Ebenezer St.John's Presbyterian Church, Tuesday November 10th 7.00pm.
More details:
https://meetyourcandidates.org.au/forum/?id=vic26-eureka

WANTED URGENTLY

We are seeking a suitably qualified chef to oversee the cooking of the long running OLHC Christmas roast lunch. There is an experienced team that plans and purchases supplies, along with a committee of volunteers to support you. You would be required to commit to working on Christmas Eve (8:00am - 4:00pm) and Christmas Day (9:00am - 1:00pm). Remuneration is included with the position.
Please contact the committee, 0436 019 823

NOVEMBER DATES

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
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Dunnstown Remembrance Day
St Brendan's @ 11.00 am
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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

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

BAPTISMS



Ballarat East November 8th

Frankie Nora Hewitt
Daughter of Lachlan and Tessa

OCTOBER FINANCES

	Gordon	Bungaree	Ballarat East
Parish	$2,375	$850	$7,330.20
Presbytery	$3,485.50		$4,165

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 those priests celebrating their jubilee will concelebrate. 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

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 Friday 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.

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.



Wisdom Lies in Readiness

Reflection on the Gospel

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 25:1-13)

Veronica Lawson RSM

How often were you told as a child to get ready for an outing or for the arrival of visitors or for something else when you simply wanted to stay as you were? Sometimes being prepared matters not. At other times it matters and today's gospel parable depicts a situation where it is of crucial importance. Wisdom resides in readiness, foolishness in failure to prepare.

The imminent event in today's parable is a wedding celebration. The betrothal period is over and the bridegroom has left to bring the bride from the home of her parents to his family home. Ten young women of his household will watch for the arrival of the couple and will light their way into the wedding feast. These young women can expect to be welcome at the feast. Five are well prepared for the arrival and five are not. The five who bring (olive) oil for their lamps are designated "wise" while the other five who bring no oil are said to be "foolish". Negotiating the terms of the marriage contract takes longer than expected so that the bridegroom is delayed. The young women wait and wait, then fall asleep. At midnight, the bridegroom's arrival is signalled and the young women rise to trim their lamps in readiness for their role of lighting his way.

The bride is invisible in the telling of the story, presumably because the focus must be on the bridegroom alone. Earlier in Matthew's gospel (9:15), Jesus is depicted as "the bridegroom". The attentive reader of the gospel is aware that the parable is about Jesus and that it forms part of Matthew's end-time discourse (24:1-25:46). The delay of the bridegroom evokes the community's expectation that Jesus who has died and been raised will return at an undisclosed time.

In the interim, the members are to be actively watchful and ready, living in the spirit of Matthew's first discourse (5:1-7:29) with its emphasis on right relationship. Matthew 7 concludes with reference to wise and foolish decisions: the foolish build on sand while the wise build on rock.

The behaviour of the "wise" in today's parable is as puzzling as that of the "foolish". The "foolish" fail to prepare: they have no oil and cannot expect to light the way without it. The "wise" have prepared and they receive their reward. Is there any wisdom, however, in sending their "foolish" companions to buy olive oil at midnight? We can identify with both the wise and the foolish. We can identify with the foolish in our inattention to the plight of our planet. We can identify with the wise insofar as we have the wisdom to ensure that the produce of God's Earth, represented by the olive oil, is received as gift and used in right measure and in right relationship. Wisdom might reside in patient listening rather than in foolish haste as we fashion the future of our changing faith community. Pope Leo is pointing the way.

