



▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**
701 FISKEN ST
BUNINYONG 3357



▶ **ST ALIPIUS**
82 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350



▶ **PARISH OFFICE**
84 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350
PH 5332 6611
OPEN TUE – FRI
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

10 March 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

God loved the world so much

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM

Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

10:30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)

10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 7

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

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

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Samantha Murphy

Anniversaries: Anne
Bernadette Cheeseman

Unwell: Socorro De
Chavez, Luka Fletcher-
Leskarac, Hudson Leskarac,
Pam Hill, Peter McLachlan,
Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor
McMahon, Shelley Pawang,
Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Administrator
Fr Concord Bagaioisan, OSJ

Visiting Priest
Fr Barry Ryan

**Sacramental and Parish
Coordinator**
Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant
Natalie Shannon

Finance Officer
Bernadette Prestwood

Child Safety Officer
Emily Clarke

PARISH VISION

The combined communities of St Alipius Parish reach out in the spirit of faith, hope, love, and acceptance, as God calls us to in the gospels.

PARISH MISSION

Our mission in the Parish of St Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel. Strengthened in the spirit of faith, hope, love acceptance and Mercy, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Guided by God's call to service, we aim to build strong connections, provide spiritual nourishment, promote social justice, and offer support to individuals and families in their journey of faith. Through our dedicated interactions, we seek to deepen our relationships with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.

**International
Women's Day**



SOCIAL GATHERING

The Parish Pastoral Council invites all parishioners to a BBQ after 6:00 PM mass on Saturday 16 March. We hope to gather on the lawn between the church and presbytery but can adjourn to the hall if the weather is inclement. Meat provided. Please bring a salad to share if you'd like to. A Project Compassion will be available for attendees to donate a few coins if you can.

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Reconciliation

6:00 PM Tue 12, Wed 13, Thurs 14 March, St Alipius

Parish BBQ

After 6:00 PM Mass, Sat 16 March, St Alipius Hall

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$980
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$508.20

We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

PROJECT COMPASSION



Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Together, we can

help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by calling 1800 024 41, visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or scanning this QR code.



PRIEST APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the allocation of priests throughout our local parishes. Effective Wednesday 10 April, Fr Concord Bagaoisan will be moving to the Redan, Sebastopol, and Linton parishes, with Fr Eladio Lizada as assistant priest. Fr Justin Driscoll will be joining us as parish priest of Ballarat East, Bungaree, and Gordon. He will be supported by Fr Matthew Restall as assistant priest. Fr Marcello Colasante will be the parish priest at Wendouree, Creswick, and Daylesford. At the cathedral, Ballarat North, and Beaufort, Fr Ed Moloney will be the administrator, with Fr James McKay, and Fr Francis Kureeckal as assistant priests. We thank Fr Con for his time with us and look forward to welcoming Fr Justin and Fr Matthew in April.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The theme for International Women's Day 2024 is "Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress." Based on the priority theme for the United Nations 68th Commission on the Status of Women, "Count Her In" will examine the pathways to greater economic inclusion for women and girls everywhere.

COMMISSIONING MASSES

On Pentecost Sunday, the Parish will commission new and recommission existing liturgical ministers, including readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, PowerPoint operators, musicians, sacristans, and welcomers. Information on how to sign up to continue or start volunteering in one or more of these ministries, and what the tasks involve, continuing with sacristans.

SACRISTANS

A sacristan arrives about 45 minutes before the start of mass to open the church, turn heaters/fans and lights on, prepare the altar, sacred vessels, bread, and wine, and organise the lectionary. If there is a baptism, they also prepare the water, candle, and other items. After mass, they clean the chalice and trays, put items away, switch off the lights and heaters/fans and lock the church.



EASTER CHOCOLATE

Catholic Earthcare asks us to purchase brands that use sustainably sourced cocoa. Look for logos like these on the packaging.



DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of e-News is available to view at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/. You can subscribe to be emailed future editions.

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

A copy of the annual report from the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/

MASS OF THE OILS

The Mass of the Oils will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday 25 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch, displays and music afterwards in the Hall. All welcome. This year the Mass of the Oils will be live-streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivllKiHSs?feature=share>

BAPTISMS

Averie Jayne Wakefield
Child of Liam Wakefield and Jasmine White

The church gives faith to your children through Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow.
Pope Francis

INT'L WOMEN'S DAY PRAYER

God, whose love, and goodness gather us in: we pray for women all over the world, especially those challenged by poverty and other injustice. Stir us to know women's dignity. Quieten us to listen to women's voices. Awaken us to see women's realities. Strengthen us to stand for women's rights. Fill us with hope to make a better future together. Amen.

www.caritas.org.au/resources/library/international-women-s-day-reflection/

LAUDATO SI'

In his encyclical Laudato Si', Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, encourages us to **“Walk, cycle, or use public transport.”**

Choosing active transport like walking and cycling can not only dramatically reduce your carbon footprint, but you could end up saving money and staying fit at the same time! When walking or cycling is not an option, swapping the car for a bus or train can also make a significant dent in emissions.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Every relationship is a journey, and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend gives married couples time to nurture their relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from the pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. 12–14 April in Melbourne. Website: www.wwme.org.au. Information and bookings: phone Mercy & James at 0409 183 676 or email vicbookings@wwme.org.au.

MARY WARD FOR SAINT

Mary Ward supporters are seeking support for their cause for the canonisation of the foundress of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM). To sign the petition, scan or click the QR code.



PALM SUNDAY RALLY & WALK

At 2:00 PM on Sunday 24 March, a 90-minute Palm Sunday Rally and Walk will commence at the McDonald Bandstand, opposite the floral clock, between Pipers and the playground at Lake Wendouree. Guest speakers include Sr Brigid Arthur, co-founder of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, and a person who was a refugee. The talks will be followed by a short, loop walk to and from the Olympic Rings with a stop at the Peace Mile marker to reflect upon world peace.

LENTEN RESOURCES

Lent prayer resources are available from the diocese www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/

MERCY PLACE VOLUNTEERS

Mercy Place is seeking volunteers for a range of roles. Volunteers might spend time one-on-one with residents, taking them for walks in the garden, going on bus trips, reading a book or newspaper, helping them in the garden, or just having a chat. The hours are organised to suit the volunteer. If interested, please see the flyer in the church foyer for more information.

150 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Copies of the anniversary prayer, written in acknowledgement of the 150 years of the Ballarat Diocese, are available in the church foyers.

God's Saving Love for the Earth

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

4th Sunday in Lent: John 3:14–21

The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who comes to him "by night".

It features a number of typically Johannine themes: life, eternal life, believing, seeing, God's love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, the world, truth.

John loves to play on words. Without losing sight of the material reality underlying each image, we need to keep asking: how is this word or expression to be understood in this particular context?

In John's gospel, the characters often misunderstand and this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper or different understanding of his words.

As 21st-century readers, we operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place. Hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories.

The first two verses of today's reading evoke the ancient Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9).

According to the story, the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack thereof. They blame both God and Moses.

Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed a considerable number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God.

God instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who "see" or "look upon it" find life.

So will Jesus be lifted up

Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent.

The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life.

In John's gospel, seeing is often equated with believing and believing leads to "life".



The bottom line is God's saving love for "the world", for the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human.

Most of the themes in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of "love". God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world.

Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus while judgment is the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God.

Later in this gospel (12:33), Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1 CHRONICLES 36:14–16, 19–23

EPHESIANS 2:4–10

JOHN 3:14–21

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

JEREMIAH 31:31–34

HEBREWS 5:7–9

JOHN 12:20–30