



▶ **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  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

11 February 2024

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*God has visited his people*

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/](http://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 (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weeks)

10:30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Counting team 3

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:**

**Anniversaries:** Tom Shannon

**Unwell:** Socorro De Chavez, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

## PARISH TEAM

**Parish Administrator**  
Fr Concord Bagaoisan, 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.



## ASH WEDNESDAY

If anyone has any remaining blessed palm from last year we would appreciate it, if it can be dropped off to the presbytery by Tuesday lunch time. That would be appreciated. Ash Wednesday this year is on 14 February. Mass will be held at St Alipius at 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The masses will include the distribution of the ashes.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Ash Wednesday masses

9:30 AM and 7:00 PM, Wed 14 February, St Alipius

#### Reconciliation Parent Information Sessions

10:30 AM or 6:00 PM, Thursday 15 Feb, St Alipius

#### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

6:30 PM, Thursday 22 February

## BAPTISM PREPARATION

As you would be aware, children are baptised regularly in our parish, following the 10.30 AM masses. Before children are baptised in our parish, their parents need to attend an information session. The next baptism information session will be on Thursday 7 March at 10 AM or 5.30 PM. These sessions are held in the small hall at St. Patrick's Cathedral. No registration is required. For further information please call the parish office. This information only applies to children who are under the age of 7 years, older children must participate in a different program to prepare for baptism.

## POPE'S MESSAGE FOR LENT

Pope Francis' Lenten message is focused on God's call to leave behind the bonds of slavery with the title, "Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom", which is from the Book of Exodus (20:2). Read the message at [www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/doc/uments/20231203-messaggio-quaresima2024.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/doc/uments/20231203-messaggio-quaresima2024.html) or view it at <https://youtu.be/zXPPVtpHBM?t=408>

## RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election will be held at 12:30 PM on Saturday 17 February in St Patrick's Cathedral. The Rite is an opportunity for adult catechumens and candidates to meet the bishop before being baptised/received into the Church at Easter. Lunch will follow in the hall.

## CHURCH CARPET

The carpet in the centre aisle of the church was replaced last Monday, removing safety issues that the bubbling of the old carpet may have caused. A huge thank you to all those who stayed behind after mass on Saturday night to move the pews to the side so that the church would be ready for Monday morning. This weekend after the 6 PM mass we would again appreciate any help to ensure that the pews are nicely lined up. Thank you in anticipation.

## RCIA FOR CHILDREN

Last week we began working with a group of children who will prepare to receive their sacraments of Initiation in the coming months. These children are older and will work with their families and the parish regularly to learn more about the Catholic faith and the sacraments that they are asking to receive. We look forward to having these families join us for masses and we ask that you pray for them as they journey towards full initiation.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,187
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$453.20

## RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

Reconciliation preparation for children in Year 4 and older, who have received the sacrament of Confirmation, will begin this coming Thursday with a parent information session in the church. This is a compulsory session for parents and provides them with the details/information they need to proceed with the preparation. If you know of anyone who should be attending one of these meetings, can you please remind them that they need to register by calling the parish office as soon as possible.

## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

In his message to mark the 32nd World Day of the Sick on February 11, Pope Francis reflected on the way serious illness could cause vulnerability, uncertainty, and insecurity. For resources and to read Pope Francis' message, visit [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au). We pray for the sick, the vulnerable and the poor. May they be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. We pray to Mary Most Holy, that she may intercede for those most in need.

## OUR DIOCESE TURNS 150

This year the Diocese of Ballarat will mark its 150th anniversary. Beginning with the season of Lent the Diocese acknowledges historic sinfulness and asks God's forgiveness for failing to be the people God called us to be. We pray for help to recognise our need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas Australia is the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia and works with people living in the most vulnerable situations around the world, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or political beliefs. This year, Caritas Australia celebrates 60 years of service. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. During the six weeks of Project Compassion, millions of Australians unite to help end poverty, promote justice, and uphold dignity.

### BAPTISMS

**Darcy Leonard Snow**  
Child of Leonard Arnold and Kate Snow

**Cooper Edward Leman**  
Child of Joel and Abbey Leman

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

## LENT WITH BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! Sign up for Bruce Downes' free Lenten Program and for 40 days you will receive a short, practical, and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful.

<https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

## 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.

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Vatican II document Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy affirmed that the sacred scripture is of the greatest importance in the celebration of the liturgy, and it is from the scriptures that actions and signs derive their meaning. Ministers of the Word serve by proclaiming the Good News to feed and nourish us from the table of the Word. They don't just read, but proclaim the first and second readings, the responsorial psalm and gospel acclamation, unless they are sung, and the prayers of the faithful. By using their proclaiming skills, they lead us to full and active participation in the liturgy of the Word. To be a Minister of the Word requires the confidence and skill to proclaim clearly, meaningfully, and reverently. Readers need to thoughtfully prepare and practice in advance so that they understand the meaning and structure of the liturgy. Please consider joining this ministry or receiving some additional and training.

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The Ballarat diocesan publication *Our Diocesan Community* (ODC) is published three times a year. ODC aims to share news about things taking place in parishes, schools, and agencies around the diocese. Contributors are the people of the diocesan, who are invited to contribute articles for the first issue by Friday 23 February. The focus for this year will be the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat with the theme Community – Remember, Revitalise & Hope, which reflects various aspects of the anniversary, along with the scripture passage, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12) that considers diverse elements of our vocation as a Christian community. Please share your stories with these concepts in mind. Articles should be approximately 250 words maximum in length and accompanied by photos where possible. Photos should be sent as separate JPEG files (not inserted into the article). When sending in photos, permission should be sought from those in the pictures. These photos may also be used in other diocesan publications. Material can be sent to [odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## WISDOM AT THE CATHEDRAL

You are invited to a one-hour session in the Wisdom at the Cathedral series at 7:00 PM on Thursday 29 February. Fr Bill Lowry will discuss *Discerning God's Will in Your Life*, including the processes employed by the saints and the Lord himself in discerning the Father's will for their lives. The venue is the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms and entry is by donation. A cuppa will follow.

# Gather in the Excluded

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 1:40–45

Today's gospel about a person with leprosy invites us to reflect on the pain of exclusion.

We are social beings who need to engage with others and with our environment so that we all seek to be part of family and community. Some are deprived of choice in this respect.

Repeated name-calling and labelling are age-old strategies of exclusion. "Illegals" is a label that excludes some of the most vulnerable people in today's world. "Leper" is a label that is used metaphorically of those who are not welcome, of those deemed to be "infectious".

To be a leper in the world of early Judaism was to have some sort of skin disease that excluded a person from community and in particular from public worship.

There were strict regulations regarding such lepers (see today's first reading from Leviticus, dating from several centuries before the time of Jesus). Their condition required ritual cleansing by a priest and an offering that cost money. That seems horrifying from our perspective, and it was.

In Mark's story, the man with leprosy approaches Jesus of Nazareth who is not one of the priests. This afflicted

person thus cuts across the established procedures.

Jesus is "moved with compassion", literally "moved in his gut, or in the depths of his being". In other words, Jesus empathises deeply with the suffering person. He has a physical reaction in the face of suffering.

Some manuscripts have "moved with anger". A later scribe probably considered that expression too harsh as an emotion for Jesus and softened the text.

Jesus speaks and acts. He declares that he wills the cure of the man. He actually reaches out and touches him: a bodily encounter brings healing.

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### *Jesus empathises deeply with the suffering person*

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He then sends the man back to tell the priests "as a proof to them". The verb used for "send back" suggests that the priests had already been approached without success.

Jesus, the Galilean healer, succeeds in mediating the power of the God of Israel and so restores this outcast person to life in the community and the community itself to greater wholeness through this healing.



The widespread report of Jesus' healing activity will incur the anger of some of the authorities.

For our part, as followers of Jesus, we might reflect on the fact that sickness and disability are not only physical phenomena. They also have social and emotional impacts on individuals and the communities to which they belong.

Healing enables people to live again, to be with others and do the things they want to do. It brings new life and integrity to community.

Jesus demonstrates that the combination of a compassionate word and a healing touch can work wonders. This was true in the ancient world. It is equally true for us today in the face of a virulent pandemic that continues to take lives and to disrupt family and social engagement.

Healing must be all-embracing if it is to restore life.

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LEVITICUS 13:1–2, 44–46  
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31–11:1  
MARK 1:40–45

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

GENESIS 9:8–15  
1 PETER 3:18–22  
MARK 1:12–15