



▶ **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  
CLOSED UNTIL 23 JAN

14 January 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Here I am Lord*

# 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

Mon 2.00 pm

(Funeral Mass Sheila Skinner)

Tuesday 9.30 am

Wednesday 10.00 am

(Funeral Mass Theo Van Styn)

Thursday & 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

No counting team this week

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:** Sheila Skinner, Theo Van Styn

### Anniversaries:

**Unwell:** Socorro De Chavez, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Patricia Murray, 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

*Emails and phone messages will still be checked while the office is closed until 23 January.*

## 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.



## SOCIAL GATHERING

Everyone is invited to a social evening at the Red Lion Hotel at 6:00 PM on Wednesday 24 January. This is a chance to say hello and socialise as the holidays end, and to welcome Fr Con to the parish. Dinner and drinks at your own cost. Numbers are required by Friday 19 January, so if you can attend, RSVP by phoning the office on 5332 6611 and leaving a message, speaking with Natalie or Cathy, or emailing [ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office is closed over the holiday period and will reopen on Tuesday 23 January. Phone messages and emails will still be monitored periodically over the closure, so please contact the office via phone or email.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Liturgy Committee

5:30 PM, Tuesday 23 January, Presbytery

#### Social Gathering

6:00 PM, Wednesday 24 January, Red Lion Hotel

## LITURGY ROSTER FEB – MAR

The St Alipius liturgy roster for February and March, including Easter Sunday, will be emailed to volunteers before the end of January. For those not on email, hard copies will be provided in the sacristy. Please remember to diarise when you are scheduled and if you are unable to attend, organise a replacement via WhatsApp or contact someone else on the roster. If you are unable to arrange a swap, please contact the Parish office. Volunteers are reminded to arrive at least 10 – 15 minutes before the start of mass to sign in and check that all other volunteers have turned up in case a last-minute replacement is required. Thank you.

## FISHING TIPS FOR FR CON

If you have an interest in fishing, could you please share some local knowledge on the best fishing spots with Fr Con who is also a keen angler?

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

## COMMISSIONING MASSES

As a part of the Diocese of Ballarat's 150 Anniversary, parishes throughout the diocese will be celebrating Mass at Pentecost to commission and recommission people who minister in some way within their parish. Please watch this space for more information.

## BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH

Last week Fr. Con had the privilege of performing his first baptism since coming to the parish. Summer was pleased to be the first and is pictured below with Fr. Con. If you know of anyone who would like to have a child baptised in our parish, please ask them to look at our parish website for further information about the process which includes an information session. Feedback from Summer's family: "Fr. Con was wonderful".



## ENTRY CODES FOR CHURCHES

St Alipius and Ss Peter and Paul's have locks that require an entry code to open. For compliance purposes, the codes are changed periodically, and both will next be changed on 31 January. If you require the new codes, you will need to contact the parish office to complete a form and provide a copy of your working with children check (WWCC) card.

## CARITAS GAZA APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. With your support, Caritas can support partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal by scanning or clicking the QR code.



## RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

Parent Information Sessions for Reconciliation will be held in St. Alipius Church at 10.30 am and 6pm on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup>. Attendance at one of these sessions is compulsory. If you know of anyone who will be looking to participate in this program please advise them to make contact with the parish. Children who were confirmed in the parish in 2023 will automatically receive an email. In order to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation children must have been confirmed and will need to be in Year 4 at school. The Sacrament of Reconciliation for the children will be on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March. Anyone who would like more information should contact the parish office.

### BAPTISMS

#### Joey Ross Barr

Child of Geoffrey Barr and Alyce Keirl

#### Eryx Kriswolff Obligar Morgo & Eiji Obligar Morgo

Child of Ernesto Morgo and Rosemarie Obligar

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

Pope Francis

## HEALING MASS AT ST ALIPIUS

Rev. Dr. Antony Parankimalil VC, director of the Divine Retreat Centre, Kigali, Rwanda, will be leading a healing mass at St Alipius, at 6:30 PM on Thursday 18 January. The mass is part of the Divine Australia Healing Masses and Retreat program. For further information, please email [ejfeegrado@gmail.com](mailto:ejfeegrado@gmail.com) or phone Ralph Feegrado 0425 797 355, or Augustine Feegrado 0405 705 070.

## SAVE THE DATES

**The RCIA Rite of Election** will be held at 12:30 PM on Saturday 17 February at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

**The Mass of the Oils** will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday 25 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.

## 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 **"Be compost smart"**. Did you know? Learning more about composting helps the earth. Instead of just food scraps, you can also compost cardboard, egg cartons, paper napkins, grass clippings and newspapers.



*Laudato Si'*

"We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing and its human roots, concern and affect us all."  
Laudato Si' #14

*reduce reuse recycle  
rethink repurpose*

## PRAYING WITH THE POPE

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

Pope's intention for January – For the gift of diversity: Let us pray that the Spirit helps us recognise the gifts of different charisms within the Christian community and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

# Give Without Counting the Cost

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: John 1:35–42

A personal call to a particular way of life is not always easy to explain, even to oneself.

At my religious profession, I chose the challenging motto “To give without counting the cost.” I have taken that motto seriously, even if I have occasionally been tempted to change it to something more manageable.

Today’s liturgy reminds us that, in a very real sense, all the baptised are called to the same commitment, to give without counting cost.

The first reading describes a prophetic call, the “call” of the young Samuel who is to become a prophet of great stature within Israel.

The story insists that it is God who takes the initiative and Samuel who hears God’s call. Initially, Samuel hears the word of God but needs an interpreter in order to understand the import of God’s word to him.

The priest Eli acts as interpreter and guide so that Samuel can respond with confidence and faith and grow up to speak God’s word to the people.

The gospel focuses on the “call” to discipleship, a call that is addressed to every baptised Christian.

The opening scene depicts John the Baptist with two of his disciples. John actually points the two disciples

away from himself and towards Jesus whom he identifies as “the lamb of God”.

What does it mean to call Jesus “God’s lamb?”

Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies deliverance?

Is it a reference to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who takes on the sins of the many?

Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham’s sacrifice (Genesis 22)?

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### *What does it mean to call Jesus “God’s lamb?”*

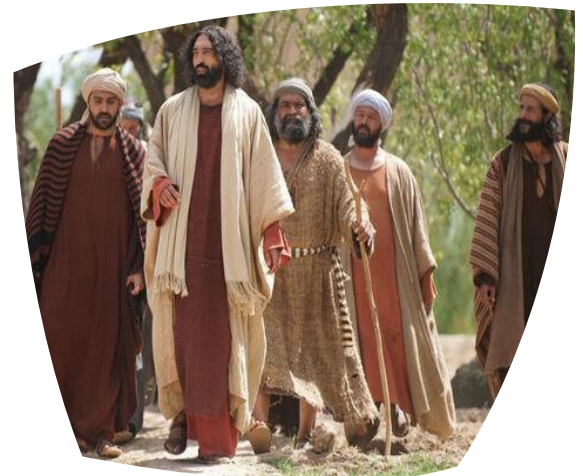
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Is it the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world?

Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 (“I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter”)?

There is never a simple explanation for the symbolism in John’s gospel. There can be many levels of meaning at the one time.

The symbol of strength in vulnerability certainly has potential for



understanding who Jesus is in this gospel.

John 1:29 tells us that the Lamb of God “takes away” the sinful condition of the world.

Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation of planetary resources on a massive scale.

The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God’s Lamb, is also the work of disciples. It is the way of those who hear God’s call and choose to walk the way of Jesus of Nazareth, in openness and love for God’s people.

The call to discipleship is a call to pour out one’s lifeblood for the sake of the gospel, “to give without counting the cost”.

Maybe I should not be too eager to relinquish my motto!

#### THIS WEEK’S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SAMUEL 3:3–10, 19  
1 CORINTHIANS 6:13–15, 17–20  
JOHN 1:35–42

#### NEXT WEEK’S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JONAH 3:1–5, 10  
1 CORINTHIANS 7:29–31  
MARK 1:14–20