

Faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

**Priests** Frs Justin Driscoll & Matt Restall

**Ballarat East Parish**

Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson  
03 5332 6611  
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00PM

**Bungaree and Gordon Parishes**

Aileen Toohey  
0492 903 409  
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

# Ministry District Newsletter

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (C)

16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday Feb 18th	5.30 pm	Ballarat East	
Wednesday Feb 19th	10:30	Funeral prayers – Tricia Cosgriff – St Alipius	
	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Feb 20th	9.30 am	Ballarat East	
	10.30 am	Ballan	
Friday Feb 21st	9.30 am	Ballarat East	
	9.30 am	Bungaree	
	12 Noon	Emmaus School Mass – Ballarat East	
Saturday Feb 22nd	9.30 am	Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Vigil		Sunday Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Gordon
6.30 pm	Clarkes Hill	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

**THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Beverly Richardson, Tricia Cosgriff

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME**

**THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL**

Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, Socorro De Chavez, Joan Egan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons, Owen Widdison

### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

**Ballarat East Parish:**

Rose Consignado, Teresa Fletcher, Judith Glaubitz, Martin McGettigan, Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart.

**Bungaree Parish:**

Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree), Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Mahar & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).

**Gordon Parish:**

Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN OUR PARISHES

Saints Flexible Learning (Bakery Hill & Bungaree), St Brigid’s Ballan, St Alipius’ Ballarat East, St Francis Xavier Ballarat East, St Mary’s Clarkes Hill, St Patrick’s Gordon, Damascus College Mt Clear & Dunnstown, Emmaus Mt Clear.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### RCIA for Children

February 20<sup>th</sup> 4 pm - St. Alipius

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

February 20<sup>th</sup> – Presbytery

### Casserole Night

February 28<sup>th</sup> 6 pm – Ss. Peter & Paul's,  
Buninyong

## SS. PETER & PAUL'S SOCIAL NIGHT

Ss. Peter & Paul's are hosting a Casserole/ Salad Night on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 6.00pm at St Peter & Paul's Church Hall in Buninyong. \$15 covers all wine beer and soft drink. Any profit to parish funds. Please bring a casserole or salad to share. All welcome.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

There are a number of Young Adult activities occurring around Ballarat at this time. If interested in being a part of something, email Fr Matt for a chat about possibilities and to be kept in the loop via text. [matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## YOUNG FAMILY GROUP

Families across Ballarat are currently meeting monthly during the week for a social afternoon sport activities for the kids and food are provided. The next gathering will be mid-February. To be kept informed via email, please register your interest by emailing [matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## AGED CARE PASTORAL CARE

St. Alipius Parish are looking for volunteers to visit residents and bring Holy Communion to Aged Care Facilities within the parish. If this is something you might be able to help with on a fortnightly or monthly basis, please contact Fr Matt to chat about logistics. [matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## 2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Dates for the 2025 Sacramental Program are now available on the Parish Website and in the foyers of each of our churches. If you know of someone who has a child seeking to prepare for Sacraments in 2025, please refer them to our website. Information will go to schools in the coming week. For further details please call the parish office.

## SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEATIFICATION

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop's beatification with a free commemorative prayer book, "Flourish with Mary's Heart", written by the Sisters of St Joseph. The book is available at <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/for-churches/prayer-book>

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC)

A recent status check for our Working with Children Checks indicates that some parishioners have cards which have expired, while others have new cards which we have yet to witness. It is important that all WWCC are up to date. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible if you are unsure of the status of your Working with Children Check. Thank you.

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## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests:	\$1012
Maintenance of parish buildings:	\$548

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

Counting team this week: No. 1

## EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Due to a change made by Google to the sending of emails to Gmail accounts, we have had some difficulty with the sending of our bulletin in recent weeks. If you have not received your emailed copy of the bulletin in the past couple of weeks, please call the office and let us know.

## BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM – ONLINE STUDY

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle begins March 10. There are 37 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. Scan the QR code for more information or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

## GRAMPIANS HEALTH BALLARAT ARE SEEKING PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS

Are you comfortable listening to people?  
Are you able to commit to 2.5 hours per week?  
Using health care services, being in hospital, and experiencing illness can prompt people to seek emotional support as well as reflect upon their attitudes to life, values, relationships and beliefs. It can be a time when people explore issues of meaning, connection and belonging.  
Volunteers will be supported with training prior to starting as a Pastoral Care Volunteer and opportunities for professional development and training. They are seeking to recruit volunteers to provide pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. Pastoral Care volunteers offer support including: A compassionate listening ear & emotional support Help patients connect with their religious or spiritual resources and support (as requested).  
Contact Paul Ryan, Pastoral Care Practitioner 5320 8634, 0467 297 733, [pastoralcareballarat@gh.org.au](mailto:pastoralcareballarat@gh.org.au)

## THE SYNOD AND THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH: WHERE TO NOW?

Wednesday 19 February 2025

7:30 pm AEDT

You are invited to participate in a webinar that will discuss the global *Synod 2021–2024* and its implications for the Australian Church. Presenting are two Synod participants: **Bishop Shane Mackinlay** and **Dr Sandie Cornish**. Their presentations will focus on the final session of the universal Synod in October 2024 and its report *For a Synodal Church*. They will also highlight issues such as the role of women in the Church, the diversity of opinions across the global Church, and the scope for local autonomy. A key question is how the Australian Church will implement the results of the Synod and address unresolved issues. There will be ample time for discussion.

## THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.  
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.  
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

## POSITION VACANT: CDF RELATIONSHIP MANAGER



Full time, permanent position based in Ballarat, leading customer support across Ballarat and Melbourne's West. Scan or click the QR code for more information and to apply.

# “Say You are Blessed!”

Reflection on the Gospel – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 6:17, 20-26)

-Veronica M. Lawson



“Don’t say you are lucky. Say you are blessed”, says theologian Thomas Groome as he invites his hearers to acknowledge the source of their blessings. We are unlikely to consider ourselves blessed or happy when we cannot pay our bills or put food on the table. We are likewise slow to count our blessings, much less dance for joy, when we find ourselves in tears or when we are excluded, rejected, and treated with contempt. We are more likely to consider ourselves blessed when we do not have to be constantly worried about money or food and when others treat us with respect. So why does Luke’s Jesus declare those who are poor to be happy or blessed? And why does he seem to be so hard on those who enjoy economic security and the respect of others? What does the gospel say to those of us who are somewhere in between the destitute who are declared blessed and the wealthy who are told to watch out? What does this gospel offer to those who attract neither praise nor blame? There are no easy answers to any of this, beyond the clear evidence that Luke’s Sermon on the Plain engages the theme of reversal that permeates this gospel.

Those rendered “poor” are told that the reign of God is theirs. In other words, it is a present rather than a future reality. The “poor” can at least know that they are acceptable to God in ways that may be incomprehensible to the wealthy who, in their turn, are challenged to share their wealth.

It is not much consolation for the hungry or those who weep to know that their “reward will be great in heaven” if heaven is a place enjoyed only in the afterlife. “Heaven” is better understood as a way of talking about God’s empire of justice and compassion both present and to come. Reversal is expected in this life rather than the next. Weeping is usually connected in the prophetic literature with the disasters that flow from “ungodly” decisions. In our times, there are many weeping over “ungodly” decisions in relation to war and species loss. Laughter seems a remote possibility for many displaced people of our world. We are reminded today of the gospel imperative to work and pray that war-torn and climate affected countries might once again resonate with the sound of happy laughter. Finally, our experience makes us wary of those who flatter or put us on pedestals. It is generally only a matter of time before those on pedestals fall from favour and find themselves on the receiving end of criticism or even attack. It is ultimately better to be misunderstood and to be at peace with one’s conscience in the pursuit of compassion and justice than to be the object of adulation and praise. It is only in handling life’s challenges with dignity, grace, and single-minded focus on the gospel that we find blessing or happiness.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Jeremiah 17:5-8  
Corinthians 15:12, 16-20  
Luke 6:17, 20-26

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Samuel 26:2, 7-9  
Corinthians 15:45-49  
Luke 6:27-38