



▶ **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

17 March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

*It yields a rich harvest*

# 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

Monday Funeral mass for Sr Joan

Dalgleish 10:30 AM

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 1

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:** Sr  
Joan Dalgleish RSM

**Anniversaries:** Noelene  
Fletcher, Carmel Doherty

**Unwell:** Socorro De  
Chavez, 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.

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION** 

## 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 box will be available for attendees to donate a few coins if you can.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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	\$1080
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$258

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

## PROJECT COMPASSION



As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. You can donate through

Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by calling 1800 024 41, visiting [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or scanning this QR code.



## 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/SdivlIKiHSs?feature=share>

## HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

### Palm Sunday Vigil – 23 March

6:00 PM – Weather permitting, the mass will commence outside the church and process inside.

### Palm Sunday – 24 March

9:00 AM – Mass at St Alipius.

10:30 AM – Mass at Ss Peter and Paul's, Buninyong.

### Holy Thursday – 28 March

7:00 PM – Mass of the Last Supper at St Alipius, including the ceremonial Washing of the Feet, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose in Parish Hall until 10:00 PM.

### Good Friday – 29 March

10:00 AM – Stations of the Cross at St Alipius.

3:00 PM – Passion of the Lord, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.

### Easter Vigil – 30 March

6:00 PM – Weather permitting, the vigil will commence on the lawn on the eastern side of St Alipius where the fire and Easter Candle will be blessed, followed by a candlelit procession into the church. Six children who have been preparing for their sacraments through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for Children of Catechetical Age will be baptised and some will also be Confirmed and receive their First Eucharist.

### Easter Sunday – 31 March

9:00 AM – Mass St Alipius.

10:30 AM – Mass at Ss Peter and Paul's.

## CHURCH PREPARATION

To help prepare our churches for the Easter season, parishioners are invited to help clean the churches after Sunday masses this weekend.

Volunteers are also required to set up the Altar of Repose in the Parish Hall for Holy Thursday. If you would like to help, please contact the parish office.

## 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.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to the 100+ children who have received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. Our thanks to the families and the staff of our local Catholic schools who have supported them in their preparation. These children will now prepare to receive Eucharist for the first time in May. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

## DIOCESAN E-NEWS

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

### BAPTISMS

#### Anika May Martin

Child of Jonel Martin and Maydalen Occenola

#### Lenny Harry Jack Ryan

Child of Joseph and Karen Ryan

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

Pope Francis

## 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/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/)

## PRIEST APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the allocation of priests throughout our local parishes. Effective Wednesday 10 April, Fr Justin Driscoll will be joining us as parish priest of Ballarat East, Bungaree, and Gordon. He will be supported by Fr Matthew Renstall as assistant priest. Fr Concord Bagaoisan will be moving to the Redan, Sebastopol, and Linton parishes, with Fr Eladio Lizada 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.wwme.org.au). Information and bookings: phone Mercy & James at 0409 183 676 or email [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto: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.



## 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.

## CDF COMMUNITY FUND

By opening a personal account with CDF Community Fund, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities.



With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including 5.55% p.a.\* on a 12-month Term Investment, it's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, email the CDF Team at [csg@melbcdf.org.au](mailto:csg@melbcdf.org.au) or phone 1800 134 135, or visit: [www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/off](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/off)er. \*Interest rates are subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.

## WALSH REUNION AND BOOK

Save the date – the weekend of 10–12 October 2025 – for a Walsh Clans of Horsham family reunion and book launch. The descendants of William and Bridget (nee Shea) Walsh of Tatyoon and McKenzie Creek, and Edward and Julia (nee Ryan) Walsh of Vectis and Remshaw will gather in Horsham over that weekend. For information and to register, please email [walshreunion2025@gmail.com](mailto:walshreunion2025@gmail.com).

# And I Will Draw All to Myself

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent: John 3:14–21

Today's gospel tells us that among those who go up to Jerusalem to worship at the feast of Passover are some "Greeks".

The reference is probably to a group known in the early church as "God-fearers", although that designation is found only in Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles.

These people were, in relation to Judaism, a bit like RCIA candidates in the Catholic tradition. They were certainly interested in Judaism and, because of their active interest in the Jewish faith, were possibly better informed about many of the Jewish traditions than those who had been members of the Jewish community all their lives.

God-fearers seem to have been among the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to join the early Christian Jewish movement, i.e., the Jews who accepted Jesus as Messiah (or Christ).

For Jesus, the arrival of these God-fearing Greeks signals his "hour".

Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus has insisted that his "hour" had not yet come. Now that his message receives global acknowledgement, or in the words of the Pharisees, now that "the

world has gone after him" (John 20:19), he can announce that the hour of his glorification has come.

Characteristically, Jesus uses a potent agricultural image to capture the transformative nature of his imminent death: like the grain of wheat, he must go into the earth and die in order to bear fruit.

The same is true for his followers: to be concerned only with self-preservation is to "lose" one's life; to give one's life is to "keep it for eternal life".

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### *He must die to bear fruit*

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Although the language is more explicit in John, the grain of wheat image echoes some aspects of the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34).

Jeremiah presents the God of Israel as One who forgives and who is even prepared to forget the sins of the past.

The people will be God's garden: the seed planted within them is God's Law. They will be God's own billboard: the law of forgiveness and mercy will be written in their hearts.



John uses the "eternal life" metaphor in much the same way as the other gospel writers use the "reign of God" or "kin-dom" image. To keep one's life for "eternal life" has to do with living God's transformative vision for creation in the present so that it might one day be fully realised.

In John's gospel, Jesus' death is also his being lifted up in glory. The moment of his death becomes the moment of drawing "all" to himself.

The "all" includes all people but is not restricted to the human community. It also allows for an ecological interpretation: in his death and exaltation, Jesus gathers the whole Earth community into the mystery of God's redemptive and transforming love.

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

JEREMIAH 31:31–34  
HEBREWS 5:7–9  
JOHN 12:20–30

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

ISAIAH 50:4–7  
PHILIPPIANS 2:6–11  
MARK 14:1–15:47