



▶ **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

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

18 February 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Believe the Good News

St Alipius parish

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 4

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: Janet McHenry, Sr. Angela Caine – funeral mass 1:00 PM Thursday 22 February

Anniversaries: Jack Gittings

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** 

PROJECT COMPASSION

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa, and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for future generations. Learn about these women and how Project Compassion helped them here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10823301/video/885560092>

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
6:30 PM, Thursday 22 February

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Parents who wish their children under the age of seven to be baptised in our parish are required to attend an information session on Thursday 7 March at 10 AM or 5.30 PM (choose one) in the small hall at St. Patrick's Cathedral. No registration is required. For further information please call the parish office.

VOLUNTEERING AT MERCY PLACE

Mercy Place are currently seeking volunteers for a range of roles within their facility. Volunteers may spend time one on one with residents, taking them for walks in the garden, going on bus trips or helping in the garden. The hours are organised to suit the volunteer. If you are interested in learning more, please see the flyer in the church foyer.

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.	\$478.20

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

POPE'S MESSAGE FOR LENT

Pope Francis' Lenten message is focused on God's call to leave behind the bonds of slavery and is titled, "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 or view a video: <https://youtu.be/zXPPVVtpHBM?t=408>

HOLY WATER IN FONTS

Following some recent discussions about COVID provisions, I was asked about restoring Holy Water to fonts in our churches. While we did empty fonts at the height of the COVID pandemic, this restriction seems unnecessary now. Some parishes restored Holy Water to fonts quite some time ago and I fully support this. This makes Holy Water readily available for those who wish to use it. Of course, any parishioner who has concerns need not use the Holy Water from a font. God bless you all. Bishop Paul

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.

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, and what the tasks involve, will be provided in the coming weeks, continuing this week with the music/visual display operator and PowerPoint slide-making ministries.

MUSIC AND VISUAL DISPLAY

The Vatican's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states that Christ is present when the church prays and sings, for he promised, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20.) Each week our masses are enriched with pre-recorded hymns, or choirs and musicians who lead our singing. The lyrics, longer prayers and other information are presented on the churches' visual display screens via PowerPoint slides. A small group of volunteers are rostered to take turns updating these slides and selecting the hymns. Another group take turns operating the laptop and projection equipment during mass. These operators occasionally make brief announcements before or during mass. Musicians select the hymns they will sing, practice them, and then perform during mass. These tasks all require certain levels of skill and confidence, but fulfilling these ministries is something that you can train and practice for and are vital liturgical roles that add so much to our celebration of mass.

BAPTISMS

Ella Jane Tuddenham
Child of Luke and Sarah Tuddenham

Augie George Tuddenham
Child of Bradley and Bonnie Tuddenham

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

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Our Diocesan Community (ODC) is published three times a year to share news about things taking place around the diocese. You 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 files, with permission sought from those in the pictures. Email articles to 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. Contact Fiona Bradley at fionalouisebradley@gmail.com for additional information.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP)

WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation from the WDP International Committee in 2017 to write the 2024 program. The theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-6. Our Christian sisters invite the global church to pray for peace, justice, and freedom for every individual irrespective of nationality, religion, or origin.

World Day of Prayer services in Ballarat and Creswick this year on Friday, 1 March at the following times and venues:

10:00 AM	St Peter's Anglican Church 1307 Sturt Street West, Ballarat
2:00 PM	St Mary's Anglican Church, Birchip
6:00 PM	St Paul's Anglican Church 3 Humffray Street, Bakery Hill
7:00 PM	St John's Anglican Church 103 Napier Street, Creswick

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 "**Think before you buy.**"

A great way to reduce waste is to think about whether you need something before you buy it. See if you can buy second-hand rather than new. Buying from small local businesses is also a good way to reduce your environmental impact.

Believe the Good News

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

1st Sunday in Lent: Mark 1:12–15

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones.

It is a time to consider how we might respond to the pain of the world and of its inhabitants.

It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into “the wilderness” and for grappling with the mysteries of life.

It is a time of preparation for Easter when we will renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith.

The gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in “the wilderness”.

Jesus is said to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many human beings before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the original Greek term than is “tempted”].

Forty is a symbolic number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain

of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God.

The wilderness of Judah, with its unique desert flora and fauna, its wadis, and waterholes, is ever so real.

His message is to repent

At the same time, it functions symbolically in the narrative. In Israel’s story, it is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deuteronomy 8:2).

Jesus now passes the tests that Israel failed in the wilderness.

Jesus is “with the wild beasts”. This terse statement recalls the prophet Isaiah’s vision of a future time of reconciliation and harmony when “the wolf will lie down with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6-9). Jesus is presented as the one who ushers in that age of peace and healing of division.



God’s agents care for him in his time of testing: “angels minister to him”. In this context, Jesus announces the coming of God’s empire or reign.

His message is to “repent”, “think again”, to take stock in a way that might turn lives around in God’s direction, and to “believe the good news” that he is set to proclaim in word and action.

The call to repent is a call to expand our thinking and to change our behaviour.

At a time of growing divide between the mega-rich and the desperately poor, we might look back to our symbolic tradition and forward to ways of bringing good news to those most deeply affected by the inequities in our world.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

GENESIS 22:1–2, 9:13, 15–18
ROMANS 8:31–34
MARK 9:2–10