



▶ **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

19 March 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Lord is my shepherd

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30 AM
Stations of the cross after Friday mass
Saturday 9:30 AM, 6.00 PM
Sunday 9.00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
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 1 this week – 9:30 AM

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

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.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Anniversaries: Anne Bernadette
Cheeseman, Carmel Doherty,
Molly Forbes

Unwell: Mary Hall, Peter
McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan

*Our parish is committed to the
safety, well-being, and dignity of
all children and vulnerable adults.*

*We acknowledge this land's
traditional owners and custodians
and pay our respects to Elders
past, present, and emerging.*



Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Sacramental and Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council Chair

David Morrison

Finance Officer

Kerrie McTigue

Finance Chair

Paul O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer

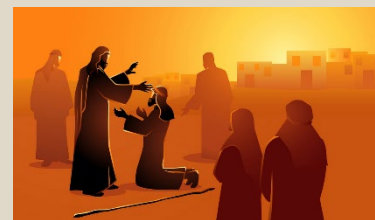
Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordinator

David Santamaria
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION

In preparation for Easter, you are invited to gather at St Alipius on Monday 20 March at 6:00 PM, for the second rite of reconciliation. The second form of the sacrament of penance is a communal liturgical celebration that includes listening to the Word of God, followed by a homily, and an examination of conscience. Individual confession and absolution take place with people approaching a priest one at a time and privately confessing their sins. Penitents can be seen but not heard by others who are present. The second rite respects the privacy of each penitent within the communal nature of the sacrament.

FR JORGE'S ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD – CATERING

We plan to come together on Saturday 15 April to celebrate with Fr. Jorge the occasion of his 25th anniversary of priesthood. Following the 6:00 PM mass, we will gather to share a meal in the hall. Meat will be provided, but we are asking parishioners to provide a salad/side dish. If you are in a position to do this, please contact the parish office during office hours to let us know what you plan on bringing, so that we can avoid double-ups, and can cater for everyone. If you have any queries, please reach out to Cathy or Natalie.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

6.00 PM, Monday 20 March, St Alipius

Parish Pastoral Council meeting

6.30 PM, Thursday 23 March

Liturgy Committee meeting

5.30 PM, Tuesday 28 March, Presbytery

Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations

Saturday 15 April

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held at Ss Peter and Paul's in Buninyong at 7:00 PM every Tuesday night during Lent. Stations of the Cross also follow the 9.30 AM Mass each Friday morning at St Alipius. Everyone welcome.

EASTER MINISTRIES

With Holy Week and Easter approaching, the parish Liturgy Committee is calling for volunteers to help with liturgical ministries. Sign up via the sheet in the foyer of St Alipius or call the parish office. If you'd like to read the Passion, please speak with Susan Begbie (St Alipius) or Mike Maloney (Ss Peter and Pauls). For the washing of feet on Holy Thursday, we want a wide range of people including adults, seniors, adolescents, parents, single people etc. Those who already volunteer and those who are putting their hand up for the first time are all welcome to contact the office or speak with Fr Jorge or David Santamaria to help increase layperson engagement with our ceremonies this year.

RCIA – INTRODUCING MICHAEL

Michael is excited to be undertaking his Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Born and raised in Ballarat where he attended primary school at St Francis Xavier and high school at St Patrick's College, Michael attended university as a mature-aged student at the age of 30 to study for a Bachelor of Education. In 2017 he started his first full-time teaching job at St Alipius Primary School where he spent 4 years before taking a job at St Francis Xavier Primary School, where he teaches Year 6s. Michael is a proud husband to Nicole and has a 2-year-old named Layla. They will welcome a second child in May. Michael's interests are music, running and AFL. We look forward to Michael becoming fully initiated in the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil on Saturday 8

PLANNED GIVING RENEWAL

The Parish Finance Committee discussed the need for a renewal of the parish's planned-giving program at its recent meeting.

We are seeking volunteers to join a planned giving program committee. Our goal is to renew and revitalise our parish's planned giving efforts and ensure the long-term sustainability of our community.

If you are interested in joining the planned giving program committee, please contact the parish office and leave your details. You will then be invited to an information session to discuss the role further before committing. We look forward to hearing from you!

VINNIES BREAD RUN

Vinnies volunteers provide bread to those in need each Monday between 7.30 and 8.00 PM. If this would benefit you or someone you know please visit the hall during this time. Please bring a bag to put the bread in.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next preparation session for baptism will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall at 10.00 AM on Thursday 6 April. There will **not** be a 5:30 PM session because it is Holy Thursday.

BAPTISMS

Sienna Mae Flood

Child of Brian Flood and Sarah Van Egmond

Billy Lukas Webster

Child of Lukas and Erin Webster

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

Pope Francis

PARISH PROTOCOLS

As a parish, we are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment to encourage everyone to be involved and share their talents. We have several protocols in place to enable this and share some of these here to raise awareness. Please remember that anything that happens in our parish reflects all those who call our parish home and therefore any event that is organised must be authorised through the parish office. Such authorisation is also required in regard to items for the weekly notice sheet and notices put up in the church foyers. We ask that people do not advertise or share material that relates to the church without first speaking to Fr Jorge or a member of the parish administration team. If you wish to have something said at weekend masses, this must be approved by Fr Jorge in the week prior to mass. We ask that people respect these protocols as they are designed to ensure that our parish is inclusive, and we encourage you to call the parish office if you have any questions or concerns.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Collection basket – **\$1,628**

Presbytery and priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$433.20**

Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance.

For any queries or concerns, or should you wish to join our stewardship program to support our parish, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie on 5331 2933 or email ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

BALLARAT EAST COMMUNITY DAY AT ST ALIPIUS PRIMARY

Stalls, music food and fun. Be a part of the festivities on Sunday 2 April between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at St Alipius Primary School grounds, 106 – 108 Victoria St.

MASS OF THE OILS

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils on Monday 3 April at 6:30 PM at St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, aided by Caritas Australia, supports young women in the community with practical support like housing and helps mentor the next generation of young people. They provide advocacy, counselling services and links to government departments. With your support, Baabayn can continue to work with young mothers and help them keep their culture strong for future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

SLAVERY FREE CHOCOLATE

Easter chocolate is already on supermarket shelves, so let us recommit to buying slavery-free chocolate this year. It is also the right time to tell our families, friends, and communities about the exploitation of children in chocolate production, to encourage them to start buying slavery-free chocolate now – and to keep going after Easter. You can find the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard at www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate. The scorecard published in 2022 and updated before Easter, features most of your favourite brands and explains how they rate in several key areas including child labour, payment of a living income and the impact on climate.

WALK FOR JUSTICE

This year's Palm Sunday Walk for Justice will call for Justice for Refugees, including permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. Join us this Palm Sunday, 2 April at 1.00 PM for a group reflection, with the walk starting at about 1.30 PM. Meet at the right side of the State Library of Victoria, near the Joan of Arc statue and next to Little Lonsdale Street – you'll see a large 'CAPSA', 'Jesuit Social Services' or 'Xavier Social Justice Network' or 'CSSV' banner. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maeve at CAPSA, email info@capsa.org.au.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Fourth Sunday of Lent: John 9:1–41

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again, they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final

authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins".

This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, and the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In the present global political climate, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength.

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In the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the



perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. It seems to me that there is a little bit of each character in every one of us.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1 SAMUEL 16:1, 6–7, 10–13
EPHESIANS 5:8–14
JOHN 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

EZEKIEL 37:12–14
ROMANS 8:8–11
JOHN 11:1–45