



▶ **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

[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/)

19 November 2023

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Enter into the joy of the Lord*

# St Alipius parish

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

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>)

Rosary – Tuesday 6:30 PM

### 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 2 this week – 9:30 AM

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:** Phillip Crosbie, Antonio Rizzo

**Anniversaries:** Adelfa Contiga

**Unwell:** Socorro De Chavez, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Patricia Murry, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

## PARISH TEAM

### Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, 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.



WORLD DAY  
OF THE POOR

## FR JORGE FAREWELL

Father Jorge's final mass with us will be on Christmas Day. He heads off on Boxing Day for the long drive across the Nullarbor to his new parish in Western Australia. Everyone is invited to join Fr Jorge for a farewell mass at 6:00 PM on Saturday 9 December at St Alipius, followed by a BBQ in the Parish Hall. Please bring a salad and/or dessert to share.

## CHURCH WORKING BEES

To prepare our churches for Christmas, the Parish Pastoral Council has organised a working bee at each church. Tasks include cleaning, weeding, and setting up Nativity scenes. If you can spare some time, please join us after 10:30 AM Sunday mass at St Alipius on 26 November, and at Ss Peter and Paul's on 3 December.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Anointing Mass

2:00 PM, Friday 1 December, St Alipius

#### Farewell Mass and BBQ for Fr Jorge

6:00 PM, Saturday 9 December, St Alipius

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, so masses that weekend will be as follows:

#### Saturday 23 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent vigil

6:00 PM – St Alipius

#### Sunday 24 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM – Ss Peter and Paul's

10:30 AM – St Alipius

#### Sunday 24 December – Christmas vigil

6:00 PM – Children's mass at St Alipius

7:30 PM – Ss Peter and Paul's

9:00 PM – St Alipius

#### Monday 25 December – Christmas Day

9:00 AM – Ss Peter and Paul's

10:30 AM – St Alipius

## LITURGY ROSTER

The St Alipius liturgy roster for December and January will be emailed to volunteers this week. For those not on email, hard copies will be provided in the sacristy. Please remember to diarise when you are scheduled and arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of mass to sign in and check that all volunteers have turned up. Thank you.

## ALTAR SERVERS

The Children's Mass at 6:00 PM on Sunday 24 December provides a wonderful opportunity for any children in the parish who are interested to participate in the mass as an altar server. If you have children who are interested, please let the parish office know. Training will be provided, and altar servers will have an opportunity to serve during Advent masses with coaching, in preparation for the Children's Mass.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,011
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$373.20

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

## ANOINTING MASS

Parishioners are invited to attend our anointing mass at St Alipius at 2:00 PM on Friday 1 December, followed by a cuppa in the hall. A small plate to share following mass would be welcome. If transport is required, please call the parish office on 5332 6611.

## VICAR GENERAL UPDATE

Fr Kevin Maloney is retiring from the role of Vicar General due to health concerns. Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Marchello Colasante to be the Diocese of Ballarat's new Vicar General. Fr Marcello will continue to serve as parish priest for Ballarat North and Wendouree.

## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The call to serve the poor has been greatly emphasised under the papacy of Pope Francis, who established the World Day of the Poor in 2017. The Holy Father's message for 2023 is "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tob 4:7). The Church is encouraged to "go forth", beyond its own walls, to encounter poverty "in the multiple meanings in which it manifests itself in today's world." You can read the Pope's message at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## YCW CRICKET CLUB

All past players, supporters and families are invited to a luncheon at Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at 12pm. Numbers are needed by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of November. For enquiries or to book please call Terry on 0401 730 670 or John 0409 864 080.

## 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 November – **For the Pope:** We pray for the Holy Father. As he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Lord, hear us.

## BAPTISMS

**Marley Grace Dutton**  
Child of Tyler and Cara Dutton

**Charlotte Louise Porter**  
Child of Nathan and Joanne Porter

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

## SYNOD REFLECTION

Reflecting on last month's Synod on Synodality assembly, Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB described "being a synodal Church" as an experience that "we have to live in order to understand it". Read more at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/)

## ST BRENDAN'S DUNNSTOWN

All are invited to celebrate the 'End of an Era' at St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown from 2:00 PM on Saturday, 25 November. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to anyone that you think may be interested.

More information is available from this website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/celebrating-the-end-of-an-era-at-st-brendans-primary-school-dunnstown/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/celebrating-the-end-of-an-era-at-st-brendans-primary-school-dunnstown/)

## DEACON ORDINATION

Seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained as a Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 16 December at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. All are welcome to attend.

## 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.



## NATIVITY DISPLAY

To spread a Christmas message of peace, love and family, this year's "Making a Scene at Christmas" display will be spread across two locations: a shop in the Bridge Mall from Tuesday, 5 December – Friday, 22 December and at the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat archives by appointment between 20 November – 22 December, and 4– 20 January 2024. Over 500 Christmas nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see handcrafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); and nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Everyone is welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation. Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information, please contact Fiona Tonkin at [Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE

Presented by Dr Susan Connelly RSJ, "Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins" at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, 28 November via Zoom. To book scan the QR code or visit [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1141646](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1141646)



## DAY OF THE POOR PRAYER

Loving Father, your risen Son sent us out into the world as ambassadors for the kingdom of God; inspire us with your Spirit of compassion, justice, and truth to declare the Good News to those who are poor, to work for the relief, defence, and liberation of all who are trapped in oppressive circumstances. We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## YCW CRICKET CLUB

All former players, supporters and families are invited to a get-together and lunch at Robin Hood Hotel at 12 noon on Sunday 3 December. Numbers are needed by Sunday 26 November. For further enquiries or to book please call Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.

# Contemplating the Eternal Verities

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 25:14–30

In answer to my greeting, “G’day Muff, what are you up to?”, my polymath brother-in-law, David (nicknamed Muff), would invariably reply, “Just contemplating the eternal verities!” The ensuing conversation would confirm the veracity of his response: contemplating the eternal verities was a way of life for my brother-in-law.

As the end of the church year approaches, the liturgy presents us with texts that invite us all to consider the big questions of life and death, including the day of reckoning that will inevitably confront each one of us.

Matthew’s parable of the talents is part of a discourse about the final realities. It is sandwiched between the parable of the ten lamp-bearers, five of whom are unprepared for the bridegroom, and the end-time judgement of the nations.

The previous story concluded with the warning: “Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” This is usually interpreted as a reference to the future coming of Christ.

Today’s story continues this motif. It opens: “For it is as if a man going abroad summons his slaves and entrusts his property to them....”

Once more, we find slavery taken for granted. Once more, we might take this as a reminder to commit

ourselves to the elimination of all power over others.

The slaves are entrusted with phenomenal wealth: ten talents, five talents, and one talent respectively. A talent was a measure of weight, one silver talent being the equivalent of 1000 days’ wages for an ordinary labourer. The scenario is dramatically far-fetched, as is often the case with parables.

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### *Parables are open to multiple interpretations*

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The slaves are given amounts “according to their ability”. They receive no instructions, but later events indicate that the master expects a good return on his money, despite the prohibition on usury in that society.

The first two slaves deliver and are invited into “the joy of the master”, another possible reference to the end time when God will embrace those who are faithful to their mission.

The third slave does what was expected in that culture: he buries his talent. He also provides a reasonable rationale for his action: the master is a hard man who inspires a fear-ridden response. The master does not resilite from this description and expels “into



outer darkness” the one who challenges his behaviour.

Is the master an image of God? Some elements in the story point in this direction. Other features, such as the concentration of wealth in one person and the treatment of the fearful slave, inhibit an unequivocally affirmative answer to this question.

In face of present inequities even within the most affluent countries, we may find ourselves in sympathy with the third slave insofar as he challenges the violent and exploitative actions of the master.

Parables are open to multiple interpretations and the eternal verities cannot be encapsulated in one story or one image. They bear ongoing reflection and call us to responsible action for the sake of the equilibrium or balance that Pope Francis advocates.

#### THIS WEEK’S READINGS

33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PROVERBS 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–6

MATTHEW 25:14–15, 19–21

#### NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

CHRIST THE KING

EZEKIEL 34:11–12, 15–17

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20–26, 28

MATTHEW 25:31–46