

1st September 2024

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The just will live in the presence of the Lord.”

St Alipius parish



▶ **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/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tue 9:30 am

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place –
parishioners welcome

Thurs 2pm (Sam Citta
Funeral Mass)

Friday 9:30

Sat 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 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 this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Salvatore (Sam) Citta

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez

Shelley Pawang, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest

Fr Matthew Restall

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.



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1001
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$518

UPCOMING EVENTS

PPC Meeting

6:30 pm, September 12th, Presbytery

Baptism Preparation

10.00 am & 5.30 pm, September 5th
St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall

Confirmation Liturgies

6 pm September 3rd, 4th and 5th
St. Alipius Church

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

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. Cycle 6 begins September 2. There are 40 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. For more information email djurja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

In his [message for the 2024 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#) Pope Francis writes:

“To hope and act with creation, then, means above all to join forces and to walk together with all men and women of good will. In this way, we can help to rethink, “among other things, the question of human power, its meaning and its limits. Our power has frenetically increased in a few decades. We have made impressive and awesome technological advances, yet we have not realized that at the same time we have turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival” ([Laudate Deum](#), 28)”

PREPARING FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

Last weekend in Warrnambool, Fr Justin, Julie Boyd and Jane Collins led the final regional gathering in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly (Nov.15-16). Our parish of Ballarat East and Buninyong will now be invited to nominate two delegates to send to the Diocesan Assembly that will be held at Federation University on Friday evening November 15th and Saturday November 16th. Prior to the Assembly, delegates from parishes, clergy, religious, Diocesan Commissions, Boards and Councils, Catholic education, CatholicCare, Catholic organizations and agencies within the Diocese will be required to engage in some preparation (some will be online).

Our Parish Pastoral Council will discern the two delegates who will attend the Diocesan Assembly. Parishioners are invited to nominate other parishioners to be considered to be one of the parish delegates. Please forward your nomination to the Parish Office with the name of the person being nominated, qualities that you see in them that make them a suitable parish delegate and include your name as the parishioner nominating them.

Pope Francis is providing leadership for a synodal Church and the Plenary Council of the Australian Church has recognised that the practice of synodality requires greater transparency in decision making, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised, giving witness to the equal dignity of women and men. The Plenary Council has affirmed a culture of synodality for parishes and dioceses, where healthy and fruitful relationships between clergy and laity “recognise different but complementary charisms and opportunities for co-responsibility”, and desire “consultative and collaborative approaches to governance at all levels in the Church.” The emphasis on listening and discernment for a synodal Church reveals how the People of God may be more centred on Christ, build healthy and respectful relationships amongst ourselves, and be effective missionary disciples in the Spirit.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

To all who are fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and father figures in our community we pray for you today. With our appreciation of masculinity continuing to evolve to now encompassing a broader range of attributes that embraces emotional intelligence, empathy, vulnerability, and a readiness to challenge conventional gender expectations and stereotypes. This perspective highlights the importance of recognizing and valuing diverse expressions of masculinity in today's society.

BAPTISMS

Daphne Mae Ambrosy
Child of Joshua and Skye Ambrosy

Hunter Kenneth and Noah Joseph Grech
Children of Daniel Grech and Billie-Jo Walker

"IF WE DON'T GET JESUS RIGHT, WE WON'T GET THE CHURCH RIGHT."

These are the words of Australian Jesuit Fr Gerald O'Collins who died in Melbourne on August 22nd 2024. The reality of Jesus and the reality of the church - and how both should be interpreted and understood - were the topics of many of the writings and teachings of Fr O'Collins in Australia, the U.K. and for many years at the Gregorian University in Rome (1973 – 2006). In one of his earliest writings, a 1971 article on *The search for the historical Jesus*, he emphasized three points.

1. Jesus should not be turned into our contemporary; he lived when and where he lived. "To describe Him as a revolutionary leader, a truly secular man or the first hippie may be emotionally satisfying, but for the most part these stereotypes are intellectually worthless,"
2. We can't really construct a biography of Jesus with the materials we have (which hasn't stopped us from trying). "Our knowledge of Him is practically restricted to the last two or three years of His life. Even for these years very little chronology can be established. The sources we possess make it notoriously difficult to penetrate His inner life,"
3. "We need to respect the nature of the Gospels as brief testimonials of faith," meaning they are not historical sources in the way we think of such, but at the same time they are not just the "devotional literature of the early Church."

In 2006, Fr O'Collins was made a Companion of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC) "for service to the Catholic Church internationally and to scholarship as a renowned theologian, academic and influential contributor to ecumenical relations."

CARING GROUP

The caring group will meet in the parish hall at 2:00 PM on Friday 6th September. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a plate to share.

WELCOME TO BISHOP PAUL TO OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

As part of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat Bishop Paul is visiting each of the 29 parishes of the Diocese 'from the Murray to the Sea.' This weekend Bishop Paul celebrates 6.30pm Mass at Dunnstown, 9.00am Mass at Gordon and 10.30am Mass at Ballan. Parishioners will then gather for lunch with Bishop Paul at the Wallace Hotel from 1.00pm. Bishop Paul has said that "Our 150th anniversary will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care that are provided in our diocese today. The anniversary will be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. It will be a chance to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we can live as a truly Christian community, sharing the good news of Christ, in the years to come." Bishop Paul will visit the Ballarat East and Buninyong Church communities on Saturday September 14th and Sunday September 15th.

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for seventeen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund.

This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our retired priests. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'.

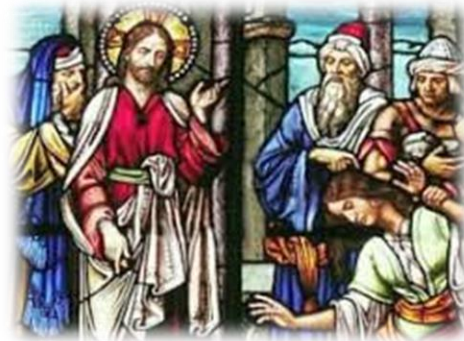
ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to all who have contributed to information about our Parish for the celebration on 14 December. Interesting stories about parishioners feature delightfully but we would love some reflections on other aspects of the Parish ie, YCW, Tennis Club, God Start, RCIA, Family groups, St Vinnies, Different Ministries ie the Bereavement team. These need to be anecdotal and not very long. If they can be illustrated with photos all the better. Please deliver your contribution to the Parish Office or email it. These stories need to be in by 15 September.

“To Hope and Act with Creation”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



From September 1 to October 4, we join with Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation. The 2024 theme, “To hope and act with creation” invites us to maintain the struggle even as we witness the devastating effects of the climate crisis. Today’s gospel recounts a legal dispute about ritual purity. Jesus demonstrates the futility of focussing attention on the things that do not matter while neglecting the weightier issues of life.

At issue for the scribes and Pharisees in the story is the failure of Jesus’ disciples to respect their oral tradition, in this instance to perform ritual washings before eating. From their perspective, the disciples are not “walking” according to the tradition of the elders. For the Markan Jesus, “the command of God” is paramount, not some distorted interpretation of it. He offers a hard-hitting counter-critique of their attitude to law. He calls them “hypocrites” and informs them that the condemnation of the prophet Isaiah was intended for them. They have so distorted God’s law, substituting their own observances for the “commandment of God” that their prayer amounts to nothing more than lip-service, their hearts are far from God, and their worship is worthless!

For Jesus, there are criteria other than such observances for determining who is clean or unclean. He has already declared a leper clean (Mk 1:41-45).

For Jesus, the “heart” is the locus of purity and impurity. For him as for all his people, the heart was the seat of the intellect and of morality as well as the seat of the emotions. In the kin-dom of God, therefore, one’s thoughts, desires, and intentions render one clean or unclean, not one’s attention to hygiene. The latter is important of course, but it is peripheral in the context being addressed in the gospel. It is worth applying the criteria provided at the end of the passage to discover whether or not our “hearts” are near or distant from our God. The real-life Pharisees of the first century were the respected teachers of God’s law. It is imperative that stories such as we find in today’s gospel are not used to denigrate the Jews or to pit Christianity over against Judaism. We have to keep reminding ourselves that time and again we are dealing with in-house debates between Jewish groups. This gospel passage invites us to look at how we deal with unfair critics who can hurt us only if we allow them to do so.

Finally, this episode, with its attention to ritual washing, raises the issue of the right use of water, that precious earth element without which there would be no life at all on our planet. We might, for instance, as part of our engagement with the Season of Creation, be more attentive to those who have no access to clean drinking water by raising our voices against projects that contaminate water supply to vulnerable communities.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-8

JAMES 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 35: 4 – 7

JAMES 2:1 – 5

MARK 7: 31 – 37