

20 August 2023

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Let all the nations praise you*

# 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  
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/)

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Wed and Fri 9.30 AM in the Parish Hall

Saturday 9.30 AM, 6.00 PM

Sunday 9.00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)

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 3 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:

**Anniversaries:** Mavis McKeegan

**Unwell:** Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Colin McKenzie, Patricia Murry, Maureen Santamaria, Carole Simmons, Shelley Pawang, Madeline Ballinger

## 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.



## SOCIAL GATHERING

Do you enjoy a night out? Do you like a nice meal with good company? If your answer to these questions is yes, then join us at 6:00 PM on Wednesday 13 September at the Golden Point Hotel in Main Road. The Parish has booked a space and invites everyone to come together on this night. Names will need to be to the office by no later than Friday 1 September to allow for an accurate booking. Anyone who would like to attend, but needs transport, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office as we will organise the transport for you. Looking forward to another great gathering.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Parish dinner at Golden Point Hotel

6:00 PM, Wednesday 13 September, 639 Main Road

## PARISH MASTER PLAN

The Parish Finance Committee is embarking on a process to establish a master plan for our parish to maximise the potential of our buildings and land. By generating income through these assets, we can better support the upkeep of our churches, our various ministries, programs, and ongoing pastoral initiatives, thereby serving our community more effectively.

We seek your insights, suggestions, and creative ideas. Together, we can envision new possibilities and identify sustainable income streams that align with the mission and vision of our parish.

For those who were unable to join our recent Sunday morning sessions, please join us in the St Alipius Hall after the 6.00 PM mass on Saturday 26 August to discuss the parish's asset holdings and ideas for their future use.

## CONFIRMATION

Several children are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These children have been welcomed to masses on recent weekends and are preparing at home with their families. Please pray for these children in their final weeks of preparation. The children will be confirmed at liturgies during the week of September 4th.

## PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of cards and gifts suitable for Confirmation all at very affordable prices.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$878
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$383

Thanks to all who participate in the stewardship program for your contributions. We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

## PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

If you would like to receive a statement for your contributions to the Stewardship Program over the past financial year, please contact the office.

## TOILETRIES COLLECTION

Our local Vinnies are collecting toiletries for people in need. Please donate soap, toothpaste, or other toiletries, in the box on the Vinnies' stall. Anything you can give will be provided to someone who will greatly appreciate it.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

St Vincent de Paul, Ballarat East needs your help. Can you spare a few hours a week to assist those in need? If so, please leave your details with the Parish Office.

## VINNIES BREAD RUN

Each Monday night between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM, Vinnies volunteers can be found in the St. Alipius Church Hall providing bread for those in need. If this would benefit you, or someone you know please call into the hall and bring a bag to put the bread in.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Live Your Best Married Life in Love" – every relationship is a journey, and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. The Marriage Encounter weekend in Melbourne on 3 – 5 November, 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.

For more information visit [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au). To book, phone Mercy & James on 0409 183 676 or email [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

## VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal focuses on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Appeal envelopes are at the ends of the pews. To support the work of our local SVdP conference place your donation envelope on the collection plate. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made at [www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal), at Vinnies shops, or by calling 13 18 12.

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The latest edition of 'Our Diocesan Community' is available now in the foyers of our churches. Please take a copy to read and learn more about what's happening in various parts of our Diocese.

### BAPTISMS

**George Leo Broadbent**  
Child of Dwayne and Heather Broadbent

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

Pope Francis

## ST PATRICK'S ENROLMENTS

Applications for enrolments at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, in Year 7, 2025 are now open at [www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/apply-now](http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/apply-now). An information session will be held at 5:00 PM on Wednesday 30 August in the OCA Pavilion. Register at [www.stpats.vic.edu.au](http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au).

## 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).

The Pope's intention for August – **for World Youth Day**: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. Lord, hear us.

## VOICE CONVERSATIONS

A kitchen table conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn, and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months. Online sessions will be held on 17 August, 29 August, 11 September, and 28 September from 3.30-4.45 PM via Zoom. More information and registration details are available from [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/)

## FR FRANK SMITH FUNERAL

The Funeral Mass for Fr Frank Smith CSsR will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree at 10.30 am on Friday, 25 August.

## LAY 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 US\$50 online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through the Diocese of Ballarat's partner, Dayton University. The next cycle begins on 28 August. There are 41 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open until 21 August. For more information phone 5337 7121 or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## OUR STORIES, OUR LIVES

'Our Stories, Our Lives, Our Mission' is a new book by Catholic Religious Australia and St Paul's Publications on building religious literacy and is a valuable resource considering Vocations Awareness Week, 6–13 August. More information is available from the Diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## TEACHING MEDITATION

Catholic Theological College is running an online information session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation at 7:30 PM on Monday, 4 September. Registration is essential. [https://divinity.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kcu2oqTMjEt1WB9i\\_gVwXdSmk\\_4vTM\\_df#/registration](https://divinity.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kcu2oqTMjEt1WB9i_gVwXdSmk_4vTM_df#/registration)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Social Justice Sunday is 27 August. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Social Justice Statement, "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" will be launched on Thursday, August 17 via a live stream on Facebook [socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/07/20/listen-learn-love/](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/07/20/listen-learn-love/)

# Mercy me!

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 15:21–28

The gospels are written in Greek and much of the language of the gospels has to be understood against a Greek philosophical background.

Today's gospel story culminates in the healing of a "daughter" who may be a little girl or even a young woman. Her mother, the main character in the story, is known to Matthew's community simply as a Canaanite woman, or in other words an indigenous woman. To some early Christian communities, she is Justa, so that we might reasonably call her daughter Justina.

Justa comes to Jesus as he moves from Jewish territory into, or close to, non-Jewish territory. In the language of liturgy, she laments loudly and persistently for her daughter, for Justina is "severely tormented by a demon".

For the ancient Greeks, the antithesis of demonic possession or torment is human flourishing or well-being (eudaimonia).

Eudaimonia means having a good guardian spirit as opposed to a malevolent spirit that impairs a person's well-being and sense of self.

Justina's well-being is in jeopardy. Her distraught mother is an outsider to the "house of Israel" who is nonetheless familiar with

Israel's prayer of lament. She is a woman alone in a public space, risking ridicule and rejection to find healing for her daughter. Her plea, "Mercy me", reveals the depth of her identity with the suffering of her daughter.

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*We might well cry out on behalf of our planet, "Mercy me."*

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The immediate response to her plea is silence: Jesus "does not answer her a word".

Is he ignoring her cry for help? Is he simply stunned, taken aback at the vehemence of her request? Is he rendered speechless by the simple fact that she would cross the boundaries of gender and ethnicity in this way? Is he in awe at her courage and faith from the outset? All we know is that he says nothing and that the disciples tell him to send her away.

He responds by defining the limits of his mission rather narrowly: he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Justa is not deterred from her mission. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as "the children" and her



people as "the dogs". She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table".

Jesus' horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this courageous and faith-filled woman. Justa's great faith is affirmed, and her daughter is healed. Justa is vindicated and Justina is restored to a state of well-being or eudaimonia.

Justina has her counterparts across the globe, especially in these troubled times of pandemic. The challenge for us is to be Justa in our times for the sake of all in the Earth community, human and other-than-human, whose well-being or eudaimonia is impaired by illness or fear or lack of access to the means to flourish. We might well cry out on behalf of our planet, "Mercy me."

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 56:1, 6–7  
ROMANS 11:13–15, 29–32  
MATTHEW 15:21–28

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 22:19–23  
ROMANS 11:33–36  
MATTHEW 16:13–20