



▶ **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

22nd September 2024

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

⁶⁶Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.”

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tue 5:30 PM

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place –
parishioners welcome

Thurs & Fri 9:30 AM

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 7

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: Patrick Roache, Kevin Cooper

Anniversaries: Dan Cosgriff

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

TBA

Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke
Principal – St. Alipius School
Phone: 5331 1816

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)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Council met during the past week with members of the Council - Teresa Fletcher, Martin McGettigan (chair), Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart, together with ex-officio members Frs Justin and Matt, Mark Hogbin (representing the Principals and Catholic Schools in the Parish) and Cathy Prunty (Parish Coordinator). Judith Glaubitz was welcomed to the meeting and will join the Council as a Buninyong community member. From the parishioners nominated to be our Parish delegates to the Diocesan Assembly (November 15th – 16th) the Council discerned Rachel Allan and Cathy Prunty. We thank Cathy and Rachel for their willingness to participate in the Assembly that will focus on Leadership and Governance for a Synodal Church. They will join Dianne Reynolds and Damian Ryan from the Bungaree Parish and Mark Conlan and Sue Daly from the Gordon Parish. As the delegates from our Ministry District.

Safeguarding is a continuing agenda item at the Council meetings with the deadline of October 31st for completion of the Safetrac online training noted. Of those parishioners required to complete the Safetrac training, only those who have done so will be able to continue in their ministries after October 31st. If you need assistance to complete Safetrac or are unsure if you are required to do so please contact the Parish Office.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$924
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$208

If you have any queries about your Planned Giving, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office and we would be very happy to help out where we can.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Do you find yourself with an hour or two to spare every couple of weeks? If so have you given any thought to taking communion to those who cannot, for whatever reason, gather with us at masses. This is a rewarding role which brings great comfort to many. If this is something you think you might have some time for, please contact the parish office for more information.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The Council met during the week with the members of the Council - Teresa Fletcher, Brett Holloway, Lauren Morris, Paul O'Beirne (chair), Greg O'Beirne and John White with ex-officio members Frs Justin and Matt, Cathy Prunty (Parish Coordinator) and Matt, Bernadette Prestwood (Finance Officer).

Resignations were received from Susan Begbie as a member of the Council and Bernadette Prestwood has also resigned from her position as Finance Officer for the six Parishes of Ballarat. The recruitment of a new Finance Officer is underway. The Council continues its strategic and master planning of the Ballarat East site, continuing dialogue with ECKA and Catholic Education for the future of the St Alipius Kindergarten. Very early conversations are taking place with ACU exploring the possibilities for some of the existing buildings being leased to accommodate tertiary students.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Another term has just come to an end and we wish all students and teachers well for a restful and safe holiday break. Term 3 is always a difficult one with the cold, wet weather that comes our way so hopefully the holidays will bring some sunshine.

WATER SECURITY

Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. The quality of available safe water is constantly diminishing. In some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatise this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market (*Laudato Si* 30). Consider your water usage even though here in Australia we are lucky to have access to this precious resource!

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

Save the Date

Our annual Melbourne Cup Luncheon will happen again in 2024! Put Tuesday 5th November in your diary and start to think about what you will wear! More information to come.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that in the coming week the parish office will only be open on **Wednesday morning**.

IRELAND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE PILGRIMAGE

Dublin has turned on its best weather for our spiritual heritage pilgrimage this week. This morning we've visited Rathfarnham including the Parish Church where our first Bishop of Ballarat, Michael O'Connor, was Parish Priest prior to his appointment to Ballarat in 1874. We walked from there to the former Loreto Abbey from where Gonzaga Barry led the pioneer Loreto Sisters to Ballarat the following year in 1875.

In the afternoon we visited the Mercy International Centre in Baggott St Dublin, site of Catherine McAuley's first House of Mercy. We prayed at her grave, visited the first "Mercy" classroom and sang the suscipe in the Chapel. Principals were keen to buy Mercy images, crosses... in the gift shop to take back to their respective schools to acknowledge the Mercy heritage of their schools including - St Alipius and St Francis Xavier Ballarat East, St Columba's Ballarat North, St Mary's Clarke's Hill, St Joseph's Charlton and St Joseph's Coleraine. Some of us are pictured with the iconic sculpture that greets the pilgrims.

Hospitality has been evident at each of the places we've been today.

The final visit of the day was the Book of Kells at Trinity College.

We'll sleep well tonight before our visits tomorrow to Solas Bhríde in Kildare and then on to Glendalough for an overnight stay. The following day we're being welcomed to Carlow Catholic College whose alumni include Eureka's Peter Lalor, pioneer priest John Joseph Therry and goldfields pioneer priest Patrick Dunne. [The Carlow connection](#) is well documented.



2024 SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER

Triune God, Creator of all, we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home.

Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator.

Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures.

We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him.

May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image. In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to all who have contributed to information for our Parish anniversary on December 14th. This Sunday, September 22nd, people will gather again to plan the next stages of this anniversary. If you would like to join us to help out, you would be more than welcome. We will meet in the hall at 3pm.

RCIA FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

In November, we will be holding an information meeting for families who have children who wish to join our RCIA program for Children of Catechetical Age. We already have five families who have expressed interest in this program, but if you are away of anyone who may have an older child or children who haven't been initiated into the church, please ask them to contact the parish office.

“Welcoming the Defenceless is Welcoming the Christ”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Most of us have to admit to being like the disciples whom Jesus was trying to bring from blindness and ignorance to insight and understanding. Like them, we are often afraid to ask for explanations when we fear that we may not be able to deal with the responses we receive. We so often choose to live in denial. No matter how strongly Jesus insists that the way of the gospel will lead to his violent death, his closest followers persist in their refusal to accept the inevitability of suffering in the life of one who so openly challenges abuses of power. More focussed on personal recognition and status, the “twelve” engage in a childish argument about who is the greatest among them. They are inside “the house” in Capernaum, the home of Jesus. They are understandably silent when Jesus questions them about the discussion they had “on the way”. They have much to learn and he needs their attention if they are to understand who he is and what it means to be his disciple. They need to learn that being first has nothing to do with seeking the limelight, that it has nothing to do

with hierarchy or status, with power or adulation. It has everything to do with engaging in ministry without distinction or discrimination, with being “servant of all”. Like us, they have much to learn from “the way” itself, the path they tread through the land.

An engaging scene follows this discussion. They are “inside the house”, an open house where all are welcome. Jesus places a child in their midst. The child is unnamed. We might give this child a name so that she or he is a real person for us. Jesus seemingly gathers the twelve in a circle around him. Taking the child in his arms, he tries to show them that gospel leadership resides, not in privilege, but in the welcome offered to those whose voices are rarely heard and whose needs are frequently ignored.

Jesus, the suffering Messiah or Christ, actually identifies with a defenceless child, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me”. His identification with the defenceless is as intimate as his identification with God, “the one who sent me”. As a church, we might well hear today’s



gospel story as a call to respond with compassion and justice to those who have suffered the indignity and

It is time for us to remember that whoever welcomes even one of these into our homeland in the name of Christ is truly welcoming the suffering Christ.

injustice of abuse in their childhood. We might also hear it as an invitation to listen to the cry of those who seek the dignity and justice that belong to all of God’s people, including those who seek refuge from war and persecution. It is time for us to remember that whoever welcomes even one of these into our homeland in the name of the Christ is truly welcoming the suffering Christ. I am forever grateful that my Syrian and Irish ancestors received a welcome in this land.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS
25TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
James 3:16 – 4:3
Mark 9: 30-37

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
26TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Numbers 11:25-29
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48