



▶ **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

25<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

‘Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.’

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/](http://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

Thursday 10:30 AM Ballan

Friday 9:30 AM

Saturday 9:30 AM,  
6:00 PM Vigil

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>)

### 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

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:

John O'Toole, Kiara Ghambir (Year 1 St Alipius School), Mary Den Dryver

**Anniversaries:** Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Eileen O'Meara, Maureen Santamaria

**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.



## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1003
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$368.40

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Trivia Night

6:30 pm for 7pm start, 30 August, Parish Hall

### PPC Meeting

6:30 pm, 12 September, Presbytery

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

This weekend, we again welcome the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be introduced at our Masses. These children have been preparing for the sacrament at home with their families and supported with further learning within their Religious Education classes at school. The children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at evening liturgies during the first week in September. Please make them welcome and keep the children and their families in your prayers during this special time.

## 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 [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

## SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The Season of Creation runs from September 1 – October 4, with the theme for 2024, “To hope and act with Creation”. Resources are available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2024/>.

## PREPARING FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

Last week many gathered at OLHC Wendouree in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly that will focus on Leadership and Governance in a Synodal Church.

Parishioners gathered from Ararat, Ballarat, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Beaufort, Bungaree, Daylesford, Donald, Gordon, Redan and Wendouree.

This weekend in Warrnambool, Fr Justin, Julie Boyd and Jane Collins will lead 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.

## WELCOME

On Sunday morning Fr Kevin Maloney will be celebrating Mass at Ss Peter and Paul's and Fr Gary Jones will celebrate Mass at St Alipius. Welcome to both of these former Assistant priests of our parish. We thank them for enabling Fr Justin to be in Warrnambool this Sunday.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

As we enter the final month of Winter we would like to acknowledge the wonderful support we have received from both the parish and school communities for our current appeal.

We recently received a donation of 4 hand made quilts which we are raffling with all proceeds going to our Winter Appeal. Tickets- \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3 will be available in the foyer. Winners will be announced Saturday 31st.

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Issue 2 for 2024 of Our Diocesan Community is available now in church foyers. Don't miss your copy. Sit down with a cuppa and the ODC magazine and find out what's happening in the diocese. This edition is also available to view online.

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ODC-July-2024-1.pdf>

## BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

### Collection for Retired Priests – next weekend

Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience. Contributions over \$2 are tax deductible.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Cathedral branch of the Catholic Women's League will be a Social event on Monday 2nd September. at 1.30pm.

We will meet at 15 Lyons Street, Ballarat at the "Pregnancy Help Centre" for an introduction to their community work and enjoy afternoon tea with them. ALL WELCOME.. Please bring a friend and a plate of afternoon tea if you can and

RSVP to Carmel on 0401 175 045 by 1 September

## PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

**Have you booked your table for our trivia night?** Our parish trivia night will be held this Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Doors open from 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM start. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office until Wednesday. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles. What a great way to end winter and welcome the spring! A fun night is assured with some great prizes and raffles.

## PASTORAL CARE AT MERCY PLACE BALLARAT AGED CARE

**Position Vacant** - A permanent part-time position is available at Ballarat Mercy Place Aged Care. Applications are available on the seek link <https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standout&ref=search-standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3f0a0309916d6ede9fc496a3>. For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email: [BWurlod@mercy.com.au](mailto:BWurlod@mercy.com.au)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

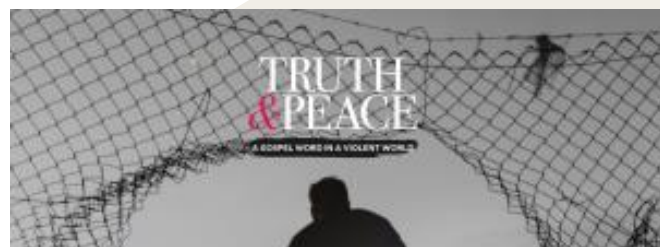
Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Bishops' have launched the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World." Every year, the bishops seek to make a substantive comment on a key social issue and this year the focus is on the promotion of peace and the need for truth in public life. Bishop Paul has released a video message in relation to the current Social Justice Statement. To watch Bishop Paul's video and to access the statement and liturgy resources, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/> You can also download a text copy of Bishop Paul's message from this webpage.

*Prayer for Social Justice Sunday Adapted from Pope Francis' Fratelli Tutti*

O God, Trinity of love, from the profound communion of your divine life, pour out upon us a torrent of sisterly and brotherly love.

Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus, in his family of Nazareth, and in the early Christian community. Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel, discovering Christ in each human being, recognising him crucified in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world, and risen in each sister or brother who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves. Amen.



# Grappling with the Complexities

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM  
Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time



If we have trouble understanding and coming to terms with the teachings of the Johannine Jesus, then we can take some comfort from the reaction of the disciples in John's community some decades after the death of Jesus. It seems that it was not only the members of the Jewish synagogue who were offended by his teaching, but also those Jews who had accepted Jesus as Messiah or Christ and had joined the community of believers. "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" they complain. They are referring to his teaching on the "bread" that he will give them. Once again, Jesus' response introduces new teaching, teaching that can only raise more questions in their minds. He links "spirit" with "life". Having used the term "flesh" of his body and of the life that he offers to those who eat of his flesh, he now introduces an element of doubt: flesh is now "useless"!

We must be careful not to interpret this literally. It is typical of John to use the same word in a variety of ways.

Here "flesh" is used negatively and metaphorically to refer to human weakness and sinfulness in contrast with "spirit" which evokes the creative spirit of God that moved over the waters at creation and the spirit of God that informed the word of the prophets.

The Johannine Jesus lays the ground for offering progressively deeper insights into his identity and destiny and into the meaning of a gospel way of life. The reference to his "ascending" recalls the earlier part of the gospel where he is presented as the pre-existent one, the one who comes from God and has already ascended to God (John 3:13). Once again, we are confronted with an ancient cosmology that places God in the heavens above. After his death, Jesus will tell Mary the Tower (the Magdalene) that he has not yet ascended and instructs her to tell the disciples that he is ascending to God (20:17). It seems that John wants to keep emphasising the origins of Jesus as the eternal Word and the Wisdom of God.

There are many who refuse to grapple with the complexities and implications of his teaching and they turn away. Jesus asks his closest followers if they too will desert. Peter speaks for himself and his companions when he declares their undying allegiance: "*To whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.*" Eternal life is the Johannine equivalent of the "kingdom of God" or "of the heavens" of the other gospels. Most of us have wanted to abandon our commitment at some time or another. There are times when it seems to be all too hard. Peter's declaration is a sobering one for us in times of doubt and an encouragement for those of us who seek to understand more deeply and to keep believing despite the challenges.

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
JOSHUA 24:1-2, 15-18  
EPHESIANS 5:21-32  
JOHN 6:60-69

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> 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