



▶ **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

29th September 2024

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Anyone who is not against us if for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.”

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

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 1

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:

Audrey Clohesy

Anniversaries: John Britt

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)

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$912
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$448

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.

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.

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet in the parish hall at 2:00 PM on Friday 4th October. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a plate to share.

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.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Another term has come to an end and we wish all students and teachers well for a restful and safe holiday break. .

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Gods Power Informs every Act of Compassion and Mercy”

Sometimes we act and speak as though authorised leaders have the monopoly on access to the power of God although they have no such monopoly. In today's gospel Jesus seems to be telling his disciples that God works through people of good will, irrespective of whether they are on the edge (“not one of us”) or at the centre of the kin-dom of God movement. The apostle John, who is one of the twelve, reports that he and other disciples of Jesus have tried to stop an exorcist working in Jesus' name “because he was not following us.” Jesus rejects their attempt to claim an exclusive right to speak in his name. He offers reasons for permitting the exorcist to engage in such deeds “of power”: one who acts thus will not be speaking against him but will rather be “for” him. Jesus affirms all expressions of hospitality to his followers as deserving of “their reward”. In other words, the followers of Jesus cannot claim exclusive rights to the grace of God or to the embrace of God's kin-dom. God's power informs every act of compassion and mercy.

The first reading from the Book of Numbers offers a similar message. It tells the story of Joshua, assistant to Moses, trying to exclude two men from prophesying on somewhat tenuous grounds. Moses does not take Joshua's advice. On the contrary, he prays that the Spirit of God might “rest on” and, by implication, work through all of God's people. Both the gospel passage and the reading from Numbers seem to be warning against attempts to control or domesticate the Spirit of God.

The second part of the gospel reading (9:42-48) brings a dramatic change of mood as it takes up the issue of scandalising the “little ones”. The reference to “little ones” marks a return to the scene in the latter part of last week's gospel reading where Jesus takes a little child in his arms and instructs his disciples. The horror of harming the little ones is dramatized in a series of sayings that challenge the most vivid imagination. These sayings are hardly intended to be taken literally. Cutting off offending limbs only deals with the symptoms. It may, however, offer some solace to those little ones who have suffered “scandal” or worse to know that there is no stronger condemnation in the gospels than that reserved for those who bring harm to children and to vulnerable others. We are impelled to do everything in our power to heal the hurts of the past and to create conditions that ensure the protection and safety of our children. For the past few weeks, we have been celebrating the Season of Creation. As we enter the final week of this celebration, we might attend to the inextricable connection between the cry of the earth and the cry of those rendered poor, all the “little ones” of the Earth community, human and other-than-human.

