

Faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

Priests Frs Justin Driscoll & Matt Restall

Ballarat East Parish

Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson
03 5332 6611
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00PM

Bungaree and Gordon Parishes

Aileen Toohey
0492 903 409
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Ministry District Newsletter

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults

4th Sunday of the Year (C)

2nd February 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses

Monday Feb 3rd	9.30 am	Ballan (Opening School Mass & Feast Day)
Tuesday Feb 4th	No Masses	
Wednesday Feb 5th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)
Thursday Feb 6th	10.30 am	Ballan
Friday Feb 7th	9.30 am	St. Francis Xavier School Ballarat East
	1.00 pm	Ballarat East (Funeral Mass for Sr. Lesley Dickinson)
Saturday Feb 8th	9.30 am	Ballarat East

Weekend Masses

Saturday Feb 8 th - Vigil		Sunday Feb 9 th	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Sr. Lesley Dickinson RSM, Norah Seear.

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Pat Burvill, Karem Chiparra, Elaine Conlan, Socorro De Chavez, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons, Owen Widdison

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Ballarat East Parish:

Rose Consignado, Terresa Fletcher, Judith Glaubitz, Martin McGettigan, Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart.

Bungaree Parish:

Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree), Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Mahar & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).

Gordon Parish:

Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).

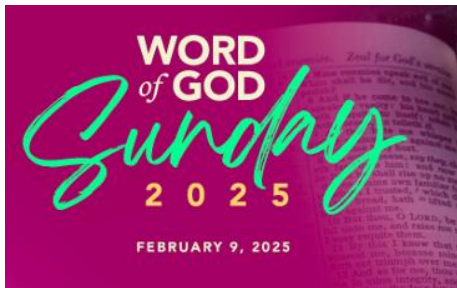
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN OUR PARISHES

Saints Flexible Learning (Bakery Hill & Bungaree), St Brigid's Ballan, St Alipius' Ballarat East, St Francis Xavier Ballarat East, St Mary's Clarkes Hill, St Patrick's Gordon, Damascus College Mt Clear & Dunnstown, Emmaus Mt Clear.

WEEKDAY MASSES

This week Fr Matt will be joining a gathering for priests ordained under 5 years from the Dioceses of Ballarat and Sandhurst that will be held in Moama, NSW. The gathering is organised by Clergy Life and Ministry Directors Frs Justin Driscoll and Jake Mudge (Sandhurst). Please note the changes in weekday Masses due to the absence of our priests.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY



One of the primary ways in which we honour God's Word in the liturgy is by faithfully listening to the proclamation of the readings and the homily, and by discerning the various ways in which God's Word applies to our lives. An important point to remember here is the Second Vatican Council's insight that Christ's presence is recognised in the actual "proclamation" of the Word, when the Church believes that Christ is present and speaking to those assembled through the words of the Church's minister [Sacrosanctum concilium (1963) art. 7], rather than in the physical book itself.

At Masses across our Ministry District next week, those who proclaim the Word of God will be commissioned once again for their ministry as well as those who compose the Prayers of Intercession. Our parishes are blessed with biblical scholars who offer weekly reflections on the Word of God that are included on our newsletters – we will ask a blessing on them as well. Let us embrace Sunday of the Word of God to help us launch our new year with a deeper and richer encounter with the Risen Lord.

SS. PETER & PAUL'S SOCIAL NIGHT

Ss. Peter & Paul's are hosting a Casserole/ Salad Night on Friday February 28th 2025 at 6.00pm at St Peter & Paul's Church Hall in Buninyong. \$15 covers all wine beer and soft drink. Any profit to parish funds. Please bring a casserole or salad to share. All welcome.

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet in the Hall on Friday 7th Feb at 2pm. Please bring a plate to share. All welcomed.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

Each Saturday in March and April Fr Matt will be guiding a Lenten and Easter reflection group at St Alipius between 10:15 am and 11am. If you are interested in being part of this group, please register with him by emailing:

matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.edu.au

Reflection book will be available for \$10.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the following clergy appointments to take effect May 1st

Fr Matt Restall: Assistant Priest in the South West Coast parish (Warrnambool etc)

Fr Bill Lowry: Assistant Priest in Sunraysia, Ouyen and Robinvale parishes

Fr Cay Xuan Trinh: Assistant Priest in Western Border parish (Hamilton etc)

Fr Matthew Thomas: Parish Priest of Ouyen & Robinvale (in addition to Sunraysia)

Fr Shaiju Mathew: Co-Pastor of the parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon. Fr Shaiju will work with Fr Justin (Co-Pastor & Moderator) across our Ministry District. Fr Shaiju, a Missionary of St Thomas the Apostle from Kerala, India, is currently Administrator of the Parishes of Ouyen and Robinvale.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST BRIGID OF IRELAND



Pause for Peace is an initiative of the [Solas Bhríde](#) Team and the residents of Kildare, Ireland, "to call on people all around the world to stop for a minute's silence at 12.00 noon (local time) on St Brigid's Day, 1st February." The movement aims to awaken and build a spirit of global solidarity in our search for peace – on a day that honours the legacy of St Brigid, Woman of Peace.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

There are a number of Young Adult activities occurring around Ballarat at this time. If interested in being a part of something, email Fr Matt for a chat about possibilities and to be kept in the loop via text. matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

YOUNG FAMILY GROUP

Families across Ballarat are currently meeting monthly during the week for a social afternoon sport activities for the kids and food are provided. The next gathering will be mid-February. To be kept informed via email, please register your interest by emailing matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

AGED CARE PASTORAL CARE

St. Alipius Parish are looking for volunteers to visit residents and bring Holy Communion to Aged Care Facilities within the parish. If this is something you might be able to help with on a fortnightly or monthly basis, please contact Fr Matt to chat about logistics. matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Dates for the 2025 Sacramental Program are now available on the Parish Website. If you know of someone who has a child seeking to prepare for Sacraments in 2025, please refer them to our website. Information will go to schools in the coming week. For further details please call the parish office.

WORLD INTERFAITH NETWORK

The Ballarat Interfaith Network invites you to join their Flag Raising Event in celebration of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week on Monday, February 3, 2025 from 11.00am – 12.30pm at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street, Ballarat. The Welcome will be provided by Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves. After the raising of the unique Ballarat Interfaith Network flag, we will adjourn into the church for a keynote address from Dean Berger, Deer Park Stake President, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, short student speeches from senior leaders of Damascus, Loreto, Phoenix P-12, and St Patrick's Colleges, prayer for peace offered by representatives of many faiths, and a children's choir from Emmaus PS. Refreshments will be provided.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Baptism Preparation Session

February 6th 10 am or 5.30 pm
Mary Glowrey Hall

Caring Group Gathering

February 7th 2 pm – Parish Hall

RCIA for Children

February 13th 4 pm - St. Alipius

Parish Finance Council Meeting

February 13th 7.30 am - Presbytery

Liturgy Meeting

February 13th - Presbytery

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

February 20th – Presbytery

Casserole Night

February 28th 6 pm – Ss. Peter & Paul's,
Buninyong

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEATIFICATION

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop's beatification with a free commemorative prayer book, "Flourish with Mary's Heart", written by the Sisters of St Joseph. The book is available at <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/for-churches/prayer-book>

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests:	\$1199
Maintenance of parish buildings:	\$ 468

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

Counting team this week: No. 6

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC)

A recent status check for our Working With Children Checks indicates that some parishioners have cards which have expired, while others have new cards which we have yet to witness. It is important that all WWCC are up to date. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible if you are unsure of the status of your Working with Children Check. Thank you.

Simeon and Anna as Prophets of God's Word

Reflection on the Gospel – Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40)



-Veronica M. Lawson

This year the Feast of the Presentation falls on a Sunday and takes precedence over the celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. This year in Australia, it coincides with Word of God Sunday. We might ask why the Feast of the Presentation is of such importance in the liturgical calendar. Between the story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry, Luke inserts three stories. The first tells of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. The third story has the twelve-year-old Jesus coming with his parents on their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the great feast of Passover and sharing his wisdom with the Temple authorities. The second story, today's reading, has Mary and Joseph presenting their child in the Temple forty days after his birth, in observance of the Law of Moses (as prescribed in Leviticus 12:2-8). This Sunday marks the fortieth day since the celebration of Jesus' birth: it is not a moveable feast. All three stories locate Jesus and his parents firmly within the tradition as law-observant, faithful Jews.

Luke introduces into today's story two faith-filled wisdom figures, first a man, Simeon, and then a woman prophet, Anna. Both witness to the identity and future ministry of the child presented this day in the Temple. Both proclaim the Word of God. Their witness provides a microcosm of the gospel story. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes into the Temple, takes the child in his arms and utters some of the most memorable words in the Christian scriptures.

The child is to be God's saving presence in the world, a light to give revelation to the nations and glory to Israel. There are echoes in this proclamation of Isaiah 49:6 which speaks of God's servant bringing light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. There is also an echo of Isaiah 46:13 where God is said to bring salvation to Jerusalem and glory to Israel. Simeon declares that this child is destined for the rising and the falling of many, that he will experience opposition and that his mother too will know deep sorrow.

Anna, like Simeon, raises her voice in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple, the heart of Israel's religious, political and economic power. While Simeon is given direct prophetic speech, Anna's prophesying is recounted indirectly. While Elizabeth and Mary proclaim prophetic words, Anna is the only woman in Luke's first volume to be named as "prophet". This woman prophet proclaims the good news of salvation in Jesus. The verbal form used indicates that Anna "keeps on speaking" about the child to "all who await the redemption of Jerusalem." The invitation here might be for us to emulate Anna's courage and persistence as we enter the halls of power and seek to move the hearts of religious and political leaders to compassion and justice for all those displaced within the Earth community.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-8
Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11