

30 July 2023

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure



▶ **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

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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 (1st, 3rd & 5th)

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 this week – 9:30 AM

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

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.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed: Beverley
Hogan

Anniversaries:

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

*Our parish is committed to all
children, young people, and
vulnerable adults' safety, well-
being, and dignity.*

*We acknowledge this land's
traditional owners and custodians
and pay our respects to Elders
past, present, and emerging.*



Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Visiting Priest

Fr Barry Ryan

Sacramental and Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council Chair

David Morrison

Finance Officer

Bernadette Prestwood

Finance Chair

Paul O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordination

www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn

stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



WORLD YOUTH DAY

LISBON, PORTUGAL
AUGUST 1-6, 2023

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Tables are selling fast for the Parish Trivia Night to be held at the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM next Friday 4 August. Tickets are \$10 per person with tables of up to 8 people. BYO nibbles and drinks, with tea and coffee supplied. Please contact the office if you can help with donating prizes. A raffle will be held on the night with some great prizes up for grabs, so please join us for a fun night.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caring Group

2:00 PM, Friday 4 August, St Alipius Hall

Parish Trivia Night

7:00 PM, Friday 4 August, St Alipius Hall

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet at 2:00 PM on Friday 4 August. All are welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal will focus on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Appeal envelopes are located at the ends of the pews. People wishing to support the work of SVdP through our local conference can place their donation in an envelope and return it via the collection plate.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made at www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal, at Vinnies shops, or by calling 13 18 12.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

More than 3,000 Australian pilgrims will attend the World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from 1 – 6 August, including five from the Diocese of Ballarat. We pray for them – Grace Doherty, Anna Whiting, Gerry Vytilingam, John-Paul Walker, and Laura Bruty.

EVANGELISATION REFLECTION

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has published "Evangelisation" which offers a spiritual and theological reflection on the proclamation of the Gospel through the lenses of encounter, discipleship, and mission. You can download it at:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/faith-formation-and-spirituality/

LITURGY ROSTER

The Parish Liturgy Committee has been exploring ways to simplify the rostering of people who help with the various liturgical ministries, including welcomers, readers, sacristans, special ministers, musicians, and the people who prepare and operate the PowerPoints during mass. The aim is to make it easier for people to volunteer and to reduce the number of occasions when we don't have rostered volunteers turning up.

The Committee has decided to trial the approach taken by the Buninyong community and so for the coming months, the Parish office will create the St Alipius roster using the existing list of volunteers. It means that volunteers will only have to sign up once and can simply let the office know if they're unable to continue or will be away for a period of time. If you're unable to attend a mass that you're rostered for, please arrange a swap or a replacement, or give the Parish office some notice, and they will reach out to another volunteer.

We'd like to thank David Santamaria who has created the roster for St Alipius for many years.

SACRED HEART REUNION

A reunion of the Sacred Heart College Ballarat East class of 1965, plus anyone who attended SHC, will be held on Sunday, 15 October at GC's Ballarat from 11.00 AM – 3.00 PM. To attend email ph. 0419 902 538 or email loisknights345@hotmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$862
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$343.00

Planned giving envelopes for the new financial year are available for collection at the back of the churches. 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.

VINNIES BREAD RUN

Each Monday night between 7:00 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.

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

A fundraising concert titled "Bold as Brass" featuring 36 musicians from Eureka Brass is to be held at the Ballarat Central Uniting Church, 103 Lydiard Street South, at 2:30 PM on Sunday 30 July. Tickets for adults are \$15, with children 15 and under free. Sponsored by the Little Cupcake shop, part of the proceeds will go to Sleepbus® which provides a safe, temporary place to sleep, for the vulnerable. Tickets available from:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bold-as-brass-featuring-eureka-brass-tickets-590759065267?aff=ehometext

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 greatly appreciated.

PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of very affordable cards and gifts for sale including some runout items on tables near the piety stall that are either free or \$2 each.

BAPTISMS

Mia Annelies and Edgar Lumsden Egan
Children of Jeremy Egan and Rachael McKenna

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

SOCIAL MEDIA REFLECTION

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, recently released a new social media platform in competition with Twitter, called Threads. For many people, this social media shift has prompted a pause button in a love-hate relationship with how the internet fundamentally works. Dialogically we might ask, "Who is my (social media) neighbour?" To inform this current question, the Vatican Dicastery for Communication has issued a document titled "Towards Full Presence: A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media": www.vatican.va/roman_curia/dpc/documents/20230528_dpc-verso-piena-presenza_en.html

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

Read about news and events of the diocese in the latest edition of e-News
<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

MARY MACKILLOP GRANTS

Applications will soon open for the Mary Mackillop Today (MMT) Community Grants 2024. Schools and community groups with a project that helps people may apply for a grant of up to \$10,000. Applications open Monday, 14 August. Apply at www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/grants/how-to-apply/

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.

The Pope's intention for July – **for a Eucharistic life:** We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and be open to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

WOMEN DEACONS WEBINAR

ACU Centre for Liturgy is presenting an online public lecture titled, "Women Deacons and the Synod: What Happens Now?" on Monday, 7 August from 10.00 AM – 11.30 AM presented by Dr Phyllis Zagano, Hofstra University, New York. Registrations close on 4 August at www.acu.edu.au/publiclectureCfL. The Zoom link to join will be sent following registration. More information is available from <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/news-events-and-resources>

RESILIENCE WEBINAR

A free NCLS Research Webinar titled "Thriving and Resilient Leadership" will be held at 7.30 PM on Wednesday, 2 August and will explore the latest findings and reflections on how Australian church leaders are coping and what factors contribute to their resilience. Findings are based on the results from the 2021–22 NCLS Leader Survey by NCLS Research. Tickets are available at <https://events.humanitix.com/ncls-thriving-and-resilient-leadership>.

NEW PARISH

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on 1 July. The newly established Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim. www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/parish-of-saints-anne-and-joachim-sunraysia/

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 13:44–52

Poet Anne Powell proposes four journeys of seeking and finding treasure. She puts it this way: “Go down, down, down to the place in you where fire and silence dwell—the place of power. Go down, down, down to that pool in you of weedless water—the place of knowing... Go down, down, down to the last strawberry-freshness of God”. The place of power within, the place of knowing, the place of song, the freshness of God will be there for those prepared to take the journey into the depths of their being.

Matthew’s Jesus has another way of saying something very similar. Three parables and a summary statement conclude Matthew’s parable chapter. They constitute a timeless gospel treasure chest that features lengthy statements about God’s kin-dom of the heavens. In the first parable, Matthew’s Jesus likens the kin-dom, not just to “treasure”, but rather to treasure hidden in a field that someone, possibly a slave or day labourer, finds and hides before going joyfully to sell everything in order to buy the field and acquire the treasure. The parabolic image comprises the whole complex of actor, objects, and actions (the

finder; the finding, the selling and buying; the joy; the treasure and the field). The details pose endless questions. Who had right to ownership of the treasure? Is this a case of theft? Whatever the answer to these questions, this parable invites us to pause and consider what constitutes the real “treasure” in our lives and ask to what lengths we would go in order to secure that treasure.

What is of such value to us that we would give up everything else in order to have that one thing

The second parable tells of a merchant who seeks fine pearls, finds one of great value, and then goes and sells all possessions in order to acquire that one pearl. What is of such value to us that we would give up everything else in order to have that one thing, that one relationship? Jesus proceeds to liken the kin-dom of the heavens, not just to a net, but to a net thrown into the sea that catches fish of every kind and is drawn to shore by fisher-folk who sit down and sort it, putting the good into baskets and throwing away the bad. This parable



foreshadows God’s universal reign over all creation when good will finally triumph over evil.

The summary statement tells us that we need to be “scribes” educated in the ways of God. We need to bring out of the treasury of our traditions “what is new and what is old”, wisely discerning what to keep and what to relinquish. Parables help to subvert our presuppositions. They disturb our complacency if we allow them to do so. The parables of the buried treasure, the priceless pearl and the net remind us that gospel discipleship demands an all-embracing investment of heart and spirit. We search our hearts to know where our treasure lies and join with others who show us how we might claim it for the common good of the entire Earth community.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 KINGS 3:5,7–12

ROMANS 8:28–30

MATTHEW 13:44–52

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

DANIEL 7:9–10,13–14

2 PETER 1:16–19

MATTHEW 17:1–9