



▶ **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

3 March 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

God loved the world so much

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Monday 10.30 am (Funeral Mass for
Laurie Mullane)

Friday 9:30 AM

Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM

Sunday 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 6

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Pam Hill, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Administrator
Fr Concord Bagaoisan, OSJ

Visiting Priest
Fr Barry Ryan

Sacramental and 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.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION** 

PROJECT COMPASSION

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa, and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations. Learn about these women and how Project Compassion helped them here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10823301/video/885560092>

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by calling 1800 024 41, visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or scanning this QR code.



UPCOMING EVENTS

First Reconciliation

Tues 12th, Wed 13th, Thurs. 14th March @ 6pm

Saturday March 16th 7pm – Parish BBQ
(Church grounds)

Monday 25th March 11.30 am – Mass of the Oils
(St. Patrick's Cathedral)

REPORT FROM PPC MEETING

Last Thursday evening we held our first Parish Pastoral Council meeting for 2024. The council is a parish body which serves as an advisory group to the parish priest. Many different items are discussed at each PPC meeting and parishioners are always welcome to put forward matters which they would like to be discussed by this group. At this recent meeting we tabled discussions about the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults, social activities and the fact that the St. Alipius parish will be 170 years old in 2024. More detailed information about some of what came out of our discussions can be found on today's bulletin. If there is something you would like to add to the agenda of our PPC in the coming months, please contact the parish office.

MASS OF THE OILS

The Mass of the Oils will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday 25 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch, displays and music afterwards in the Hall. All welcome. This year the Mass of the Oils will be live streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivlKiHSs?feature=share>

MERCY PLACE VOLUNTEERS

Mercy Place is seeking volunteers for a range of roles. Volunteers might spend time one-on-one with residents, taking them for walks in the garden, going on bus trips, reading a book or newspaper, helping them in the garden, or just having a chat. The hours are organised to suit the volunteer. If interested, please see the flyer in the church foyer for more information.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

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|---|----------|
| Supporting our parish priests | \$1061 |
| Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc. | \$258.20 |

We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

COMMISSIONING MASSES

On Pentecost Sunday, the Parish will commission new and recommission existing liturgical ministers, including readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, PowerPoint operators, musicians, sacristans, and welcomers. Information on how to sign up to continue or start volunteering in one or more of these ministries, and what the tasks involve, will be provided over coming weeks. This week we share with you a brief summary of the role of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

LAY MINISTER OF COMMUNION

In the early days of the church, sharing in the Eucharist was an important part of their liturgies, but the practice fell away over the centuries until it became rare for the people attending mass to receive communion. Pope Pius X was instrumental in returning the rite of receiving communion to be a central part of our celebration of mass, which was further promoted after Vatican II, where receiving the Lord's body and blood was described as "that more perfect form of participation." In his 1973 document, Boundless Love, Pope Paul VI provided measures for non-ordained Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to distribute communion, including at mass and taken to the sick. Communion ministers commit to ongoing formation and liturgical, spiritual, and practical training. They are usually commissioned for a fixed term and only for their specific community. Communion ministers should have qualities of humility, hospitality, gratitude, and reverence.

SOCIAL GATHERING

You are invited to join us after the 6pm mass on Saturday March 16th for a bbq. Meat will be supplied and salads are welcome if you would like to bring one. BYO drinks. We hope to be able to gather on the lawn between the church and presbytery, but can adjourn to the hall if the weather is not appropriate. On this evening, leading up Easter, we will have a project compassion box available and encourage those attending the BBQ to drop a few coins in to it. We hope to see many parishioners gathering on this night.

PALM SUNDAY PEACE WALK

The focus of the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace this year is on the impact of war where people have been forced to flee to seek places of refuge within their own country (internally displaced) or as refugees and asylum seekers to other countries. The program will commence at 10:30 AM at the Parliament Gardens, Spring Street/Albert Street, Melbourne, with an interfaith segment and prayers for peace, followed by speeches/presentations from 11:00 AM and the Palm Sunday 'Walk for Refugees' concluding by noon.

BAPTISMS

**Ruben William, Sophia Rosemary
and Patrick Gordon Elliot**

Children of Kristen McKinley and Troy Elliot

Eloise Paige and Grace Kathryn Hardwick

Children of Emma and Briddon Hardwick

Wilbur Thomas Bourke

Child of Christopher and Michelle Bourke

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

Pope Francis

EASTER CHOCOLATE

Catholic Earthcare asks us to purchase brands that use sustainably sourced cocoa. Look for logos like these on the packaging.



PRIEST'S RETREAT

The priests of the diocese will come together this week for a retreat. We ask you to keep them in your prayers. Please note that this means there will be no morning Masses from Tuesday to Friday.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Michael Myers, Professional Standards Coordinator for our diocese, is asking parishes to have their employees and volunteers complete an **online training course for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**. Some members of our parish community were called on to complete this last year, but found it to be difficult to work with. For this reason the course has been updated. The aim of this course is to increase awareness of those in our parishes who are vulnerable for one reason or another. The course would possibly take an hour of your time and if need be, support will be provided by the parish office to enable completion. Anyone who is required to have a WWCC or a police check within the parish will be asked to do this course, so the list will be extensive. The diocese have asked us to provide a list of workers/volunteers' email addresses for the purpose of provided the link and password to all who will be doing the course. If for some reason you don't want to the parish office to pass on your email address to the diocese, please contact us ASAP. If we don't hear from you, you will receive an email from the diocese at some point in the coming weeks. We urge parishioners who fall into this category to do what they can to complete this course as safeguarding the vulnerable must be a top priority for us. Please contact Cathy at the parish office if you would like more information.

150 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Copies of the anniversary prayer, written in acknowledgement of the 150 years of the Ballarat Diocese are available in the church foyers.

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.

Pope's intention for March – **For new martyrs:** Let us pray for those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

Keeping Everything in Balance

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

3rd Sunday in Lent: John 2:13–25

Today's gospel passage foreshadows the death of Jesus.

As a devout Jew, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem at Passover. His final going-up will be the occasion of his death and resurrection.

The Jerusalem Temple, Judaism's most holy place, is the site of a dramatic incident, an event that is recounted in all four gospels. The Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) locate it towards the end of the gospel. They present it as a catalyst for the intensification of hostility between the temple authorities and Jesus.

John's gospel, in contrast, places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The tension between Jesus and the temple authorities that is to culminate in his death in all four gospels is thus present from the outset in John.

Jesus acts decisively, even violently, to draw attention to the primary function of God's "house".

He creates an effective weapon, a whip of cords, and comprehensively clears the temple precinct of merchants, sheep, and cattle.

He overturns the tables of the money-changers, orders the dove-sellers out and tells them all, in words that evoke the prophecy of Zechariah (14:21), to stop making God's house "a marketplace".

Zechariah had declared that, in the end times, there would no longer be traders in God's house.

There was legitimate commercial activity associated with temple worship, such as the purchase of animals and doves for sacrifice, a practice we might now critique, and the changing of money to pay the Temple tax.

The traders seem to have forgotten that this activity was a means to an end and not an end in itself.

Jesus acts decisively

In John's account, the disciples understand" partially: they interpret Jesus' actions in the light of Psalm 69:9: "It is zeal for your house that has consumed me".

"The Jews" request a "sign ... for doing this". In other words, they ask Jesus to demonstrate the source of his authority for his actions.

His response is a challenge: "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up".

"The Jews" misunderstand. This provides Jesus with the opportunity to play on the word "temple": the temple is not only a material edifice that took forty-six years to build. It is also, metaphorically, his body that will be



destroyed and raised up "in three days".

The narrator provides the explanation and indicates that the disciples will eventually understand and come to believe.

It is important to note that John writes with the wisdom of hindsight. It is also important to note that the designation "the Jews" is neither a reference to the people of Judaea nor to the dispersed Jewish people. In John's gospel, it refers to those who reject Jesus as the Anointed One of God, the Christ.

As we travel the journey to Jerusalem this Lent, we are invited to keep everything in balance and to remember that God, and not the opponents of Jesus, will have the final word in this drama.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
EXODUS 20:1–17
1 CORINTHIANS 1:22–25
JOHN 2:13–25

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 CHRONICLES 36:14–16, 19–23
EPHESIANS 2:4–10
JOHN 3:14–21