



▶ **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

4 February 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

He cured many who were suffering

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday – Thursday 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 2

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: Brian O'Neill

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, 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

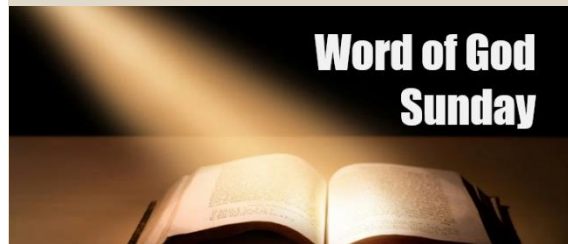
PARISH VISION

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.

**Word of God
Sunday**



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday this year is on 14 February. Mass will be held at St Alipius at 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM. The masses will include the distribution of the ashes.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Ash Wednesday masses 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM, Wed 14 February, St Alipius
Holy Thursday – Mass of the Last Supper 7:00 PM, Thursday 28 March, St Alipius
Holy Thursday – Altar of Repose 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Thu 28 March St Alipius Hall
Good Friday – Passion of the Lord 3:00 PM, Friday 29 March, St Alipius
Easter Vigil 9:00 AM or 7:00 PM, Saturday 30, St Alipius

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,250
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$653.40

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 in the coming weeks, starting this week with the welcoming ministry.

WELCOMING MINISTRY

Of the many liturgical ministries that parishioners at St Alipius and Ss Peter and Paul's fulfil, the one with the least number of volunteers is the welcoming ministry, which is strange because as a person who helps in several ministries recently commented, it is the most enjoyable, because you get to say hello to everyone as they arrive for mass. The purpose of this ministry is to make everyone, especially newcomers or visitors, feel welcome. Welcomers arrive about 20 minutes before the start of mass and greet people as they enter the church, offering them a notice sheet, and perhaps answering questions such as where the bathrooms are located, or who is celebrating mass. It's the warm smiles and friendly greetings that welcomers receive in return that make this such a pleasant and rewarding ministry. Anyone can be a welcomer – you aren't expected to remember everyone's names or engage in lengthy conversations. If you arrive at mass early and notice that there isn't a welcomer, you can step in and help until the rostered person arrives. If you would like to join the liturgy roster as a welcomer at either church, please let the parish office know what mass you regularly attend.

REPLACEMENT CARPET IN ST. ALIPIUS CHURCH

In recent times, you may have noticed that the carpet in the centre aisle of St. Alipius Church has stretched and developed ripples. This is a safety issue and after much discussion the finance committee made the decision to replace the carpet in the centre aisle. This decision has been made in consultation with the supplier of the carpet. Unfortunately, the color of the previous carpet has been discontinued and there is nothing similar available. For this reason, the new carpet has been chosen as a contrast to the current carpet rather than a match. The new carpet is a grey shade with flecks in it that we believe pick up the color of the current carpet, most of which will remain. While it would seem ideal to replace all of the carpet in the church, this was going to be too expensive. The new carpet will be laid on Monday and we look forward to seeing the updated look in the church, which will provide a safer walking space for everyone. Parishioners are always welcome to contribute to such purchases, if this is something they would like to do.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Mass to launch Project Compassion 2024 will be held at 5:00 PM on Sunday, 11 February at St Patrick's Cathedral. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will be the main celebrant and will commission student leaders as 2024 Ambassadors for Caritas. All are welcome to attend.

MASS OF THE OILS

The Mass of the Oils will incorporate an acknowledgement of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat. The mass will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday 25 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch and displays will follow in the hall. All welcome.

BAPTISMS

Avah Patricia Isla Hiscock
Child of Dwayne and Theresa Hiscock

Hugh Rocco Wilson
Child of Jordan and Danielle Wilson

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

LITURGY ROSTER

The new roster for February and March has been emailed out this week. Printed copies can be collected in the St Alipius church foyer this weekend.

RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election will be held at 12:30 PM on Saturday 17 February in St Patrick's Cathedral. The Rite is an opportunity for adult catechumens and candidates to meet the bishop before being baptised/received into the Church at Easter. Lunch will follow in the hall.

CATHOLIC PARISH PROFILES

Profiles of 1230 Catholic parishes across Australia have been published, offering a wealth of insight they can use to better serve the needs of their local communities. The parish "social profiles" draw on data captured in the 2021 Australian Census and examine the Catholic and local population within parish boundaries. Profiles for the Diocese of Ballarat, including Ballarat East, are available from www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/australian-catholic-parish-profiles/

LENT WITH BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! Sign up to Bruce Downes' free Lenten Program and for 40 days you will receive a short, practical, and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful.

<https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

COMMUNION UPDATE

Last year Bishop Paul issued information for the people of the diocese regarding COVID-19 and the reception of communion. The bishop received advice from the medical profession, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital, as well as the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. These consultations highlighted that COVID-19 infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion. The bishop concluded that out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. Regarding receiving the host, the bishop still recommends the reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than the reception on the tongue.

OUR DIOCESE TURNS 150

The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on 30 March. During the year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/

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 February – For the terminally ill: Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

WISDOM AT THE CATHEDRAL

All are welcome to the first talk for the year in the Cathedral parish's series

Wisdom at the Cathedral. Fr Bill Lowry from the Warrnambool parish, will speak on *Discerning God's Will in Your Life*. Learn about the processes employed by the saints and the Lord himself in discerning the Father's will for their lives. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. 7pm sharp, Thursday 29 February in the MacKillop/Glowrey rooms. Entry by donation. For all enquiries please contact Fiona Bradley on fionalouisebradley@gmail.com.

Word of God Sunday

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 1:29–39

In Australia, Word of God Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday in February. It comes at a time when our planetary community yearns for deep healing. It invites us to bring the distress of the Earth community into dialogue with the gospel.

In the first-century Mediterranean world, sickness was attributed to social rather than to physical causes. The corollary of this was that healing focussed principally on restoration of the person to her or his place or status in the society or community. Healing of an individual brought not only the person but the community itself to wholeness.

Last Sunday, we reflected on the “healing” of a man with an “unclean spirit”. Jesus, healer, and teacher expelled the unclean spirit and thus restored health to the man as well as to the worshipping community. The healing took place in the Capernaum synagogue on the Sabbath.

This story marked the beginning of Mark’s account of a typical day in Jesus’ ministry. Today’s gospel passage continues that account.

Jesus leaves the synagogue and moves, in the company of two of his new disciples, to the house of Simon and Andrew. In other words, he shifts from a long-established gathering

place for God’s people to a prospective new locus of communal engagement, the house church.

This new locus does not preclude the older locus: Jesus continues to teach and heal in the synagogues throughout Galilee.

In this new place of encounter with God, Jesus heals a woman with a “fever” who is identified only in relation to her son-in-law, Simon. Jesus takes her by the hand and raises her up.

Jesus takes her by the hand and raises her up

She is the first human character in the Markan gospel story who is said to “minister”. In other words, the love of God working through Jesus draws her beyond herself to engage in a ministry of leadership in the community of God’s people.

Earlier in Mark’s gospel we heard that angels “ministered” to Jesus in the desert. In other words, God looked after Jesus as he began his mission of bringing God’s love into a broken world. Jesus will later insist that he also came “to minister” (10:45).



This woman is caught up in the same mission as Jesus of bringing the community to health and wholeness.

That same evening, Simon’s house becomes a magnet for “the whole city”.

Jesus heals their sick and afflicted and, early in the morning, seeks the solitude of a “desert” place for prayer.

The disciples seek him out, as everyone is looking for him. Jesus makes it clear that he must move on and bring God’s word and healing beyond the city to the neighbouring Galilean towns.

God’s word in this gospel story is for us as well as for those early disciples. Amid all the troubles besetting our world, we too must search out the solitude of a “desert” place for prayer and engage with renewed energy and insight in whatever each new day brings.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JOB 7:1–4, 6–7
1 CORINTHIANS 9:16–19, 22–23
MARK 1:29–39

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LEVITICUS 13:1–2, 44–46
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31–11:1
MARK 1:40–45