

6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

'What God has joined together, no one must divide.'

# St Alipius parish



▶ **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

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/](http://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

Thurs & Fri 9:30 AM

Sat 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 9:00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weeks)

10:30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

#### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

#### Mass and prayer resources

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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 this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

### WE PRAY FOR

#### Faithfully departed:

Shelley Pawang (Fr Jorge's niece)

#### Anniversaries: Mary

Cooper

#### Unwell: Socorro De

Chavez,

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)

## MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

After the great success and fun that was had at last year's Melbourne Cup Luncheon, we have decided to hold the event again. You are invited to join us for a luncheon to celebrate the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday 5 November from 11 AM in St Alipius Hall. Tickets are \$25 per person. Lunch of chicken, salad and dessert will be supplied. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be supplied. Please confirm numbers with the parish office by 31 October. Prizes for the best male and female fascinators. Sweeps will be available. If anyone can bring a salad or a dessert, please contact the parish office.

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$741
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$178.40

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.

## WORLD MISSION MONTH



Catholic Mission invites us to celebrate World Mission Month: "Together, we have the power to create change

and build a more just world for people everywhere. By supporting missionaries in their work, we can create life-changing opportunities for countless children, families, and communities worldwide. Join us in making a difference for our sisters and brothers." Pope Francis has recently published his messages for World Mission Month and World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated on October 20. Read both of these messages at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth>

## BAPTISMS

**Isabelle Mae Carey**  
Child of Dominic and Katrina Carey

*"I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*

## 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.

## 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.

## MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Our annual Remembrance Mass, **celebrating the lives of those who have passed away in the last 12 months** will be at 6:00 PM on Saturday 2 November at St Alipius. These people will be remembered at all masses that weekend. If you have lost a loved one in the past twelve months, but they weren't buried from our parish, please contact the parish office to have them remembered at this mass. A bbq will follow the 6:00 PM mass at St. Alipius and a cuppa will follow the 10:30 AM mass at Buninyong. Please spread the word.

## POSITION VACANT - ARCHIVIST



The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat requires an appropriately skilled individual to manage its extensive archives collection and take carriage of

the historical engagement program across the diocese, which includes liaising with the Professional Standards team and other diocesan leadership to identify and appropriately secure historical records and artifacts throughout the diocese. There will be a requirement to travel regionally from time to time to engage with venues and artifacts of significance within the diocese and promote the significance of the collection broadly. Scan or click the QR code for more information.

## PARISH ANNIVERSARY – DEC 14<sup>TH</sup>

We hope that by now you have marked December 14<sup>th</sup> as an important date in your diary. The anniversary committee have been busy making plans for this special day and are able to share some of the details with you. On the day we hope that many will be able to gather to take time viewing the displays which have been prepared. These displays will take help you to remember the many groups and people who have been part of the history of the parish. There will also be interviews with parishioners who have taken time to share their memories of their time at St. Alipius. Mass will be celebrated at the usual time of 6pm with a liturgy and will then be followed by a picnic in the grounds of the church/presbytery. During this time people are invited to bring a picnic tea or take advantage of the sausage sizzle which will be happening in the grounds. More information will be available in coming weeks. A big thank you to the many parishioners who have been meeting and put time in to ensure that this occasion is a memorable one. If you know of people who are no longer in the parish, but would be keen to attend, please don't hesitate to share the information with them.

## SCHOOL'S BACK

Term 4 begins on Monday. We hope that staff and students are ready for the final term of this year. Take care around school crossings!

## THANK YOU, FRs. KEVIN & GARY

Next weekend we welcome Fr. Justin back from his pilgrimage to Ireland. In his absence we have been lucky to welcome Frs. Kevin Maloney and Gary Jones to say weekend masses for us. We thank both for their willingness to visit our parish in Fr. Justin's absence.

## VIT REGISTRATION

Teachers who participate in various roles in our parish are reminded that VIT registrations should have been renewed at the end of September. Please provide a copy of your updated registration for the coming 12 months to the parish office as soon as possible.

## ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

### MASS: CAY TRINH

Deacon Cay Trinh will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.30am. All welcome to attend. A light lunch will follow in the Hall. For those not able to attend, the Mass will be livestreamed. People of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to form the choir for this Mass (further details to come).

Cay will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 5.00pm. All welcome to attend. A light supper will follow in the Hall.

## ONLINE LEARNING

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. Cycle 7 begins October 21. There are 40 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. Scan the QR code for more information or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdjia.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

# “A Call for Inclusivity”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Taliban's recent decision to enact draconian laws in relation to Afghani women's presence in the community, their attire and even their right to speak in public has foregrounded the global issue of gender inclusivity. Even in countries where the law permits equal voice and equal access to positions of leadership, there is no country or religion on earth that can claim gender equity in practice. Since the creation of patriarchy in the Bronze Age, some 3000 years ago, lack of gender inclusivity has posed a challenge, particularly for those who find themselves excluded.

The “test” question about divorce that the Pharisees put to Jesus is very strange in a first century Jewish context, as is the reference to women divorcing their husbands. While there is no evidence that anyone in Jewish circles questioned the legality of divorce, there is plenty of evidence for lively debate concerning the grounds on which a Jewish man could divorce his wife: adultery; inferior cooking; even diminished beauty! There were various schools of thought. Jewish law, unlike Roman law, however, did not permit women to initiate divorce proceedings on any grounds at all. From the perspective of the Markan Jesus, Moses only *permitted* divorce as a concession to “hardness of heart”: it was not so from the beginning. The ideal, he insists, is expressed in the Garden Story of Genesis, the story of “one flesh”, of partnership, of equality and mutuality, of enduring commitment in marriage.

The Hebrew word *'ezer* which is translated as “helper” in the first reading from Genesis is used in the Psalms of God's relationship to Israel. It does not denote inferiority of women to men as is sometimes suggested. A better translation might be “companion”.

Human limitation is just as much a reality now as it was in the ancient world. We strive for the ideal but fall far short of it in so many ways. When this happens in marriage, the consequences can be more far-reaching than in other aspects of life. The parties involved often become the “little ones” whose lives are shattered and disoriented. The embrace of the community is needed in a particular way for everyone affected by divorce, especially the children. When parents part company, the best interests and needs of the children are sometimes forgotten. Too often, those who have experienced the trauma of divorce feel alienated from the worshipping community, and this at a time when they most need support to face a different future from the one they had envisaged.

The story about marital commitment leads immediately into a story about Jesus taking the children in his arms and blessing them, despite the disciples' attempts to send them away. Children are never to be excluded from the inner circles of love, compassion and care. We might hear today's gospel as a call to be inclusive in all our relationships and to listen to the children's cries for a sustainable and life-giving future.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS  
27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Hebrews 2:9-11  
Mark 10:2-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR  
Wisdom 7:7-11  
Hebrews 4:12-13  
Mark 10:17-27