

7 April 2024

Second Sunday of Easter
We have seen the Lord!

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

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 4

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: Robert Currie

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Luka Fletcher-Leskarac, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Administrator
Fr Concord Bagoisan, 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.



FAREWELL TO OUR PRIESTS

This weekend is Fr Con's last as Parish Administrator at St Alipius. Together with Fr Eladio, who has been a familiar face in our parish for several years, Fr Con will be moving across town to Redan and Sebastopol. Although he has only been with our parish for a few months, Fr Con has made a significant contribution to our parish life, and he will be sadly missed. We thank Fr Con for his time spent getting to know us and for showing us the face of Jesus through his pastoral care and spiritual guidance. Please remember Fr Con and Fr Eladio in your prayers, as they commence the next phase of their missionary journey.

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATIONS

Preparation for First Eucharist begins on April 18th with Parent Information Sessions at 10.30 am and 6pm in St. Alipius Church. If you know of anyone who would like to be part of this program, please refer them to the parish website or the office for more information. Children who wish to receive the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time should be in Year 4 or older and have been confirmed. Preparation for this sacrament is family based and parents will receive relevant material at the information session. The program is supported by the catholic schools in our parish. Students from government schools will be required to meet with Cathy for their preparation on Thursdays during this time. Parents can enrol their child and indicate which information session they will attending by following this link.

<https://forms.gle/7awLdU27myzC23ZJA>

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,648
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$658.20

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

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of e-News is available to view at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/. You can subscribe to be emailed future editions.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the parish's Holy Week and Easter liturgies. It was a wonderful parish-wide effort from decorating the churches, setting up the altar of repose, and preparing the liturgies to the many people who volunteered as sacristans, readers, singers, musicians, and special ministers.



PROJECT COMPASSION

As the end of Project Compassion 2024, Caritas extends its heartfelt gratitude to our parish community for our support throughout this Lenten Season. Caritas hopes the inspiring stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory have touched our hearts and ignited a spirit of reflection on the impact of our support. Please remember to return your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to the parish office or donate via the QR code or online www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion.



LITURGY ROSTER

The liturgy roster for St Alipius for April and May has been emailed to volunteers. Hard copies are available in the sacristy. Please remember to diarise when you are rostered on and arrange a swap or fill if you are unable to make it for a week that you are rostered on. Thank you for helping make our weekend masses possible.

BAPTISMS

Zoey Peyton Surkitt
Child of Reece and Charmaine

Lachlan Steven Matthew Birthisel
Child of Dylan and Rachel

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

FUNDRAISING AFTERNOON TEA

The Cathedral Branch of the Catholic Women's League will be hosting an afternoon tea as a fundraiser to aid our Seminarians at 1:30 PM on Saturday 20 April at 30 Waller Ave, Ballarat. Entry is \$20 (cash only). There will be stalls and competitions. Donations are welcome and can be paid directly via the Bendigo Bank: Cathedral Branch Ballarat CWL, BSB 633 000, ACC 21371 7255. For inquiries please phone Carmel on 0401 175 045.

EVANGALISE+ SERIES

The new Evangelise+, 'Women's Leadership' series is available at <https://www.evangeliseplus.com.au/>. The series includes videos on the following five topics: Defining Leadership, Women's Gifts, Catholic Faith as a Guide, Attributes for Leadership and Dealing with Challenges.

SAFETRAC ONLINE COURSE

The email addresses of all volunteers required to do the Safetrac course on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults will be sent to the diocese this week. An email from the diocese will be sent containing your username and password. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the parish office and we will provide whatever support we can. We are assured that this version of Safetrac is more accessible than the previous one.

UPDATING YOUR WWCC

There are several parishioners whose Working with Children Checks (WWCC) will expire in 2024. Please check the date of yours to ensure that it is still current. Please provide a copy of your new WWCC to the parish office. Anybody needing to renew or apply for a WWCC is very welcome to book a time to come into the office where we can help you through the process. Teachers are asked to please provide copies of their current VIT registration card. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions. We appreciate your efforts to ensure that our parish is complying with child safety guidelines.

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 April – **For the role of women:** Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world. Lord, hear us.

LAUDATO SI'

In his encyclical Laudato Si', Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, encourages us to **"Learn about your food."**

Did you know? Discovering more about food helps you eat meals that are better for the planet. Learn if your snack grew on a tree or comes from a farm. How did it end up in that wrapper?

Sent to Bring Peace

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Second Sunday of Easter: John 20: 19–31

Some of us may remember when we spoke of the Sundays after Easter. The terminology has changed, and we now speak of the Sundays of Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into a different movement of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities.

The Risen One appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father".

They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. In other words, he sends them to create communities of people who listen to one another and who love one another into life.

The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fears that control and even paralyse us.

We render the gospel ineffective, even powerless, when we make self-protection our priority.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who is not with the other disciples when Jesus first appears in their midst.

Thomas is not exactly the trusting type. He seems to trust only his own experience.

We all know people like Thomas.

We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while.

If we think, however, that the other disciples are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days down the track! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears of the group.

Even those of us who do believe and trust need a bit of time and encouragement to take the gospel message to heart. We often need the example and support of others to move out beyond our personal fears



and embrace the pain of the wider world.

We are asked to do this right now as we emerge from the worst of the COVID pandemic. Some are too fearful to engage with the distress of our world and remain turned in upon themselves.

It may be helpful to look back to today's first reading from Acts (2:32-35) where Luke presents an idealised picture of the post resurrection Jerusalem community: all things in common and the gospel received with great respect.

While taking reasonable precautions, we are called to rise above our own fears and respond with love and generosity in times of crisis, to live the gospel message from death through resurrection and into "ordinary time".

THIS WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4:32–25
1 JOHN 5:1–6
JOHN 20:19–31

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 3:13–15, 17–19
1 JOHN 2:1–5
LUKE 24:35–48