

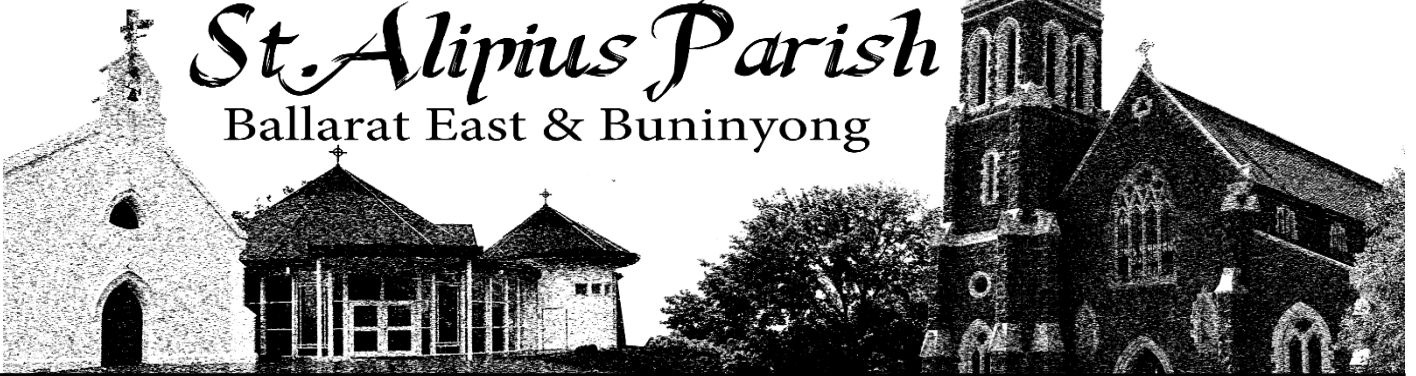


CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT |

Oblates of St. Joseph

St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



SS Peter & Paul's Church

701 Fiskens St., Buninyong 3357

St Alipius' Parish Church

82 Victoria St., Ballarat East 3350

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9TH AUGUST 2020

Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.



St Alipius' Parish acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Parish Office & Presbytery:

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

✉ 84 Victoria Street

Ballarat East 3350

☎ 5332 6611

✉ ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

🌐 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Liturgy Online:

🌐 www.sapliturgy.net.au

✉ sapliturgy@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge De Chavez, OSJ

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn, Kathy Curran

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Finance Com. Chair: Paul Jans

Our Church is closed until further notice

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/>

Daily Mass: 11.30am St John of God Hospital Chapel can be viewed via

<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> or

<http://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/>

Masses with Bishop Shane Mackinlay:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>

St. Alipius' Parish Liturgy Website:

www.sapliturgy.net.au

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ... I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

Prayer Intentions:

Recent Deaths: Douglas John McIntosh "Doug"

Anniversaries: Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Eileen O'Meara

Unwell: We pray for Carmel Doherty, Heather Healy, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott, Christopher Calimbas, Isabelita Dimaano, and all who are unwell.





Readings for this week:

Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

First: 1 Kings 19:9.11-13 Second: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Readings for next:

Twentieth Sunday Ordinary Time

First: Isaiah 56: 1,6-7 Second: Romans 11: 13-15,29-32
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Social Justice Statement 2020-2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-2021, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. More information is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020

Damascus College Information Webinars & Virtual Tours for 2022 Commencement

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Webinars on Wednesday, September 9 at 5.00pm and Tuesday, October 20 at 6.30pm. The Information Webinars are a great way for prospective families to learn more about Damascus College. Guided Virtual Tours are held fortnightly on a Thursday at 9.00am. To register, please go to <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us>. You will be sent an online link the day prior to the event.



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

Planned Giving

Envelopes may be left in the mailbox at the Presbytery. Any queries regarding Planned Giving, please contact our Finance Officer, Kerrie McTigue on 53 312 933 or via email: ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

St Alipius Parish collections last weekend:

Thank you 

Envelopes: \$989.00
Presbytery: \$461.35

Direct Debit: \$770.00



Hello Everyone,

As you would be aware, the Victorian government has introduced further restrictions to counter the renewed spread of COVID-19.

In regional Victoria, including our Diocese of Ballarat, Stage 3 restrictions will apply from midnight tomorrow (August 5). The restrictions will apply until September 13.

The regulations require that “religious ceremonies and private worship” be “broadcast only”. This means that our churches and chapels will be closed to the general public. It will still be possible to live stream Masses or other services from churches or chapels, although this would only involve those necessary to conduct the services and enable the live streaming. For information about Masses online, you could go to our diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

In regional Victoria, there are exceptions for weddings and funerals, though with limited numbers. For weddings, there may only be 5 people (the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant). For funerals, there may be up to 10 people, plus those conducting the funeral.

It is very sad that we will not be able to gather for Mass in the coming weeks. However, medical advice indicates that the restrictions are necessary for the health of the community. I hope and pray that these steps will be effective in reducing the impact of the pandemic and that we will be able to come together again soon to give thanks to God. In the meantime, we can pray anywhere and anytime in our own heart. Families can pray together at home. We might also pray with others online or simply with a phone call.

Christ promised to be with us always. May we know his presence in the weeks ahead.

Peace be with you.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul Bird CSeR

My Dear People of God,

Trust that all of you are keeping well. Our Churches are closed again at this time and we will not be able to gather for mass but Christ presence will always be with us as we pray with our family or by ourselves in isolation, we are physically distant but not separated, we are all united in prayer at this time. I continue to celebrate my private mass remembering you all and praying for your intentions. If you wish to have your intentions included, you can ring the parish office during office hours or you may drop your message in the mailbox at the presbytery.

Keep safe and God bless you all!

Fr. Jorge, OSJ



Gospel Reflection

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 14:22-33)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Right now, our planet is battered by the waves of pandemic. Our church also knows what it means to be “battered by the waves”. Over its two millennia history, there have been periods of discrimination and persecution against its members. Countless church members have died for their faith, while others have been and are being denied the freedom to practice their religion. There have also been times when the church has fallen far short of its own ideals and has quite seriously betrayed the gospel values it seeks to embody and proclaim. It is presently “battered” by huge even terrifying waves, largely of its own creating. Only God can bring order out of the chaos, and God works through the courageous witness and action of faith-filled disciples.

In today’s gospel, Matthew tells of Jesus astride the waves like the God of Israel in Job 9:8. In Israel’s mythology, the sea represents chaos. To walk on water is to have power and authority to bring order out of the chaos. Matthew presents Jesus as exercising the power of God over the potentially destructive chaos. Jesus makes his claim to divine power explicit in words that echo God’s words from the burning bush: “It is I” (literally “I am”). He tells the frightened disciples to take heart and not to be afraid. Peter, leader of the group, continues to doubt. He asks for a sign and is then prepared to take a risk in order to come to Jesus on the water. He begins to falter when he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on the threatening wind. Jesus reaches out his hand to rescue Peter. In a lovely gesture, Jesus takes him by the hand and holds him firmly in his grip. Jesus names Peter’s hesitation as a response of limited faith.

Matthew weaves the story of Peter into an earlier story from Mark’s gospel. We can only speculate on the reasons for this. Were Matthew’s communities going through hard times? Were they battered by the waves of conflicting loyalties as they found themselves excluded from Pharisaic Judaism? Was the pressure of separation from the synagogue too great for some, even for those in leadership? This is a telling story for anyone who exercises leadership at any level in the church. It is a reminder to us as disciples to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the source of hope in times of struggle and uncertainty and on the crucial issues that face our planetary home.

Finally, this story invites us to consider the threatening waves created by the undeniable reality of a pandemic in a time of climate crisis. The human community is largely responsible for the climate crisis. The human community must join hands to save what can be saved. The growing commitment to renewable energy provides, for me, a contemporary image of a saving hand reaching out to Earth communities that are in danger of being submerged.