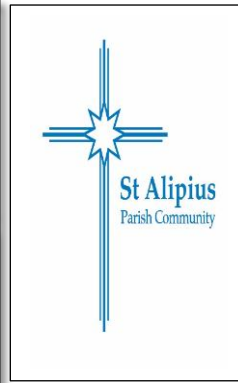


Welcome to St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



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 emeraina.

St Alipius' Parish Church
82 Victoria St, Ballarat East 3350

SS Peter & Paul's Church
701 Fiskien St. Buninyong 3357

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 1ST MAY 2021

Seeing things with the eyes of Christ inspires the Church's pastoral care for the faithful who are living together, or are only married civilly, or are divorced and remarried. (78) Amoris Laetitia

Parish Office & Presbytery:

- 84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350
- 5332 6611
- ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.00 am to 3:30 pm

Liturgy Online:

- www.sapliturgy.net.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Parish Coordinator: Bronwyn Ballesty

Child Safety Officer: Bronwyn Ballesty

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Finance Com. Chair: Paul Jans

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn, Kathy Curran
Terresa Fletcher

Masses during the week

St Alipius' Church, for 180 attendees

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Friday &
Saturday 9.30 am

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 9:00 am (1st, 3rd and 5th)
10:30 am (2nd and 4th)

Wednesday prayer to St Joseph (after mass)

Rosary and divine Mercy will be said each morning after
9.30am mass. Please join us on the left of the church
Morning tea will be in the hall after the Rosary on Fridays

Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong for 150 attendees

Sunday 9:00 am (2nd and 4th)
10:30 am, (1st, 3rd and 5th)

(Please ring Margaret McCarty 0423 208 286)

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting Team Number 6 will be on this week

In our prayers we remember.....

Recent Death: Robbert Alsem

Anniversaries: Helen Ronan, Mary Murphy, Jack Garnett

Unwell: We pray for Gilbert Garcera, Patricia Wood, Agnes Peters, Waffa Ghali, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray Coswello, Pat Hogan, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, John Beattie, Letitia Simmons, Anthony Holdsworth and all who are unwell.



Upcoming Dates in the parish community

May

4 th	Parish Reading & Reflections	7.00pm	St Alipius Presbytery
7 th	Caring Group Meeting	2.00pm	St Alipius Hall
15 th	Safe Church Awareness	9.30am	Ballarat
16 th	Youth Group	7.00pm	St Alipius Hall
28 th	Wine and Cheese Night	5.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul



This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..."

(Pope Francis)



Daphne Reed

Daughter of Ermalyn and David

Ella and Nell Hutchins

Son of Ardie and Jackelyn

Tommy Triplett

Son of Brent and Megan

May these children grow in Love and Faith with the support of their family and their Catholic Community

Parish of St Alipius and Ss Peter & Paul - RCIA Process

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic?

An evening for those interested in inquiring about the Catholic faith will be held on Wednesday 19th May from 6.30 - 7.30pm in the St Alipius Hall, Victoria St (next to the church).

For more information please contact the parish office on 5332 6611

Safe Church Awareness Workshops Ballarat

Saturday May 15th 9.30am – 4.00pm

We are encouraging all those in the parish that have a role which involves ministry with children to attend the workshop that the Diocese is holding on May 15th. If you would like to attend please contact the parish office for registrations details.

Year of St Joseph Monthly Reflections & Daily Prayers

Monthly Reflection: Each month during the year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will publish a reflection on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and character. Michelle Vass, director of St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park NSW, reflects on "St Joseph – Man of Dreams"

<https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>



Planned Giving



Due to the capped numbers for Mass, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving or contribution to the First Collection, please place your offering in an envelope into the mailbox near the front door of the Presbytery. Any queries regarding Planned Giving, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie McTigue, on 53 312 933 or via email:

ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

We thank you for your continued Support

St Alipius Parish collections last weekend:

Presbytery \$ 1054.50

Loose \$ 300.00

Envelopes \$ 1036.00

Confirmation

The parish is currently enrolling for Confirmation. If you have missed the Confirmation Information Nights please contact Bron in the Parish Office to ensure that we can support you and your child with their preparation.

***Registrations for the Parent Information Sessions are now open.
Please register through www.sapliturgy.net.au***



Wine and Cheese Anyone ??

May 28th 5.00pm

The parish will be holding a wine and cheese night in Ss Peter and Pauls church Buninyong. We encourage all parishioners to come along and get to know one another in a relaxed environment.

Mass Counts update

The 2021 National Count Mass Count will take place over the first four weekends in May starting this weekend. Any parishioner who is willing to help the parish with this please contact the parish office.

The Caring Group

The Caring Group will meet at 2pm on Friday May 7 in the St Alipius Hall.

There will be a brief meeting followed by afternoon tea.

Please bring a small plate to share.



Liturgy of the Word/ Reading and Reflection Tuesday 7pm – 8pm @ Presbytery.

All parishioners are welcome to come and join in our prayer and reflection in the presbytery.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Fun Faith and Food

The parish is excited to support our youth coming together on a regular basis to celebrate their faith whilst having fun and eating great food. All children of high school age are welcome to come and join this community of awesome young individuals.



Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program

Our partners, Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study Cycle 4 begins May 16. This cycle is mostly 5 week courses. Registrations are now open for new and returning participants. For more information go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

200 Years – Faith in the future of Catholic Education in Australia

In recognition of 200 years of Catholic education in Australia, Catholic Education Week 2021 will align with school communities across Australia in celebrating this landmark event. The theme for the week is

Faith in the Future which speaks of the essence of hope in faith, so needed against the backdrop of this year. A central focus of the week will be the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Patron of Australia, on

Monday 24 May. A national Mass will be celebrated on this day with the key intention being that students, staff, parents and the wider community join together on the one day across Australia to pray in thanksgiving for 200 years of Catholic education, and with great faith in the future of Catholic education. School leadership is asked to consider this in planning their liturgical celebrations for next year.



Reflection on the Gospel-5th Sunday of Easter Year B
(John 15:1-8)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

NRSV Translation

15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Again and again, life's experiences teach us that, as members of the Earth community, we cannot make it on our own. We need one another, other living beings, the sun, the soil, the water and everything else that formed from exploding stars in the distant past. The gospel reading reminds us that as baptised Christians we are not just intimately interlinked but that the source of our unity is the Risen Christ. As limbs and leaves and sap of the same vine, we simply cannot survive in isolation.

The vine image picks up one of the most potent biblical images for God's relationship to the people of Israel. It is an image of life and growth, of colour and vibrancy. It holds the promise of a life-sustaining grape harvest that is ultimately transformed into wine, the biblical symbol for joy. God brought Israel "the vine" out of Egypt (Psalm 80:9). For the prophet Isaiah, Israel is also a vineyard planted and nurtured by God (5:1-7; 27:3). For Jeremiah, Israel is the choice vine "of fully tested stock" planted by God (2:21).

The Johannine Jesus makes the claim: "I am the true vine/vineyard" and God is the "vinegrower". He goes further: "I am the vine/vineyard and you are the branches". The potency of this image resides in the fact that a vine without branches is inconceivable. It draws us into the mystery of the mutual interchange of life between us and the risen Christ, into the mystery of God. It also invites us to acknowledge our interconnection with the whole of the Earth community, to nurture the wonderful biodiversity of our planet, and to accept the inevitability of "pruning" if we are to "bear fruit" and "become disciples".

"Pruning" can take various forms. A chance encounter, a sudden inspiration, a word from a friend, an unexpected illness, a confronting story: any such experience can bring us to our senses and serve as a "pruning" device. The first reading for today recounts the story of Saul of Tarsus who is "pruned" quite dramatically through his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He is transformed from persecutor to defender of Christ and Christ's followers. Saul becomes a disciple and "bears much fruit". The Greek-speaking Christian Jews are suspicious, even murderous, when he tries to preach the gospel among them. Peace ensues, however, and the movement takes hold in the regions where Jesus had first preached the gospel. It is worth reflecting on the cultural diversity that characterised earliest Christianity and the tensions that had to be resolved between different language groups or groups of different ethnic origin for the gospel to flourish and bear fruit. John's gospel is written against the backdrop of such "pruning" within the early communities. Sometimes the requisite "pruning" is hearing respectfully a point of view that differs from one's own.

Fifth Sunday of Easter Readings

First: Acts: 9: 26-31

Second: 1 Jn 3:18-24 **Gospel:** Jn 15:1-8

Sixth Sunday of Easter Readings

First: Acts: 10:25-26

Second: 1 Jn 4:7-10 **Gospel:** Jn 15:9-17

