

3rd November 2024

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it."

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/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tues 9.30 am (Public Holiday)

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place
(All welcome)

Thurs 10.30 am (Ballan)

Thurs 1.30 pm Funeral Mass (Peter
Blayney)

Fri & Sat 9:30 am

Sat 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 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

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: Ann Carey, Peter Blayney, Jim and Carmel Madden

Anniversaries: Eris Blood, Alexander Forbes,

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 Gleeson

Finance Officer

Jackie Wrigglesworth

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.



MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

The Melbourne Cup Lunch is on Tuesday in the St. Alipius' hall from 11am. Tickets are \$25 per person. Lunch of chicken, salad and dessert will be supplied. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be supplied. There is still time to book in, but don't wait much longer! Prizes for the best male and female fascinators. Sweeps will be available. If you can bring a salad or a dessert, please contact the parish office. A good day out is promised.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$801
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$318.20

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.

UPCOMING DATES

Melbourne Cup Luncheon
November 5th @ 11 am – Parish Hall

Baptism Preparation
November 7th @ 10 am or 5.30 pm – Mary Glowrey Room (Cathedral)

Liturgy Committee Meeting
November 7th @ 5pm – Presbytery

Anniversary Mass & Picnic Preparations
November 17th @ 3pm – Parish Hall

Anniversary Mass & Picnic
December 14th @ 6pm – Church and Grounds

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

The final edition of the ODC Magazine is now available in the church foyers. Take home a copy today to find out what's happening in the diocese. In this edition you can find out more about the Formation Sessions which have been happening throughout this year in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly coming up on November 15th and 16th which will consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in future.

PREPARATION OF NATIVITY SCENE

On Thursday November 28th, we plan to hold a working bee at 5pm to prepare the outdoor Nativity Scene for the season of Advent which begins on December 1st. This is a big job and the figures which make up the scene are heavy, so we are hoping that a number of people might like to volunteer to come along and help out. With a number of helpers, this will not take more than an hour. If you are in a position to help, please contact the parish office.

CLERGY JUBILARIANS MASS

Mass to celebrate the 2024 Clergy Jubilarians will be held on Thursday, November 14th at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 5.00pm. The 2024 clergy Jubilarians are: 50 years – Frs Eric Bryant, Paddy Mugavin & Michael O'Toole, 25 years – Fr Ed Moloney. All are welcome to attend. Members of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to join the choir for this Mass. Choir practice will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass) in the Cathedral.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE MASSES



The remembrance of those who have died over this past year will be included in this weekend's Masses at Ballarat East and Buninyong.

Welcome to families and friends. The Bungaree Parish will celebrate Mass at the Pootilla Cemetery on Sunday November 10th at 9.00am. The Gordon Parish will celebrate Mass at the Gordon Cemetery on Sunday November 17th at 11.00am with Mass celebrated at Ballarat at 9.00am.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the appointment of Fr Andrew Hayes as Parish Priest of the Parishes of Apollo Bay and Colac as well as Supervising Priest for the Cororooke Parish, commencing January 15th 2025. Fr Michael O'Toole will be Priest in Residence in Apollo Bay, helping Fr Andrew.

COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE

Bishop Paul has informed parishes of the option of reintroducing communion from the chalice in parishes in the Diocese of Ballarat. The parishes of our Ministry District (Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon) will not take up this option at this stage.

OFFICE HOURS



Please note that for the coming week, the office will be closed on Tuesday due to the Melbourne Cup holiday. Apart from Tuesday, office hours will be as normal.

LIVES OF HONOUR: BALLARAT EAST AND THE GREAT WAR

St Paul's Anglican Church, Bakery Hill, extends an invitation to the launch of *Lives of Honour: Ballarat East and the Great War*. The book examines the lives of 177 World War One soldiers who were closely associated with the church, Monday November 11th 2024, 2.30pm Eureka Centre 102 Stawell St. S. Ballarat East. Dr Carolyn Holbrook will be the guest speaker. Entrance is free. Light refreshments and discounted copies will be available after the launch. Please indicate your intention to attend to adoggett1204@gmail.com, or calling 0401 007 42.

BALLARAT REFORM LEAGUE CHARTER 170TH ANNIVERSARY

Join Unions Ballarat Trades Hall and St Pauls to celebrate the foundation of Australia's democratic tradition at the site of the Monster meeting and the formation of the Ballarat Reform League – St Paul's Church, Monday November 11th 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS

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 sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Y.C.W. CRICKET CLUB

The Y.C.W. Cricket Club are gathering for lunch at the Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 1st December, 2024. All former players, families and supporters are welcome to attend. For further details please contact Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY CONCLUDES WITH THE FINAL DOCUMENT

The proposals include expanded women's leadership roles, greater lay participation in decision-making, and significant structural reforms. Among the most significant proposals is a call for strengthening pastoral councils at parish and diocesan levels. The document advocates for regular ecclesiastical assemblies across all Church levels — including continental — and heightened ecumenical dialogue.

The text calls for a revision in canon law, "clarifying the distinction and relation between consultation and deliberation and shedding light on the responsibilities of those who play different roles in the decision-making process." In a notable development, the document explicitly states there is "no reason or impediment" to prevent women from assuming leadership roles in the Church.

Furthermore, "the question of women's access to diaconal ministry remains open," and that discernment should continue. The text advocates for increased female participation in clergy formation and broader involvement in Church decision-making processes.

The document significantly expands the role of the laity in Church governance. It calls for their increased presence in synodal assemblies and all phases of ecclesiastical decision-making.

New procedures for selecting and evaluating bishops and expanded lay participation in diocesan leadership and canonical processes are proposed. The text also addresses accountability measures, calling for enhanced financial transparency and protocols for abuse prevention, declaring: "The need within the Church for healing, reconciliation, and the rebuilding of trust has resounded at every stage of the synodal process."

RCIA FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

On Thursday November 28th, we will be holding an information session for families who are looking to know more about the RCIA for children. This program is for children over seven years of age who wish to become Catholics. The program itself, will run in early 2025 over a period of weeks. If you know of anyone who may be interested in attending this session, please ask them to contact the parish office

“Listen, Listen Again and Keep on Listening.”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

A dear friend of mine used to say that the first rule, the first commandment, is to listen, that the second rule is to listen again and that the third is to keep on listening. Today’s gospel would seem to confirm that insight. It is in being heard that broken spirits are healed and that peace reigns in the hearts of those who have been hurt. Love of God and love of neighbour come from being attentive to God and from being attentive to God’s presence in all that is.

Jesus is presented in today’s gospel as a Jew who knows and observes the Law of Moses. He wins the respect of a scribe, a specialist in the Law, who has overheard him debating with the Sadducees. Jesus recognises the sincerity of the scribe and takes seriously the question that this teacher of the Law puts to him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” He prefaces his response with the words of Deuteronomy 6, “Hear/listen O Israel.”

While love of God is said to be the first commandment, there is no love without the prior disposition to hear, to listen, to pay attention.

It is a love that derives from attention to and gratitude for God’s liberating action in the lives of God’s people.

Israel has known the unconditional love of God. Those who know anything about human behaviour would probably agree that the experience of unconditional love engenders an increased capacity for love. For the Jews, including those who throw in their lot with Jesus the Jewish Galilean, to love one’s neighbour is to keep the second commandment of Leviticus 19:18, “...you shall love your neighbour as yourself”.

In the Markan schema, goodness and fitness for the “kin-dom” or “empire of God” are never guaranteed by status or position or call or ethnicity or gender or by any other contingency of existence. Everyone has choices. In first-century Judaism, love of God was expressed in worship and in the prayers and rituals of daily life. Love of others likewise found expression in action, not only in care of family and close friends, but also in support of “the poor and the needy and the stranger.”



To seek peace was also a feature of neighbourly love, a feature that is so desperately needed at this time of widespread conflict. To accept and follow such a program of peace is to be, with the scribe, “not far from” God’s kin-dom or empire. Contemporary sensibilities might lead us to include the other-than-human among the neighbours or “kin” we are called to love. If we learn to pay loving attention to the earth and all that inhabits it, the whole human community, the birds and the beasts, the plants and the soil, the sky and the sea, then the words of Jesus might truly find a home in our hearts: “You are not far from the kin-dom of God”.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 12:28-34

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 17:10-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44