



WEEKLY BULLETIN

CATHOLIC PARISH OF BALLARAT EAST

Serving the Church Communities of

✠**ST ALIPIUS (Ballarat East) and ✠SS PETER & PAUL's (Buninyong)**
(84 Victoria Street) (701 Fisken Street)



SUNDAY 24TH FEB 2019 – SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Who We Are

The Parish of Ballarat East encompasses the worshipping communities of St Alipius in Ballarat East and SS Peter and Paul's in Buninyong, Sisters of Mercy, St Alipius Kindergarten, St Alipius Parish School, Emmaus Catholic Primary School, St Francis Xavier Primary School, and Damascus College. Each community contributes towards the richness of our parish life in its own unique way.

Our Mission/Vision

At Ballarat East Parish we believe that we all share in the call to proclaim the Word of God. We believe that although called to various ministries, by virtue of our common baptism, we share equally in the commission to announce that Word and to embody it by the way we live our lives.

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

Parish Contact Details

Clergy & Staff:

Parish Priest – Fr Peter Sherman
Parish Coordinator – Lucy O'Beirne
Bereavement Coords – Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran
Child Safety Officer – Roxanne Leed

Office Hours:

Tue, Thu & Fri
9.30 am—1.30 pm

Address:

84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350

Telephone:

5332 6611

Email:

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Website:

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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019

Welcome to week three of our Parish Stewardship Program.

This week celebrates the role of our parish as a community of faith – as an authentic

community where people are welcomed, known and loved. It is a place of care, support and outreach – with a clear mission to live the values of the Gospel.

This means that we have a responsibility to use our gifts and talents for the benefit of others – making our time available to be involved in one of our many Groups and Ministries. We all have a contribution to make – so have a look at the “Groups & Ministries” form to see what best suits you.

Today we will hear from members of the Parish Stewardship Team who will share with us the impact of faith and our parish on their lives and how important it is for us all to make our contribution to parish life. We thank them for doing so!

'Our Future' Forum

This key event of the Program will be held next **Tuesday 26 February at 2.00pm and again at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall**. This is a great opportunity to get together, celebrate our achievements and discuss our plans for the future. Light refreshments will also be provided. If you have not already accepted, please complete the RSVP cards available at all Masses over the weekend.

Ministry Expo

This week we focus particularly on Groups and Ministries in Outreach and Mission.

You are encouraged to review the list of groups and ministries found in the 'Parish Groups & Ministries Form', visit the expo and prayerfully discern what special gifts and talents God might be calling you to share in our Parish. Through the gifts of time and talent that our parishioners generously share we are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our parish community.

Website update

The dedicated Stewardship Program section this week features a special video from Fr Kevin Maloney, the Vicar General for the Ballarat Diocese. There is also a special Ministry focus. These may be of interest to you! The website address is: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ballarateast>

Pope Francis Says

“A parish is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach” – Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 28.



We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Remy Thomas, Eden Thomas,
Sophie Morvell.

Recent Deaths:

John Plover, Mary McCluskey.

Anniversaries:

Jack Gittings, Michael Perkins.

The Sick:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth,
Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh,
Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty,
Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott,
John Darroch, Margaret Meerbach,
Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran,
Cathy Jones, Alison Rice,
Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff,
Gerry Duck.

Prayer of the Week

Stewardship Program Prayer

Lord, we thank you for calling us to be your Church.

Through our Baptism we are called to service and to witness.

In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call.

By serving others we follow your example and proclaim our beliefs.

By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and care.

Lord, help us always to worship you as you deserve,

to grow in faith and service and to give without counting the cost.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

KEYS-KEYS-KEYS!

The parish is updating the door locks to St Alipius presbytery and church. Anyone who has a key to either building will need to return their key/keys and receive a code number to be able to access the buildings. The locks are being changed on Wednesday, 27th February 2019. Please pop in after that date during office hours to see Lucy for an exchange.

LENTEN PREPARATION

RETURN OF PALMS

We invite you to return your palms from last year's Palm Sunday for use at this year's *Ash Wednesday* service. Please place returned palms in the receptacle provided at the back of the church.

PREPARATION OF THE ASHES

St Alipius Parish School warmly invites you to the *Preparation of the Ashes* liturgy on **Tuesday 5th March at 2.30pm on the church grounds.**

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS - 12 NOON

The **12 noon Ash Wednesday Mass on March 6th** at our parish church will be led by Emmaus Catholic Primary School and St Alipius Primary School. We would love for you to join us as we begin our journey through Lent.

CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on **Friday 1st March at 10 am** in the St Alipius Hall. This is also our Annual General Meeting and we would love to welcome new members.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

This weekend we celebrate the *Rite of Naming* at our Vigil Mass with our catechumens Anna Glenn, Melissa Watson and candidates Liz McCartin, Wendy Sanders. Next Saturday they will be accompanied by their sponsors and presented to the Bishop at St Patrick's Cathedral at the *Rite of Election*. Please continue to encourage and keep them in your prayers as they journey to become full members of St Alipius Parish community at the Easter Vigil Mass.

RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to both adults and children of catechetical age. The Rite of Election for catechumens, candidates and children of catechetical age will take place on **Saturday, 2nd March 2019 at 12.30 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.** The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in the Galilee Centre for a light lunch.

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS ON RETREAT

Many of the priests of our diocese are on retreat this week. We remember the lads and pray for them, as they will be praying for the people of our parishes.

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

GATHERING OF CATHOLIC LEADERS IN ROME

We pray for Pope Francis and the 190 Catholic Leaders as they gather in Rome to talk about clergy sex abuse. May the Holy Spirit be truly present at this summit and that genuine, concrete and effective outcomes will ensue that will ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our churches, schools and other catholic institutions.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 1 MARCH 2019

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 1st March 2019

Once again we approach the first Friday in March, when Christians world wide gather to pray for the issues that affect us all.

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Slovenia, a tiny central European republic established in 1991 on the break up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

This international service, translated into many languages, will be used world wide, uniting us all in our hopes and concerns.

You are invited to join the prayer at one of the local services.

10 am St. John's Anglican Church 608 Armstrong St. Nth.
2 pm St. Columba's Catholic Church 801 Lydiard St. Nth.
7 pm Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church 701 Fisker St., Buninyong

Services are also held at three aged care facilities and at other churches in our region. Please see the Community Diary in the Courier on Thursdays for these details.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PS OPEN DAYS

SFX Primary School will be conducting Open Days on **February 27th, and March 14th**. Please see flyer on Notice Board for further details.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE 2019 CLASS REUNIONS

Damascus College is attempting to contact as many members of their alumni as possible.

Past students and staff of Damascus College and its foundation colleges, Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Martin's in the Pines are invited to celebrate the Class reunions of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009.

For dates, full details and booking information please go to www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-reunions-events

NAZARETH HOUSE - CONCERT WITH DAVID PARKES

Irish singer, David Parkes, is a renowned international singer and witness on the great mercy of Our Lord through the intercession of Our Lady. David will be performing a Sacred Concert on **Thursday, March 7, 2019** at Nazareth House Chapel, Ballarat. Holy Mass will be held at 6.30pm, followed by the Sacred Concert at 7.00pm. All welcome.

KEEP THESE DATES FREE

Father Thomas Casanova (Confraternity of Christ the Priest) will be giving a three day retreat at Nazareth House during Lent starting on **Monday 18th March through to Wednesday 20th March**. Daily Mass and Confessions. This retreat will be hosted by the Catholic Women's League, Cathedral Branch but will be open to all. Details next week. For enquiries ring 0401175045.

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 25th February 2019

Mon: No Mass
Tue: 5.00 pm Mercy Convent
Wed: 9.30 am Mercy Convent
Thu: 9.30 am St Alipius
11.00 am Mercy Place
Fri: 9.30 am St Alipius
Sat: 6.00 pm St Alipius
Sun: 9.00 am St Alipius
10.30 am SS Peter & Paul's

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:		
	Envelopes	\$ 1762.50
	Loose	\$ 150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$ 3037.00
	Direct Debits	\$ 300.00
		\$ 5249.50
Presbytery:		\$ 1026.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 7:

K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara,
B. Hood.

Team 8:

B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale,
K. McKeegan.

Appreciation Corner

Many thanks to our staff, the various community groups, and volunteers who generously give of their time and talent each week -- the parish couldn't function without you!



This week we say a special thank you to the ladies who have offered to do

the laundry and those who do or did the sewing of baptismal stoles. We also give special thanks to the two gents who have offered to open and close St Alipius church. **The church will be open from around 9 am to 4:30 pm Tue to Fri.**

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

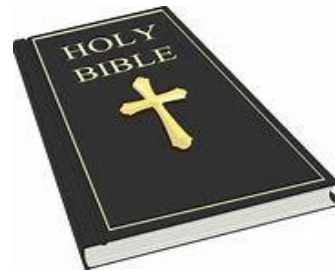
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 6:27-38)

This classic gospel message is addressed to those who listen. To hear and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to do good to those who hate you, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible for those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

The recipients of this gospel, the members of Luke's late first century communities, were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (*hesed*) and womb-compassion (*rahamim*). They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (*mishpat*) and right relationship (*sedeqah*) between people and nations, ever ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice and wrongdoing. The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct. God-like compassion remains the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship.

Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division. There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of

the world. And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7
Second Reading: Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel (Luke 6:39-45)

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.'

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

Question of the Week

What has allowed you to overcome obstacles and forgive someone who has hurt you?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)