



WEEKLY BULLETIN

CATHOLIC PARISH OF BALLARAT EAST

Serving the Church Communities of

✚ **ST ALIPIUS (Ballarat East)** and ✚ **STs PETER & PAUL's (Buninyong)**
(84 Victoria Street) (701 Fiske Street)



SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2019 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, 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

Week 4 – Our Future Weekend



Welcome to the final week of our Parish Stewardship Program.

In recent weeks we have reflected on the role of faith in our lives and the importance of coming together to celebrate the Eucharist each weekend. We have also considered the notion of our parish as a community of faith and how we can make our own contribution to parish life by being involved in our Groups & Ministries.

This week brings it all together. We look to the future – imagining what sort of parish we want to be. Ours is one filled with optimism – but one that needs the support and contribution of every individual if we are to achieve our dreams.

This week we ask you to finalise your commitment by:

- Signing up for a Parish Group or Ministry
- Making your meaningful pledge of financial support to the Stewardship Program

We welcome Therese Proy from the Parish Development team of the Archdiocese of Melbourne who will coordinate the distribution/completion/collection process with assistance from members of the Leadership Team.

We thank you in advance for your generous support.

Website update

The dedicated Stewardship Program section this week features a special video from Fr Kevin Maloney, the Vicar General of the Ballarat Diocese. This may be of interest to you!

LENT WEEK 2

Continuing with Michael McGirr's suggested activities for the forty days of Lent, here are the next six you may like to try this week:

11. Sit in a food court on your own for half an hour and pray for the hungry of the world.
12. Find out who Dorothy Day or Mary Glowery or Eileen O'Connor were.
13. Write a limerick about something that annoys you as a way of making light of it.
14. Follow the pope on twitter.
15. Listen to a Beethoven string quartet.
16. Find out what happens to your household rubbish after it is collected.



(Source: All I have is yours: Forty days to Freedom, Michael McGirr)

We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Fletcher Hipke, Stella Hipke,
Scout Lovell, Molly Browning.

Recent Deaths:

Dennis "Footy" Melville (Fr Peter's
cousin, Colac), Robert Allen (Maureen
Santamaria's brother).

Anniversaries:

Sr Kathleen Nolan RSJ,
Bridget Curran, Susan Purcell,
Nancy Murphy, Ellen Murphy,
Gerald Roach, Michael Harrison.

The Sick:

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

Prayer of the Week

Transforming

God of new beginnings,
through your grace,
you reveal to us glimpses
of your glory and light.

May your Holy Spirit
continue to call us to conversion
and transformation in Christ.

May we be inspired to live
more deeply in your grace.

Amen

*The Lord is my light and my
salvation. (Psalm 27)*

Words of Wisdom

*"Let us come alive to the splendour
that is all around us and see the
beauty in ordinary things".
(Thomas Merton)*

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

LENTEN CALENDAR

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays 7.00 pm SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP – "40 Days to Freedom"

Thursdays 10.00 am St Alipius Presbytery
Please come along for some faith building and faith
sharing, and good company.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Tue, 2nd April 7.00 pm St Alipius
Wed, 3rd April 7.00 pm SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

ANOINTING MASS

Wed, 3rd April 2.00 pm St Alipius

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019

Dear Parishioners

Our Stewardship Program ends this weekend – we'll open our hearts and dreams to God's great plans for us, as we look with joyful hope to the future! Go to the parish website for more.

Kind Regards

Fr Peter & the Leadership team

INTERIM STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

For those parishioners making WEEKLY envelope contributions please collect your letter containing interim envelopes at the back of the church this weekend. These envelopes will cover the period until the new Stewardship Program begins on Easter Sunday. Thank you.

PARISH FINANCE MEETING

The Parish Finance Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 19th March at 6.00 pm.**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Are you looking for some way to make a difference for your life and the lives of others?

Our local Vinnies is seeking assistance to help them in the work of food distribution and support for those in need – a few hours – think about it!

RCIA PROGRAM – RITE OF ELECTION

On Saturday 2nd March, catechumens Anna Glenn, Melissa Watson together with baptised candidates Liz McCartin and Wendy Sanders were presented to Bishop Paul at the Rite of Election. As the Elect, they continue their journey towards full and active participation in the life of the Church at Easter. Thank you for your encouragement through your prayer and support.



ST ALIPIUS PS OPEN MORNINGS

St Alipius Primary School Open Mornings for enrolment 2020 will be held on **Tuesday 19th and 26th March at 9:30am.**

DAMASCUS COLLEGE 2019 CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 2009 - Friday 22 March, 6.30pm
 Class of 1979 - Saturday 23 March, 2.00pm
 Class of 1969 - Sunday 24 March, 12.30pm
 See college website for further details.

CARING GROUP AGM – ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

Recently a small but enthusiastic group of ladies met for their Annual General Meeting. This group is well known as the St Alipius Caring Group. The following members were elected:

President: Margaret Tuddenham
 Secretary: Kath Bevelander
 Treasurer: Monica McKeegan

The Caring Group meets on the first Friday of every month at 10.00am in the St Alipius Parish Hall. New members will be made very welcome!

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT – VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in the next few months. Contact Donna Stewart - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.



CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION

Twelve-year-old Thandolwayo would walk seven kilometres each day, threatened by crocodiles, to collect contaminated water for her family. It looked like she would never realise her hope of finishing her education and becoming a nurse, until a Caritas Australia-supported project created access to clean water helping Thandolwayo to stay at school and achieve a future full of hope. Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 to provide access to clean water and a future full of hope for vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe.

BUY CHOCOLATES MADE WITHOUT SLAVERY

A lot of chocolate is produced using child slavery. Make a difference and choose slavery-free chocolate this Easter. Find out more on the Youth & Young Adult Ministry page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

CWLB LENTEN RETREAT

Catholic Women's League Ballarat Lenten Retreat at Nazareth House St Anne's Chapel on March 18, 19 and 20, presented by Father Thomas Casanova CCS. Please ring Joan on 5338 2484 for further information.

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 18th March 2019

Mon: No Mass
Tue: 5.00 pm Mercy Convent
Wed: No Mass
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 SS Peter & Paul's
 10.30 am St Alipius

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:	Envelopes	\$	1216.45
	Loose	\$	150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$	0.00
	Direct Debits	\$	215.00
		\$	1581.45
Presbytery:		\$	846.50

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 10:
 P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

Team 11:
 E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

Appreciation Corner

As always, we say thank you 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!



There's always room for more helpers, so if you have some time to spare and can assist, please contact Lucy at the parish office.

"Great acts are made up of small deeds." (Lao Tzu)

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

2nd Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 9:28-36)

Last week, the wilderness was a character in the gospel reading. This week, we find a mountain and a cloud featuring in the narrative. These other-than-human characters and the prophets of old (Moses and Elijah) link Luke's story of Jesus to the Israelites' covenant relationship with God. Wilderness, mountain and cloud also remind us that God's Earth is the locus of mystery where human and other-than-human Earth beings are transformed through encounter with the divine. The current ABC series *The Magical Land of Oz* is yet another reminder of this. For Jesus, the mountain is already a place of encounter with God, a place of prayer. Luke has Jesus spending a night in prayer on an unidentified mountain before he chooses the Twelve. Jesus now takes three of his closest friends up another unidentified mountain where the aspect of his face changes and his clothing becomes dazzling white. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, "appear" and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet. This episode seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate: if he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with this realisation in the wilderness and comes to terms with what it involves on the mountain. The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus and calls for a response: "Listen to him". These words are reminiscent of Moses' instruction to the Israelites: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet" (Deut 18:15). For Luke, Jesus is the prophet-like-Moses whom they must heed. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. The tents evoke once more the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of glory. We also need the good sense to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. If we are to hear the prophet-like-Moses in our times, we have to come to terms with the personal costs involved. Some of us actually need to go alone or together to a mountain top or place of extraordinary beauty to discover again the

strength that comes from encountering the divine. I grew up in the shadow of Mt Macedon. I once climbed within view of Everest. Every now and then, I climb Mt Buninyong. At such times, I know the wonder of God revealed in the beauty of the earth itself even as I sense its fragility and susceptibility to destruction.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
Second Reading: Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel (Luke 13:1-9)

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in this vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir", the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Question of the Week

How are your priorities affected by your faith in Jesus Christ?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)