



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 Fischen Street)



SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 2019 – FIFTH 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



THANK YOU to parishioners who have already returned their completed pledge commitments – either at Mass over the last couple of

week, or on line through our parish website. Your support is very much appreciated!

A special THANK YOU to those members of the Leadership Team and other volunteers who have assisted with our follow-up work. Please make sure that all follow-up cards & responses are returned to the parish office, no later than 10am, Tuesday 9 April.

Please note that new pledges will take effect on 20/21 April so please return your completed pledges no later than Monday 8 April. Letters of confirmation and where appropriate, new sets of envelopes, will be available at all Masses on the weekend of 13/14 April.

I thank you once again for your generous response.

(Fr Peter)

PROGRAM SOCIAL NIGHT

A reminder to all parishioners who have assisted with the conduct of the Stewardship Program that our *Social Night* will be held on **Wednesday, 24 April at 7pm** in the Parish Hall. We would love to see you there!

LENT WEEK 5

Week five of Michael McGirr's Lenten Program focuses on being *Free to love*. He suggests that we all tend to play power games, but instead should follow the example of Jesus who shows us that it is possible to use our wisdom and experience to help others rather than to make ourselves more powerful. Continuing with his suggested activities for the forty days of Lent, here are the next six items on his list that you might like to try during the week:



29. Buy something offbeat from an op shop.
30. Watch a fish swimming or a bird in flight.
31. Eat a tomato fresh from the vine.
32. Find out who we are supporting with Project Compassion in Lent.
33. Only use the Lord's name in prayer.
34. Take fifteen minutes to look at the stars and enjoy the cool evening air.

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

We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Jimmy Cummings,
Oscar and Charlotte Evans.

Recent Deaths:

Dino Cudio, Val Raper (mother of
Deb Wakefield).

Anniversaries:

Isabel Britt.

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

Encountering

God of infinite goodness,
we give thanks for your
tender care for us.

Help us to turn to you,
lift us up when we
stumble and fall, and
set us gently back on the
path that leads to you.

We ask this through
Jesus Christ who showered
such loving compassion
towards sinners.

Amen

*The Lord has done great
things for us, we are filled
with joy. (Psalm 126)*

Words of Wisdom

*The love of God cradles us
unceasingly. (Thomas Keating)*

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

LENTEN & HOLY WEEK 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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Thu, 18th April 7.00 pm St Alipius
(Mass of the Lord's Supper)

Fri, 19th April 3.00 pm St Alipius
(Passion of Our Lord)

Sat, 20th April 7.00 pm St Alipius
(Easter Vigil Mass)

Sun, 21st April 9.00 am St Alipius
(Easter Sunday Mass)

10.30 am SS Peter & Paul's

(Easter Sunday Mass)

EASTER VIGIL MUSIC – CALLING SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!

The wonder of Holy Saturday night is enhanced with good music.

We're looking for singers and musicians to join David & Geoff to raise our hearts in song on this special night. Suitable for primary students, secondary students, young adults and all those young at heart!

Rehearsals will be at St Alipius Church from 7.30pm - 8.30pm on Tuesday evenings, the 9th and 16th April.

Give David a call on 0427310564 to confirm your involvement or just turn up on either Tuesday.

EASTER MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

The sign-up sheet for the Holy Week services at St Alipius is up at the back of the church. There are still a few vacant spots so please consider helping to fill these. Many thanks.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

This month's social afternoon will be held on **Wednesday 10th April** in the Mercy Centre commencing at **2.00pm**.

Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome.

INVITATION TO PREPARATION RITES FOR RCIA ELECT

On Saturday April 20th at 10.30 am Bishop Paul Bird is celebrating the Preparation Rites for the RCIA Elect in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall. You are very welcome to join us for this Celebration.

RCIA EASTER VIGIL CELEBRATION

During the Easter Vigil Mass our RCIA Elect, Melissa, Anna, Wendy and Liz, will be received into our parish community. To celebrate this faith filled occasion, community members are invited to join our new members and their families for light refreshments in the Parish Hall following Mass. Parishioners are invited to bring a plate of nibbles to share. For enquiries please phone Kristen on 0448804745.

BREAKING THE CLERICAL CULTURE

Article by Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta. Copies available at back of church.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Fr Peter and parishioners would like to wish the students and staff of our parish schools **Happy Holidays!** Hope you have a wonderful break - but remember, not too many chocolates and be sure that they are **Traffikfree Chocolate!**

DAMASCUS COLLEGE FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

“Developing Parents’ Digital Literacy and Tackling Cyberbullying” presented by *Project Rokit*. **Wednesday 1st May 2019 at 7pm – 8.30pm in the John Shannon Centre, Damascus College.** Book your FREE tickets at damascus.vic.edu.au.

FOR THE DIARY - BLESSING AND REOPENING OF Ss PETER & PAUL’S CHURCH HALL, 5TH MAY

The reopening and blessing of the renovated old church hall at Ss Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong, will occur on Sunday 5th May after 10:30 Mass. Please bring a plate to share for a light lunch/refreshments etc., as our community celebrates the completion of this wonderful project!

THANK YOU FROM ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF BALLARAT



MASS OF THE OILS: MONDAY, APRIL 15

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat, at 6.30 pm on Monday, April 15. All members of the Diocese are invited to this celebration, which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church.”

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT

Volunteer Mentors needed to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat Schools. Initial training provided. Contact Donna Stewart, Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form.

The Boy Who Wouldn’t Die – Expressions of Interest

Mercy Connect has secured David Nyuol Vincent as guest speaker to speak about his experiences as one of the Lost Boys of Sudan He will be coming to Ballarat on evening of the 27th June. Venue yet to be decided. Entrance is by gold coin donation. If you are interested in attending please email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com by **Friday, 12th April.**

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 8th April 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 SS Peter & Paul’s
10.30 am St Alipius

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:		
	Envelopes	\$ 1291.00
	Loose	\$ 150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debits	\$ 1234.00
		\$ 2675.00
Presbytery:		\$ 1001.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 1:
L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson,
L. Mullane.

(Members of Team 2 now all retired)

Team 3:
M. O’Donnell©, L. O’Donnell.

Appreciation Corner



We say thank you to Fr Peter & 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 give special thanks to the teachers and students who attended the *Mass of Anointing* last Wednesday and buddied up with the seniors and gave them some beautiful cards.

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

5th Sunday of Lent Year C (John 8:1-11)

Historian Gerda Lerner has demonstrated that patriarchy emerged some 3000 years ago with the emergence of weapons of war and the consequent gender division of labour. By the first century CE, when the gospels were written, every woman in the Roman world knew what that she was the possession of a man, initially of her father, and then of her husband or successive husbands. Slaves, both men and women, were the property of and sexually available to the head of the patriarchal household. Even free women had fewer choices than men in regard to such matters as choice of life partners and social contact outside the family. In the context of Second Temple Judaism, a woman's sexual liaison with another man was a sin against her husband who was also her proprietor. Her shame was of less consequence than her husband's loss of status and honour.

We are told nothing of the precise circumstances of the woman said to be "taken in adultery". She could not have been "taken" alone: there is a man somewhere in the wings who is at least as guilty as the woman. But only the woman is "brought" to Jesus in the public arena, a spectacle for the assembled crowd. Ironically, the lawyers have little interest in the woman or her fate. Their interest is in Jesus. They want to test him and catch him out on his attitude to and enactment of the Mosaic law. In other words, Jesus is the one on trial in this public setting, and the woman is no more than a dispensable object in the process, a means to a sinister end.

The woman's life is of little concern to her accusers. They ask Jesus for a legal opinion on her case. Should the full force of the law be exercised? Should she be stoned to death? Jesus does not dignify their manipulation with a response. Rather, he takes away their power over the woman by bending down and writing with his finger on the ground. What does he write? We can never have an answer to that question. They keep asking him to provide a ruling.

Jesus subverts their ploy by confronting them with their own sinfulness: "let the one without sin cast the first stone". They move off one by one and the woman is finally accorded the dignity of responding for herself. She is freed from the burden of condemnation. She can move forward with a strong sense of her worth and the knowledge that she matters in the scheme of things. As we bring today's gospel

into dialogue with stories of violence against women, such as the horrifying stories of Yazidi women returning to their homes after years of captivity in Syria as the sex slaves of ISIS operatives, we might commit ourselves anew to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Palm Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel (Luke: 23:1-49)

The Gospel of next week Gospel recounts The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. It is too long to be reproduced so instead here is a reflection on this Gospel by Fr Donal Neary SJ, editor of the Sacred Heart Messenger. He writes "The feast today is about God's promise! Not about only our way of the cross. In the middle of all this horror God is faithful. Love is faithful

Like a person on their deathbed remembering the others. So many have these memories. Sure, that row doesn't matter anymore! Tell someone to come and see me.

..at the end sometimes the best comes out. We can have many examples of the faithfulness of love. Can you? Parents not giving up on us when life goes wrong...husband and wife finding love to give and receive in the good and bad times...an eye out and a help for friends in need. Love is more than a feeling, it is a decision. To have found this in life is a great grace.

This was the love of Jesus today. In the worst...the injustice of being flogged just because you don't deserve death. Somehow love and only love kept him going.

There were some friends on the way - Simon who didn't want to help but did.

Our hope is to find this in life. Young and old. There is the love that is full of dreams and joy and maybe unreality sometimes; the love which gets tested and deeper in middle age, and I hope the love that is serene in old age; but love that is immediate and which is a sharing in the love of Jesus.

Us at our best....The best of Jesus is there right to the end. And all through the events of this week. Love is the word over the cross, promise of the faithful God to the end.

(Source: <https://sacredheartmessenger.com/tag/luke-231-49/>)

Question of the Week

Have you ever been too willing to "cast the first stone" when you disapproved of someone's behaviour? How can you resist these feelings?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)