



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 Fisken Street)



SUNDAY 30TH DECEMBER 2018 – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, YEAR C

Who We Are

The Parish of Ballarat East encompasses the worshipping communities of St Alipius in Ballarat East and Sts 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 Coord – Joan Dagleish
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>



Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instil into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

— Excerpted from *With Christ Through the Year*, Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B. Today

Source:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2018-12-30>

Why We Do, The Things We do?

Holy Family

On the feast of the Holy Family we pause to reflect upon our own families. For some of us this raises happy thoughts. For others, painful. For most of us it is a mixture of both. Undoubtedly, blood bonds are the most life-affecting relationships we know, even if by their absence! It is precisely because of their significance that families can teach us so much about the Gospel. In the ups and downs of relating to one another, family members cannot help but be confronted by the challenge to love, to forgive, and to put others before their own needs. Families often under rate their holiness. In fact, they are among our greatest teachers and witnesses to the enduring bond that Christians are called to share.



We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Elijah Hungerford.

Recent Deaths:

Sr Emmanuel RSM, Pam Tellefson.

Anniversaries:

Nancy Nugent,
Sheila (O'Keefe) Reider,
Ellen (Hackett) O'Keefe, Bill Kirby.

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.

Prayer of the Week

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.
Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.
Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.
May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.
For this we pray.
Amen.



Parish & Diocesan News & Events

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

A reminder that Mass will be celebrated at 9.30 am at St Alipius in honour of the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM FR PETER

Appreciation to all who served in the various ministries over the Christmas Masses. I am sure that we brought a very spiritual gift to the celebration of many people and families. Thank you for all that we do and keep up the good work. This is why Jesus was born the Christ. (Fr Peter)

GERARD O'LOUGHLIN 100 YEARS

Congratulations to Gerard O'Loughlin who on 8th January 2019 will be 100 years! After midday mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, his family invite all for a cup of tea and a sandwich in St Patrick's church hall. Gerard grew up in Durham Lead, attending Ss Peter and Paul Buninyong and later St Alipius Ballarat East.

LOST KEYS

Some keys attached to a dark blue lanyard were found near Ss Peter & Paul's Church on Monday, 17th December. The keys have now been left with (Les) Rodd Locksmiths in Armstrong St Nth, Ballarat. Hopefully they have been successful in contacting the owner. Many thanks to Roger Darby who found them and handed them in.

RECEIVING MASS-SHEET VIA EMAIL

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to receive the new-look weekly mass-sheet via email. To add your name to the distribution list, please drop off a note to the parish office or email ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au stating your name. Families or couples are welcome to list more than one email address if that is desired.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next Baptism preparation is on Thu, 7th Feb 2019 - 10.00 am and 7.00 pm. Please contact parish office for details.

POPE FRANCIS AND WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Pope Francis' World Day of Peace is on January 1, 2019. The theme of Pope Francis' Message for the 52nd World Day of Peace is that politics must be at the service of peace. Join the world in praying for peace on January 1.
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Sister Margaret Carmody, sgs - celebrates her 50th. Anniversary of Profession this coming January. Due to health issues Margaret was unable to join with the congregational celebrations during early December. Thus: all invited to mass and supper: Tuesday, 8th. January, 2019, 5pm, St Mary's Colac. For religious sisters and priests: rsvp by January 7th (Michael O'Toole).

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH SPRINGDALLAH – CLOSING MASS

A final mass will be celebrated in St Patrick's church, Springdallah on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10.30am. All former parishioners are invited to attend this mass which will include the formal closure of the church.

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN YOUR PARISH

The next World Youth Day is on Sunday, January 27, 2019 in Panama City. You may wish to view the live stream of the Vigil with Pope Francis on Sunday morning before or after your regular Parish Mass, or include prayers for young people in your Mass. Prayers, information and the live stream link will be on the Youth & Young Adult Ministry pages of the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC WOMEN RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT

The Council for Australian Catholic Women warmly invites you to their 2019 National Colloquium from February 22-24 in Adelaide. Early bird registration closes January 15, 2019. More information on www.ballarat.catholic.org

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES

Men of all ages are invited to a Catholic Man Breakfast to be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Craig's Royal Hotel in Ballarat. The Breakfast will be hosted by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and will feature former leading Radio Executive, Shane Healy, as guest speaker. Shane has walked a fascinating path to the top of the highly competitive radio industry in Australia and has connected with high profile performers such as Brian Taylor, Neil Mitchell and Rex Hunt.

Further information from Chris Liston, ph. 0437 318 251 or email chris.listo2@gmail.com or Vincent Sully, ph. 0407 310 115 or email vcjjdh.sully@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2019 STUDY PROGRAMS



Catholic Theological College

2019 Study Options Now Available!

UG and PG Options:

Choice of Philosophy, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Religious Education or Christian Spirituality units

Audit options available

Enquiries: Mr John Bartholomeusz,
Assistant Dean
T: 9412 3309 E: ctc@ctc.edu.au



Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 31st December 2018

Mon:	10.30 am St Alipius (funeral mass for Sr Emmanuel RSM)
Tue:	9.30 am St Alipius (Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)
Wed:	No Mass
Thu:	10.30 am St Alipius (funeral mass for Pam Tellefson) 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 Sts Peter & Paul's

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:		
Envelopes	\$	874.70
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards	\$	3077.00
Direct Debits*	\$	635.00
	\$	4736.70

**amount for previous week*

Presbytery: \$ 965.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 11:

E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

Team 12:

K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire.

Appreciation Corner



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

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed 2019.

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

Feast of The Holy Family, Year C (Luke 2:41-52)

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a good time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle the various family commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is now three years since the Synod on the Family in Rome. So much has happened globally since then that we are in danger of letting this significant event pass into history without giving it the ongoing attention it deserves. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" merit our attention. For Pope Francis, the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The pope reassured his constant message that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy."

Today's readings invite us to focus on family relationships. At a very basic level, we are all "children of God" (1 John 3:1), invited to remember the love that God has "lavished on us". In the gospel reading, Luke presents the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who only become aware after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and has not joined the extended family group or synodia for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him. I expect this will sound familiar to parents of young adults.

As Luke's story unfolds, Joseph fades from the picture. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with parents' wishes or hopes. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to, we cannot hold on to them. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture

their uniqueness, and we pray that they too will grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God as responsible members of the whole Earth community.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12)

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah
you are by no means least
among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Question of the Week

How would you have reacted if you
were Mary and Joseph finding
Jesus in the Temple?
(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)