



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 Fiskin Street)



SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2019 – FOURTH 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 Funeral Ministry

After nearly 20 years as the Bereavement Team Coordinator, Sr Joan has tendered her resignation. Sr Joan along with team members have met with and assisted families to prepare funeral ceremonies, assisted in the celebration of the Rites of Christian burial, led Funeral services, assisted at the graveside, and followed up with families.

In the last twenty years, the parish has averaged around 40 funerals a year. I and many families have appreciated very much the ministry of Sr Joan and the parish team.

So that this ministry will continue to serve and support many people, Carmel Flynn and Kathy Curran have taken on the role of Coordinators of St Alipius Funeral Ministry team and will continue to work with grieving families with the support and assistance of the Bereavement Team. Carmel and Kathy are keen to expand the team membership and would like to hear from any parishioner who would be interested to learn more about this special ministry. There are many different ways to assist and all would be appreciated. If you can help please email stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



We thank Sr Joan for her ministry and welcome Carmel and Kathy, and wish them well. (Fr Peter)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



A reminder that our Parish Stewardship Program commences next week – with our Welcome Weekend. The Program recognizes that 'Parishes are the Heartbeat of

the Church' and will challenge us to reflect on what it means to be a member of our Ballarat East community.

We encourage you to be actively involved – read the materials, listen to the speakers and follow the Program on the parish website. Reflect, pray about and discuss the themes and topics with your family, friends and fellow parishioners.

Parish 'Our Future' Forum

All parishioners are warmly invited to a special forum as part of the Program – the Our Future Forum on Tuesday 26 February at either 2.00pm or 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity to make your contribution to the discussion. You will hear about the values we hold dear, our recent achievements and the priorities we have for the future. Please mark this date in your calendar.

We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Sonny Anderson, Chester Anderson, Howard Anderson.

Recent Deaths:

Jeynelle Broatch-Dowdle (Melb), Bernard Bradbury.

Anniversaries:

Noreen Mullane, Barb Quanchi.

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.

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

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Parish *Plenary Council 2020* consultations are to be held at St Alipius on Tue, 19 Feb at 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm, and at SS Peter & Paul's Buninyong on Wed, 20 Feb at 2.00 pm. Submissions to the Council will soon be closing, so if you haven't had a say yet or would like to meet with others to discuss, try and make it to one of the sessions. You may also send your comments in to the parish office. You are asked to consider the following two questions: *What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time? What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?*



SEEKING HELPERS

We are seeking people who would be willing to assist in the near future with the daily opening and closing of the church. We will also need help to launder the purifier cloths used with communion and hand-towels used for baptisms. If you feel you could assist with these tasks, please contact Lucy in the parish office. Many thanks.

LITURGY SUPPORT FOR LENT - CAN YOU ASSIST?

Would you be able to assist in some way to mark the journey of Lent in the parish? In the past Sr Joan has generously done these works but is no longer available to organize these for Lent. Things like:

- Assist with Caritas Project Compassion promotion; **or**
- Church décor (*ie*, the purple, ashes or other symbols); **or**
- Preparing the Prayers of Intercession; **or**
- Ideas for Prayer opportunities for parishioners (*ie*, reflection cards, Stations of the Cross, Lenten faith sharing, Community celebration of Reconciliation).

There will be guidance and assistance offered. Please advise Lucy at the parish office. A gathering date to plan for Lent will be held on Tue, 12th Feb at 7.00 pm. All welcome!

RCIA NEWS

The parish RCIA program gets underway this weekend with a dismissal at the 6.00 pm Vigil Mass at St Alipius church. Dismissals will continue on a weekly basis until Easter. In the coming weeks, members of the Catechumenate: Anna Glenn, Wendy Sanders and Melissa Watson will enter the next stage of their journey towards initiation into the Catholic Church. On Saturday 23rd Feb at the 6.00 pm Vigil Mass at St Alipius, we have the 'Rite of Naming' for our candidates and catechumens. As members of Ballarat East and Buninyong faith communities, may we be welcoming and supportive of Anna, Wendy, Mellissa and Liam whom we are blessed to have journeying with us. They will be received fully into the Church at our Easter Vigil, a great occasion for us all.

RCIC INFORMATION EVENING

The RCIC process is for children aged 7 years and above who are seeking to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. The program is only run once per year so interested families are encouraged to attend an information session at 7.00 pm on Thursday 14th February. It will be held in the small hall (Mary Mackillop & Mary Glowrey Hall) at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please phone Lucy in the parish office to register your interest.

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

NEW CARPARK SIGNS



You may have noticed new signs have been placed at the entrance to the St Alipius church rear carpark. One clearly indicating the 'Entry' point and another indicating that the car park is 'Private-No Unauthorised Parking'. Please know that this is not aimed at parishioners or others who use the carpark for the kindergarten or hall functions, etc. You are all 'authorised' and remain very welcome!

School News

Damascus College Open Mornings

Damascus College Open Mornings will be held on Thursday 7th & 14th February, 9am – 10.30am. To register please go to www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us.

St Francis Xavier PS Open Days

SFX Primary School will be conducting Open Days on February 19th and 27th, and March 14th. Please see flyer on Notice Board for further details.

Emmaus 2019 Opening Mass

Opening Mass for Emmaus Primary School is to be held at St Alipius church on Thursday, 21st February at 12 noon.

THEOLOGY COURSE

Thirsting for God: Faith Seeking Understanding

Venue: Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat East.
Dates: February 14, March 14; April 11; May 9; June 6.
Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson invite parishioners to sign up for five two-hour sessions on faith commitment in the contemporary world. Simply contact Sr. Veronica by email (veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au) or by phone (0408392297) before February 4. Kindly provide contact details (email and mobile) and indicate whether you wish to enrol in the afternoon sessions (1-3pm) or the evening sessions (7-9pm). Donation to cover costs is \$25.

CONCERNED CATHOLICS & BLESSING OF THE RIVERS

Please see separate bulletins of these on Notice Board.

Words of Wisdom

Let us ask ourselves today:
Are we open to God's surprises?
Pope Francis

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 4th February 2019

Mon:	No Mass
Tue:	5.00 pm Mercy Convent
Wed:	9.30 am Mercy Convent
Thu:	11.00 am Mercy Place (Anointing Mass)
Fri:	12.00 midday 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	\$	988.00
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards (mthly)	\$	5987.00
Direct Debits	\$	295.00
	\$	7420.00

Presbytery:

\$ 764.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 4:

C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

Team 5:

J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

Appreciation Corner

Many thanks to 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 very big **THANK YOU** to Sr Joan for her committed and dedicated service to our parish over the many years. We wish you a *Happy Retirement* Joan and hope that you will now have time to put your feet up and enjoy a richly deserved rest.

As you can see from this week's bulletin, there's always plenty to do in the parish, so if you have some time to spare and can assist please contact Lucy at the parish office.

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 4:21-30)

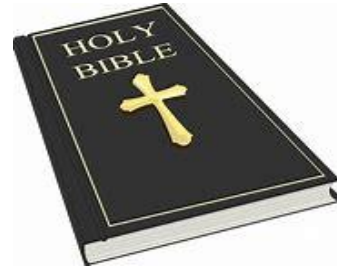
This week's gospel reading continues the story of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. At first he is universally accepted: the people of Nazareth marvel at the gracious words he utters. They identify him as Joseph's son. By the end of the story, however, these same people actually try to kill him. So, what happens in between to cause such a dramatic change of heart? These are religious people, not an unruly street mob. They are friends of the family. They are familiar with their sacred texts and traditions and presumably want to understand them more fully. In fact, they are like many of us who take time out on a weekly basis to come together for worship and prayer.

The people of Nazareth seem to be carrying a sense of exclusive entitlement to God's favour, as well as some deeply entrenched prejudices against the neighbouring Syrians and Phoenicians. Their history is largely one of conflict with neighbours, of struggle for survival, and some are unwilling to relinquish their unhealed local and ethnic grievances. This story is about power and control. When Jesus suggests that God's prophetic and healing power is accessible to and may even be more readily received among foreigners than within Israel, the anger of those who consider themselves "the chosen" knows no bounds: it spills over into violence. They have little patience with the implicit criticism of their attitudes to outsiders and the challenge of his prophetic words.

One of the problems with the narrative is that Jesus seems to be deliberately provoking a negative reaction. There are other problems as well: there is no cliff in Nazareth from which the enraged crowd could cast him to his death, and it is highly unlikely that people of this tiny town of two to four hundred Galilean Jews would resort to murdering one of their own for what they see as a verbal assault. So what is going on? It would seem that the gospel writer is putting elements of later stories about the violent treatment of Jesus and his followers into this episode in order to foreshadow what is to come. The story thus becomes a microcosm of the gospel as a whole.

When the message is comforting, the messenger is well received. When it is less palatable, the messenger is in danger of being attacked or manipulated, more often than not at the hands of people who are basically good people like us. Unchecked assumptions, deep-seated biases, and uncontrolled emotions will

function to bring the anointed prophet of the God of Israel to a violent death. This story invites us to check our assumptions and our biases lest we turn to physical, verbal, or emotional violence in the face of a prophetic challenge.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
Second Reading: Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel (Luke 5:1-11)

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Question of the Week

What do you do when a message you are trying to deliver "falls on deaf ears"?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)