



## 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 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 – FIRST 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

### Lent 2019 – Week 1

Throughout the six week period of Lent, we will bring you excerpts from Michael McGirr's Lenten Program *All I have is yours – Forty Days to Freedom*. He says: "Choosing what we do in our lives is really about choosing the kind of people we want to be. God invites us to the kind of freedom that puts relationships first, especially with him."

He provides forty simple suggestions that we may follow during the 40 days of Lent as we prepare to celebrate Easter. We gave you the first four suggestions in last week's bulletin. Here are the next six you may choose to try. Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 day period so you may have a rest on Sunday and begin the activity list on Monday!

5. Take a photo of something beautiful that others might not notice.
6. Send that photo to someone who needs a lift.
7. Find out the names of the ten poorest countries.
8. Do the ironing outdoors.
9. Read a novel or a poem that was written over fifty years ago.
10. Practice highway happiness: the art of being nice to other drivers.

If you are able to, you are also invited and encouraged to join the parish Lenten Discussion Group which meets on Thursday mornings in the Presbytery to discuss and more fully explore the themes presented in McGirr's Lenten Program.

*(Michael McGirr is the Dean of Faith at St Kevin's College, Melbourne, and author of many books.)*

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019

Our Parish Stewardship Program will resume next Weekend Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 March, with 'Our Future' Weekend. This is a very important part of the Program - when we will be

asked to finalise our commitments by (1) signing up for a Parish Group or Ministry and (2) making our meaningful pledge of financial support to the Parish. We thank you in advance for your support and please pray for the success of the program. (Fr Peter)



## We Remember in Prayer



### Baptisms:

Skyla-Jade Clinton,  
Milla Richardson, Darcie Richardson.

### Recent Deaths:

Frank Segrave.

### Anniversaries:

Max Gilbert, Brian Lewis.

### 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.

## Prayer of the Week

### *Trusting*

*God of all space and time,  
Your Holy Spirit leads us  
through the wilderness so that  
we, like John the Baptist and  
Jesus, might more clearly hear  
your voice.*

*May your Holy Spirit guide and  
direct us to open our minds  
and hearts to be prophets of  
your Word and to grow into  
deeper relationship with Jesus  
your Son.*

*Amen*

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in  
trouble. (Psalm 91)**

## Words of Wisdom

*"May I live this day compassionate  
of heart....generous in love."* (John  
O'Donohue).

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7.00 pm St Alipius  
Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 7.00 pm SS Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

### THANK YOU WOMEN

As we have celebrated International Women's Day, I would like to affirm the women of our parish for their presence, participation, prayer and ministry.

Thank you for carrying the message of the Gospel in your words and actions, in family and communities.

May we as Church, create a fairer balance for women in all areas of life and especially in the Church.

A balanced Church is a better Church!

(Fr Peter)

### AFFIRMATION – SR BERENICE KERR

On behalf of the parish, I wish to offer a great thanks to Sr Berenice Kerr who after seven years as community leader of this area of the Sisters of Mercy (South Ballarat) has handed over the baton.

Fortunately Sr Berenice is staying among us and researching the history of the Ballarat Sisters of Mercy.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Berenice and the Sisters for their generous support of our parish, their wisdom and presence among us. (Fr Peter)

### NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Bishop Paul, in consultation with the priests and many involved in Catholic Education in the diocese, has announced a new approach to the Governance of parish primary and secondary schools in our diocese.

Up until now, the governing responsibilities of schools have been with the parish priest of the parish. But in line with recommendations, the Bishop has established a company limited by guarantee, **Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL)** and appointed a board of directors to govern those parish schools where no priest is available for active governance and those parish schools where the parish priest elects (on behalf of the parish) to transfer responsibility for governance to the company. (In our parish, the option is for St Alipius and Emmaus to be a part of the company. Damascus College and St Francis Xavier are co-governed with the Sisters of Mercy and operate with their own Boards).

The inaugural Chair of the DOBCEL Board is Ms Tracey O'Neill.

(Fr Peter)

**SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

This month's Social Afternoon will be held on **Wednesday, 13th March** in the Mercy Centre at 2.00pm. Enter via Gent Street. All are welcome.

**SFX OPEN DAY**

SFX Primary School will be conducting an Open Day on **Thursday, March 14th**. Please see flyer on Notice Board for further details.

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE 2019 CLASS REUNIONS**

Class of 1999 – Friday, 15th March  
Class of 1989 – Saturday, 16th March  
See college website for further details.

**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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)



**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020**

Questions and comments from our parishioners have been submitted and we now await further feedback from Council later this year. Will keep you informed as updates arise.

**NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY ST PATRICK'S DAY**

Friday, March 15, at 1.30 pm, 218 Mill Street, Ballarat. Musical entertainment, afternoon tea, cake stall, door prize. Admission is \$5.00. Enquiries to Margaret ph. 0419003415. May the luck of the Irish be with you!

**LENTEN RETREAT**

Catholic Women's League Ballarat is hosting a Lenten Retreat at Nazareth House Chapel on 18, 19 and 20 March, presented by Father Thomas Casanova CCS. Cost \$65 for 3 days including a two course lunch or \$25 per day including a two course lunch. Entry by donation if not having lunch. RSVP to Coordinator - Joan on 5338 2484 by Monday 11th March to assist with catering.

**THE SWAG**

The autumn edition of *The Swag* is available for borrowing in church foyers. You are welcome to take home a copy to read and then please return it to the foyer for others to enjoy. Thank you.

**Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 11th 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 St Alipius  
10.30 am SS Peter & Paul's

**Finance**



**COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK**

<b>Parish:</b>		
	Envelopes	\$ 955.60
	Loose	\$ 150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debits	\$ 1195.00
		<b>\$ 2300.60</b>
<b>Presbytery:</b>		\$ 999.00

**COUNTING TEAMS**

- Team 9:**  
J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane,  
J. O'Brien.
- Team 10:**  
P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

**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!

Special thanks to the new volunteers who have put their hand up to manage the slides and music at our weekend services – we will be in touch with you this week. 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.



To quote Mother Teresa "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

## Scripture Readings & Reflections

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

#### 1st Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 4:1-11)

Lent is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the “wilderness” or “desert place” and grappling with the mysteries of life. While deserts are often depicted as uninhabited or desolate regions, anyone who has spent time in such places knows that the desert supports a rich diversity of other-than-human life. Human retreat to the wilderness can be an opportunity to encounter God in the unfamiliar and to understand oneself in relation to the other-than-human. It can reveal to us our capacities for right relationship with God, with each other, and with the Earth. Right relationship resides in “power-with” rather than “power-over”.

In Israel’s story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness...testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deuteronomy 8:2). Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many human beings before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the Greek *peirazein* than the usual “tempted”].

The three-fold drama of the testing of Jesus in the wilderness is about the proper exercise of power and about trust in a loving God. In refusing to turn the stones of the wilderness into bread in order to satisfy his own hunger, the Lukan Jesus demonstrates that he is not prepared to exercise power over the other-than-human Earth, even if he had the capacity to work such magic. By refusing to accept the “glory of all the kingdoms of the world”, he shows that power over the human communities of the Earth is not “of God” and that worship belongs to God alone. Finally, in refusing to cast himself from the parapet of Israel’s holiest shrine, the Jerusalem Temple, he makes it clear that he is not prepared to test the power of God to rescue him from a self-inflicted death or to use God’s holy place to such ends. The Lukan Jesus passes the tests that the people Israel failed in the wilderness of Sinai.

Adelaide priest, Michael Trainor, in a wonderfully sensitive reading of Luke’s gospel, detects three ecological ethical principles in today’s gospel reading: 1) Earth is to be cared for and treated respectfully, not ravaged through greed; 2) All ecological and environmental engagement is grounded in and enhanced by one’s communion with God; and

3) Earth’s resources are to be respected by all and not usurped as a means of power and control by one over another (About Earth’s Child 2012, pages107-109). These principles derive from the story as a whole with its three-fold testing and from Jesus’ three-fold response to these tests.



#### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Second Sunday of Lent, Year C

**First Reading:** Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

**Second Reading:** Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

#### Gospel (Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, ‘This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him’. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen

#### Question of the Week

How willing are you to profess your faith in Jesus Christ openly to others?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)