



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 Fiskens Street)



SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 2019 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, 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>

On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Matthew 2:11



“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, travelling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him. These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah. God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the lesson we can take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It’s closer than you may think.

[Source:

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2018/01/06/the-epiphany-of-the-lord-2/>]

Why We Do, The Things We do?

Why we celebrate the Epiphany



The Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (non-Jews). In the Gospel story, the wise men, foreigners from the east, represent these ‘outsiders’ to the chosen people of God. Today, the feast of the Epiphany reminds us that our faith in Christ is not a gift to be hugged to ourselves but to be offered to all peoples of the world. A question we might ask ourselves is: How is the light of Christ manifested through our faith community? How have we seen the light of Christ manifested in friends ‘outside’ the Christian Church? Have we ever thought to tell them this and to invite them to share in the life of our faith community?

We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Elijah Hungerford.

Recent Deaths:

Ruth Strauss, Pam Tellefson,
Sr Emmanuel RSM.

Anniversaries:

Mary McCann, Margaret Troy.

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

Lord

*We pray for confidence
to share your Word with others
and for the opportunity to
proclaim it.*

*Forgive our reluctance,
our timidity.*

*We pray for wisdom
to know what should be said
and the moment in which to
say it.*

*Forgive our reticence,
our anxiety.*

*We pray for knowledge
of the fullness of your Grace
and the willingness to live it.*

*Forgive our ignorance,
our self-reliance.*

*Be the centre of all we are
The Light by which we walk
The blessing we bring to others
Through Jesus Christ alone we
ask.*

Amen.

[Source:

<http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers/Epiphany.htm#ixzz5bfZAPeuk>

Parish & Diocesan News & Events

THANK YOU FROM FR PETER

Thank you for your kind greetings, gifts and thoughts for Christmas. Thank you also to the Buninyong Community for your gift. They were and are much appreciated.



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Envelopes/Statements for the Stewardship Program are available this weekend.

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's Buninyong and later St Alipius Ballarat East.

PLENARY COUNCIL UPDATE

November surge takes Plenary Council numbers past 30,000

The Plenary Council 2020 received more than 2000 submissions during November, matching the number of responses the landmark process had received in the previous five months combined.

According to the latest figures from the National Centre for Pastoral Research, more than 31,000 people have shared their stories and engaged with the Plenary Council since the Listening and Dialogue stage launched at Pentecost in late May. Most of the 1300 groups, some of several hundred people, to have responded took part in a Listening and Dialogue Encounter, which is grounded in prayer and contemplation.

"While the sheer number of people demonstrating their interest in the future of the Catholic Church is impressive, we're really pleased to see new groups of people participating as we prepare for the final three months of Listening and Dialogue," said Lana Turvey-Collins, the Plenary Council facilitator.

"Hundreds of school students in the Diocese of Wollongong gathered in separate locations last month, significantly increasing the number of people under the age of 18 who have considered the question 'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?'"

"We can also see that chaplains have been connecting with people in prison, various Catholic ministries are inviting people in their network to share their stories and parish and diocesan groups continue to host conversations."

Trudy Dantis, director of the National Centre for Pastoral Research, said a team of skilled researchers is working hard to keep up with the influx of submissions, which will provide the foundations for shaping the agenda for the Plenary Council sessions in 2020 and 2021.

The Listening and Dialogue process will officially come to a close on Ash Wednesday.

Visit www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

[Source: Extract from ACBC Media Blog]



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

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).

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.

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.

CTC 2019 STUDY PROGRAMS



Catholic Theological College

2019 Study Options Now Available!

CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Options

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



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

Audit options available

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

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 7th January 2019

Mon:	No Mass
Tue:	No Mass
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	\$	676.70
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards*	\$	0.00
Direct Debits*	\$	0.00
	\$	826.70

**Figures unavailable at time of printing.*

Presbytery: \$ 762.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 12:

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

Team 1:

L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane.

Appreciation Corner

THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH

*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!*

*There's always plenty to do in a parish,
so if you have some time to spare and
would like to volunteer we would
appreciate your services. Please contact
the parish office to discuss.*

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

Feast of The Epiphany, Year C (Matthew 2:1-12)

God's presence is revealed to us in many and diverse ways: we can read the "story" of God's creation of the universe; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our experience and the experience of others; and we can listen to the word of God in our sacred scriptures. Readiness to encounter God in these diverse ways has nothing to do with naïve dependence on our own judgment or on the judgment of others. It has more to do with a way of being in the world that involves openness to the unexpected and a critical and careful communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and kinship with the other-than-human teaches us respect for all being and respect for the power of God's Spirit to lead us beyond ourselves.

Epiphany is the feast of the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their enquiries in Jerusalem attract the attention of Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews" who turns to the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures for information on the birthplace of the Messiah. The "magi" follow the star that leads them to Bethlehem, to the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named in the text as Emmanuel, God-with-us. There is no indication in the story as to whether they are men or women or both. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have traditionally been associated with three different characters, usually kings, of different tribes or peoples. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise in a dream the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born king of the Jews. They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. We are invited to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the

wise ones, to join with people of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. We are also invited to be wary of those, like Herod, who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Question of the Week
When have you been jealous or fearful of another person? When are such feelings harmful?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)