



## 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 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019 – FOURTH 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

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

If you have been away, pledge cards and Groups and Ministries Forms are available at the back of the Church. Please place completed ones in the collection baskets.

A special THANK YOU to those members of the Leadership Team and other volunteers who are assisting with our follow-up work.

Please note that your new pledges will take effect on 20/21 April so please return your completed pledges no later than Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 4

This week Michael McGirr's Lenten Program focuses on being *Free from anger* and the need for us to let go of hurt and to help others let go of theirs. 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:



23. Spend a day where you don't eat unless you are sitting down.
24. Make tea in a teapot and wait for it to brew properly.
25. Find out where your coffee was grown and who was likely to have picked it.
26. Sit for a while in the waiting section of a hospital and pray for all who suffer.
27. Go for a walk with someone who can only move slowly.
28. Vacuum someone else's car.

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

## We Remember in Prayer



### Baptisms:

Eliza Nolan, Leo O'Loughlin.

### Recent Deaths:

Bill Walsh, Sharon Kerr Chapman.

### Anniversaries:

Tom Mackin, Agnes Mackin.

### 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

### Reconciling

God of compassion,  
you search for us  
and call us by name.

Lead us gently in your ways,  
as we walk the path of  
discipleship.

Help us to live in right  
relationship with you,  
with our families,  
with our friends,  
and within our community.

Amen

*Taste and see the goodness  
of the Lord. (Psalm 34)*

## Words of Wisdom

*The tender mercy of our God has given  
us one another.*  
(Catherine McAuley)

## Parish & Diocesan News & Events

### LENTEN CALENDAR

#### 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

#### ANOINTING MASS

Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2.00 pm St Alipius

#### 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

### ANOINTING MASS

The Anointing Mass will be held on **Wednesday 3rd April at 2.00pm**. Following mass there will be afternoon tea in the hall. We would appreciate donations of food for the afternoon tea. Anyone requiring transport please contact any member of the Caring Group of the parish office.

### CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on **Friday 5th April at 10 am in the St. Alipius Hall**. All welcome.

### SUPPORT FOR BALLARAT MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Thank you to those who were able to sign or leave a note. I have delivered 15 pages with 148 signatures and notes to the community offering our prayerful solidarity.  
(Fr Peter)

### ARTICLE ENTITLED "ASH WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 2019"

Fr David Ranson talks about this Lenten season in wake of the Cardinal Pell scandal and how we should respond if we are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Printed copies of the article are available at the back of church or can be read online by following the link below:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=ash+wednesday+for+dauid+ranson&oq=ash+wednesday+for+dauid+ranson&aqs=chrome..69i57.7258j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8> and clicking on title of pdf document that appears in the list.

### ATTENTION ALL SINGERS AND MUSICIANS!

*Let's make great music for our weekend masses and special occasions.*

We're looking for people who can sing and have reasonable skill on any instrument to create a number of music groups, including a parish choir.

Training will be provided in good contemporary and staple hymns before being rostered to be involved.

Your commitment is only what you are prepared to do.

If you'd like to be involved and participate in our music ministry please contact David Santamaria 0427310564 or email him at [david@dmsystems.com.au](mailto:david@dmsystems.com.au) with your name & contact details.



### PALM SUNDAY - PRAYER & WALK FOR REFUGEES

Please see flyer at back of church for these events which are taking place in Melbourne on Palm Sunday, April 14.

**CAN YOU HELP??**

The parish is looking for a person or persons who would be willing to volunteer about an hour or two of their time each week to do some general cleaning (eg, dusting, vacuuming, etc.) in the parish office and the parish house. Cleaning materials will be provided. If you can help please contact Lucy in the parish office. Thank You.



**MASS OF THE OILS: MONDAY, APRIL 15**

Letter from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR inviting us to the Mass of Oils. *“The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat, at 6.30 pm on Monday, April 15. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2019, the ordained, the sick, those to be baptized and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to this celebration, which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church.”*

**CHOIR FOR MASS OF THE OILS 2019**

Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for this Mass on Monday, April 15, 2019. Practice times will be advised. Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest [julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7159.

**MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT**

**Volunteer Mentors**

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat schools, through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in the next few months. Contact Donna Stewart - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto: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 a guest speaker. He will be coming to Ballarat on evening of the 27th June to speak about his experiences as one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. David was trained as a boy soldier in Ethiopia and lived as a Refugee in Kenya. After reaching Australia he has become an advocate for refugees and the Sudanese community. Just now we are looking at expressions of interest from people who would wish to hear him speak. Once we know the audience we can settle on a venue. Entrance: Gold coin donation. If you are interested please email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com) by **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April.**

<b>Mon:</b>	No Mass
<b>Tue:</b>	5.00 pm Mercy Convent
<b>Wed:</b>	2.00 pm St Alipius (Anointing Mass)
<b>Thu:</b>	11.00 am Mercy Place (Anointing Mass)
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30 am St Alipius
<b>Sat:</b>	6.00 pm St Alipius
<b>Sun:</b>	9.00 am St Alipius 10.30 am SS Peter & Paul's

Finance



**COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK**

<b>Parish:</b>		
	Envelopes	\$ 1185.00
	Loose	\$ 150.00
	Credit Cards (mthly)	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debits	\$ 320.00
		<b>\$ 1655.00</b>
<b>Presbytery:</b>		\$ 892.00

**COUNTING TEAMS**

**Team 12:**  
K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston,  
G. Maguire.

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

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!

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

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters is a key motif in today's gospel story. There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness: upright law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending on their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to critics is the story of a parent whose adult children lose their way. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his sibling's return.

We need to attend to the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons in the family; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is tantamount to wishing his parents dead. The older brother is not disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear.

The contrast between the young man's acquisitive nature and his parents' capacity to relinquish substantial property in the interests of relationship is striking. No motive is offered for the son's readiness to break all his ties and get as far away as he can. In the distant country, he squanders both his inheritance and his identity. A "severe famine" becomes the catalyst for his change of direction. Famine in any age means devastation of the earth that can lead to displacement, to broken relationships and even to global conflicts. In turning back, the young man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family or ancestral lands. Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his belly. He composes a speech about having sinned against his father and against God and about being prepared to share the status of the servants. Thanks to the expansive heart of an extraordinarily compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared. Famine becomes feast. So it is with our merciful God. We abandon, even betray. We waste the bounty of Earth. Our motives for returning to the sources of love and community are very mixed,

and yet our merciful God is ever ready, with our cooperation, to turn famine into feast. For that to happen in our times, we must turn away from our acquisitive, wasteful ways and respond as one to the pain of our planetary home.



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

**First Reading:** Isaiah 43:16-21  
**Second Reading:** Philippians 3:8-14

#### Gospel (John 8:1-11)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

#### Question of the Week

When have you been generous enough to forgive someone who hurt you deeply?