

Ministry District Newsletter

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Oct 4th, 2026

Incorporating the faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke's Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon & Springbank

Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

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Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke 5331 1816; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Cathy Prunty 0437 505 517

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

Tuesday October 6 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East
Wednesday October 7 th	10.30 am 11.00 am	Opening Mass St Brendan's Dunnstown Mercy Place Ballarat East
Thursday October 8 th	10.30 am 11.00 am 2.00 pm	Bill Burgess Funeral Mass St Alipius' Mecwacare Canadian Gerard Ronan Funeral Mass St Alipius'
Friday October 9 th	9.30 am	St Francis Xavier School Mass St Alipius'
Saturday October 10 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

WEEKEND MASSES - 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday October 10 th		Sunday October 11 th	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Bill Burgess, Gerard Ronan

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR

AT THIS TIME

John Azzopardi, John Britt, Christine Dent, Sr Pat Ford
RSM, Cornelius Mahar, Kevin Mahoney, Maureen Mullane,
Fred Tudor, Josie Tudor, Mary Wheelahan

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Eileen Carey, Billy Forbes, Patrick Landrigan, Aurelia Masi,
Marcia O'Neill, Richard Wade, Owen Widdison, Danny
Williams

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10

Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-10

UPCOMING DATES

October 7th

Damascus @ St. Brendan's Opening Mass

St. Brendan's @ 10.30 am

October 14th

Gordon Leadership Team Meeting

St. Brigid's Ballan @ 7.30 pm

October 17th

Bungaree Leadership Team AGM

Following Vigil Mass @ Dunnstown

October 22nd

Ballarat East Parish Pastoral Council

The Hub @ 5.30 pm

October 31st

Mass of Remembrance

St. Alipius @ 6 pm

Ss. Peter & Paul's Sunday Nov 1st @ 10.30 am

VIGIL MASS TIMES

From next Saturday, October 11th (after daylight saving has begun) the Saturday Vigil Mass times will be **6.00pm** at St Alipius' Ballarat East and **6.30pm** at St Brendan's Dunnstown, St Peter's Clarkes Hill and St Michael's Springbank.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: NEPAL FLOODS APPEAL

Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on August 26. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support. Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families. Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal. To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.

PRAY WITH POPE LEO XIV: ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY

From 1-7 October, Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide for the One Million Children Praying the Rosary prayer campaign, for peace and unity in the world.

Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part!

For free Rosary resources and to register, please the visit: www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying

"When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change." - Saint Padre Pio

SAVE THE DATE

Parishioners from across the Ministry District are invited to keep Sunday 6th December 2026 from 6.30 pm free for a Christmas get together at Donegan's farm. More details to come.

ADVENT RESOURCES

If you would like to order 'The Way of the Heart' book in preparation for the next liturgical Year of Advent please contact the parish hub to place your order.

THANK YOU BISHOP PAUL

Our thanks to Bishop Paul for celebrating Masses with us in the Ministry District over the past three weekends. We have certainly enjoyed having you Bishop Paul and look forward to the next time you fill in.

BAPTISMS



St Brigid's Ballan

Isla Mabel Mahony

Daughter of Nathan and Emily

Eilish May Jreige

Daughter of Brendan and Elise

Jack Thomas Donald Burt

Son of Cameron and Sarah

Alistair David Turner

Son of Jamie and Lyndel

*We acknowledge this land's traditional owners and custodians
and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Celebrating Our Story

80 YEARS OF

ST MARY'S

Join us as we celebrate 80 years of faith, learning, community and the many people who have been part of our St Mary's story.

Sunday 22nd November, 2026

1.30pm | Mass
2.30pm | Speeches
3-5pm | Afternoon Tea and Open School



RSVP by 6/11/2026
 office@smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
 or Ph 5334 5280

BUNGAREE PARISH

The Annual General Meeting of the Bungaree Parish Leadership team will be held on Saturday 17th of October following the vigil Mass at Dunnstown. All welcome.

INFORMATION SESSION

~ CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE ~

The Catholic Theological College aims to support our parishes by providing formation for volunteers with introductory and further studies in theology, ministry and spirituality. They invite parishioners to an online information session on Monday 26 October at 7pm (AEDT). In this session, participants meet course advisors and learn about study options at CTC, including the wide range of courses and units that can be undertaken online and/or face-to-face.

Interested participants may register via [Google Forms](#). Registration is essential.

PLANNED GIVING - SEPTEMBER

	Gordon	Bungaree	Ballarat East
Parish	\$2,750	\$2,527	\$9,292.53
Presbyter y	\$2,924		\$6,852.95

TRIVIA

Plans are in place for another trivia night in the St. Alipius' parish. Please keep Friday November 6th free so that you can join us and share your wealth of knowledge. If anyone is, or knows of someone who may be in a position to donate an item for a raffle to be held on the night, please contact the parish office. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Everyone welcome.

ST BRENDAN'S PROGRAM OPENING MASS - TERM 4



Please accept our invitation and join us
 for the Damascus College Term 4 Opening Mass
 of the
 St Brendan's Program
 Wednesday 7th October 2026
 10.30am

Celebrant: Father Eugene McKinnon
 St Brendan's Church, 1 Ti Tree Rd, Dunnstown
 A light morning tea will be provided.

Please email k.goonan@damascus.vic.edu.au if you have any dietary requirements. Gluten free catered for.

A Case of Systemic Injustice

Reflection on the Gospel

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 21:33-43)

Veronica Lawson RSM

As the 2026 Season of Creation comes to an end, we pledge ourselves to maintain our commitment to the cry of the Earth and the cry of those rendered poor. Among the most abandoned of Earth's "poor" are those who are still enslaved. While the international community has long-since outlawed slavery, we have become increasingly aware of the persistence of a lucrative global industry structured around the sexual and labour enslavement of vulnerable people and exacerbated by the multiple conflicts affecting our globe.

Today's gospel features a parable about an absentee landowner with slaves to do his bidding.

Commentators focus on many aspects of this parable, particularly the judgement on the religious authorities who have rejected God's messengers. Few consider the fate of the slaves as slaves in the parable. Our contemporary sensibilities in relation to slavery invite a new reading of such texts, a reading that critiques the power that some in the Earth community exercise over other humans and over the natural world that has for so long been treated as the property of humans to manipulate at will.

The frequent translation of the Greek *doulos* (m.) and *doulē* (f.) as "servant" rather than as "slave" masks the underlying reality that some members of the community, even within the circle of believers gathered at the Eucharistic table, were actually treated as the property of others in the community. The fact is that nobody in the ancient world, not even Jesus of Nazareth, questioned this situation. The injustice was systemic. It is not surprising, therefore, that the slaves in today's parable are considered by the "tenants" to be dispensable. Their role is to collect the fruit from the harvest on behalf of the absentee landowner.



The "tenants" clearly have no intention of parting with any portion of the produce, presumably the tax imposed on them as a condition of their tenancy. They react violently when confronted by the three slaves who are the landowner's emissaries. They beat one slave, kill another and stone yet another. The slaves represent the landowner whose demands they refuse to meet. The landowner risks the lives of other slaves by sending yet another and bigger delegation. This second group of emissaries meets the same fate as their predecessors. Finally, the landowner sends his own son in the expectation that the tenants will show him the respect they have denied the slaves who are his property. In fact, the son receives the same treatment as the slaves. He too is dispensable from the perspective of those wanting to seize "the inheritance", those wishing to take control of the vineyard for their own purposes. As we reflect on gospel stories that take slavery for granted, we might commit ourselves to eliminating all exercise of power over others or over any "vineyard" entrusted to our care and to doing everything possible to address issues of systemic injustice.