

Ministry District Newsletter

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - Oct 11th, 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 13 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East
Wednesday October 14 th	11.00 am 2.00 pm	Mercy Place Ballarat East Jack Donne Funeral Mass St Alipius'
Friday October 16 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday October 17 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East
WEEKEND MASSES - 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
Saturday October 17 th		Sunday October 18 th
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am Ballarat East Gordon
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am Buninyong Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Mary Caddy, Gerald Davey, Jack Donne, Matthew Goss

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR

AT THIS TIME

Margaret Calleja, Michael Conlan, Mary Cooper, Ellen Doyle, Constance Edwards, Bill Fay, William Gleeson, Mary Hamm, Dennis Lynch, William Mahar, Thomas McKenzie, Kit O'Kane, Joan Pedretti, Jim Wickson

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10

Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-10



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1,4-6

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Matthew 22:15-21

UPCOMING DATES

October 14th

Gordon Leadership Team Meeting

St. Brigid's Ballan @ 7.30 pm

October 17th

Bungaree Parish 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

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.

BAPTISMS

St Alipius' 10th October

Mabel Margaret Carr
Child of Matthew and Emma

St Alipius' 11th October

Joey Jay and Jack Edward Fahey
Children of Brock and Jessica

Harriet Fulton
Child of Timothy and Felicity

Margot Lyn Hobbs
Child of Nicholas and Georgia

REMEMBRANCE MASSES

Remembrance Masses will be celebrated across the Ministry District during the month of November to remember those who have died in the past 12 months. Dates, times and venues are as follows:

Sat 31st Oct - St Alipius' Ballarat East, 6.00 pm

Sun 1st Nov - Ss Peter & Paul's Buninyong, 10.30 am

Sun 8th Nov - Bungaree Cemetery, 9.00 am

Sun 15th Nov - Gordon Cemetery, 11 am

If you have had a loved one pass away in the last twelve months, but they weren't buried from our Ministry District, please contact the parish office to have them remembered at the appropriate Mass.

DESCENDANTS OF PATRICK SULLIVAN & MARY HANRAHAN

170 Years in Australia

Glengarriff, County Cork to Ballarat and beyond

In 1857, **Patrick Sullivan** sailed from County Cork, Ireland, and landed in Melbourne on 2 October 1857. He married **Mary Hanrahan**, of County Clare, at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East, and together they raised nine children and settled in Milbrook. Their descendants have spread across generations since.

If Patrick and Mary are part of your family tree, you are part of this story too.

A Family Reunion

Saturday 2 October 2027, the 170th anniversary of Patrick's arrival

St Patrick's Church, Millbrook Road, Gordon. If you are family, or want to help shape the day, get in touch.

John Sullivan

JohnSullivanConsult@gmail.com | WhatsApp +44 7768 013702

Great-great-grandson of Patrick Sullivan & Mary Hanrahan

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE IN THE LITURGY

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR prepared an article regarding inclusive language in the Liturgy for the Archdiocese of Brisbane publication "Liturgy News". Bishop Paul has kindly offered this article for distribution and reference in our diocese. A copy of "Liturgy News" and the text of the article are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/service-and-agencies/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

WELCOME

Welcome to Fr. Kevin Maloney and Fr Gary Jones who are celebrating Masses in our Ministry District this weekend. We are very grateful for your generosity and willingness to celebrate our Masses during Fr Justin's absence.

*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 will be held on Saturday 17th of October following the vigil Mass at Dunnstown. All welcome.

BALLARAT DIOCESE

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

~GROW IN FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND MINISTRY~

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) offers flexible online courses for parish staff and volunteers through the University of Dayton. With 31 subjects to choose from there is something for everyone. Registrations for Cycle 7, which begins on October 26, will open on September 9. Cost \$50USD. Scan the QR code for more information or email fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7154.

TRIVIA

The 2026 Trivia Night is being held on Friday November 6th. **Have you booked your table yet?** If the answer is 'no' get a group of friends together and come along for what is sure to be a night of fun and a little competition!

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. Thanks to those who have already done so.

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.

VIGIL MASS TIMES

From this Saturday, October 11th 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 Clarks Hill and St Michael's Springbank.

ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL REDAN 150TH ANNIVERSARY

150 years of education will be celebrated at St Aloysius Primary School, Redan on Friday, November 20, 2026 at 9.30am. Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass and refreshments will be served following the Mass. RSVP by Friday October 20 to 150aloysius@saredan.catholic.edu.au

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH ~TAKE A SECOND. STAY SECURE~

As part of Cyber Security Awareness Month, the Catholic Development Fund has released a range of practical cyber security resources and is offering CDF customers exclusive access to the "Securing Australia Together 2026" webinar, to be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 from 1.00pm – 2.00pm (AEDT). For more information and to register to attend, go to <https://events.humanitix.com/securing-australia-together-2026>

Sharing in the Banquet of Life

Reflection on the Gospel

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 22:1-14)

Veronica Lawson RSM

The increasing wealth of the few and the growing divide between rich and poor, particularly in the developing world, are challenging us all to consider our attitudes to the planet's resources and to the economic system that maintains that imbalance. The economic divide is highlighted by the vulnerability of those rendered poor or even homeless in our world. Today's gospel brings a warning. Like the invited guests in Matthew's parable of the wedding banquet, we are in danger of turning our backs on a gracious invitation or "call" not only to share in but also to ensure that all God's creatures might share in the fruits of the earth. The king's invitation to successive and diverse groups recalls Israel's prophetic tradition where God's ultimate reign is imaged as a feast of the best food and wine, not just for a privileged few, but for all.

Many other aspects of the parable are quite troubling. Its focus is on the human community. Privileged humans are the first to be invited: the invitation to the less privileged comes only after those on the initial guest list have refused to come. This aspect of the story hardly reflects the values of God's empire or reign. Furthermore, the violent retaliation of the spurned host is hard to reconcile with an image of God's reign. This is also true of the treatment of the guest without a wedding robe in a situation where none of the guests has had the opportunity to procure the right attire. It becomes clear that this is not a story to be taken literally. Rather, it invites the reader to critique interpretations that see the king's behaviour as a reflection of how God deals with God's creation.



So, what might this story be telling us? If we look again at the despotic aspects of the king's character, we might find there a reflection of our own capacity to look after ourselves at the expense of the vulnerable people in our world and of the other-than-human. We might find an image of our nation's long-term redirecting of the foreign aid budget towards keeping migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees from settling in our land. On the other hand, if we put ourselves in the place of the original audience, we might find ourselves quite amazed at the inclusiveness of the king in a world where the people on the street would never have been invited to such a wedding banquet. If we think about the wedding garment as symbolic of a "right" disposition or attitude in relation to the host, the company and the riches to be shared, we might be drawn to handle Earth's precious resources with a little more care for the common good of all the inhabitants of our planet. Our gospel tradition tells us that God's empire will be realised only when all have the opportunity to share in the feast of life and when other-than-human Earth inhabitants have the resources that enable them to flourish.