



▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**
701 FISKEN ST
BUNINYONG 3357



▶ **ST ALIPIUS**
82 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350



▶ **PARISH OFFICE**
84 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350
PH 5332 6611
OPEN TUE – FRI
10.00 AM – 1.00 PM

11 December 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

The Good News is proclaimed

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30 AM

Wed 2.30 PM (Kath Perkins funeral)

Saturday 9:30 AM and 6.00 PM

Sunday 9.00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)

10.30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)

10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 3 this week

Counting Tuesday at 9:30 AM

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

THE COMBINED
COMMUNITIES OF ST ALIPIUS
PARISH REACH OUT IN THE
SPIRIT OF FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE, AND ACCEPTANCE, AS
GOD CALLS US TO IN THE
GOSPELS.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed: Kathleen
Perkins

Anniversaries: Sheila Gregory,
Jim Powell, Jim Power

Unwell: Remy Bourke, Anne
D'Cruz, Waffa Ghali, Ray Gregory,
Noreen Griffin, Heather Healy,
Peter Martin, Betty McGarry, Peter
McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan,
Trish O'Donohue, Letitia
Simmons, Margie Wilmott, and all
who are unwell.

*Our parish is committed to the
safety, well-being, and dignity of
all children and vulnerable adults.*

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



Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Sacramental and Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council Chair

David Morrison

Finance Officer

Kerrie McTigue

Finance Chair

Paul O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordinator

David Santamaria

www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn

stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



FILIPINO CHRISTMAS MASSES

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition of nine masses to spiritually prepare for Christmas and commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to attend these masses at St Alipius at 7:00 PM from Thursday 15 – Friday 23 December. On Saturday 17 December the mass will be at 8:00 PM. A shared Christmas dinner in the hall will follow the final mass on Friday 23 December. Please contact Fr Eladio (0450 017 007) or Dion (0427 876 553) for further information.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Alipius Conference of St Vincent de Paul is grateful for the support it receives from the parish so it can help those in need. In Ballarat this year, more than \$334k in material assistance was provided to families struggling to survive the cost-of-living crisis. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who is doing it tough this Christmas. Give them hope for a better future by donating using the envelopes located in the churches and placing these in the collection baskets or Christmas Appeal Box at the St Alipius piety stall. You can also donate by calling 13 18 12 or via the website. <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>. To ensure your donation is used locally, type "Ballarat East" in the "Comments/ Conference name" section near the end of the form. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This appeal supports a variety of local and distant charities. Last year's appeal provided support for the people of Ukraine, the Catholic Mission, Nazareth House, Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal, and others. A collection will be taken up at Christmas masses. Donations can also be made via the diocesan website.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Collection basket – **\$911** *Presbytery and Priest support*
Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$318** *Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance*.
For any queries or concerns, or should you wish to join our stewardship program to support our parish, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie on 5331 2933 or email ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Frank and Leonarda (Leonie) McGuigan, who are celebrating 50 years of marriage this weekend. We hope that they enjoy the celebrations.

MASS INVITATION

As the year draws to a close, Fr Jorge would like to say a mass at 5 PM on Sunday 11 December for students who have received the sacraments this year. We hope that families and teachers will come together again for this occasion. Can you kindly bring a plate of something to share in the hall following mass?

110 YEARS OF VINNIES

9 December marked the 110th anniversary of the foundation of the Ballarat East Conference of St Vincent de Paul. St Vincent de Paul thanks the parish and school communities for their support and encouragement throughout this journey and look forward to continuing the relationship. We would be delighted to talk with anyone interested in joining our conference. Please leave your name and contact details with the parish office and we will be in touch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Emmaus end-of-year mass

Thursday 15 December, 9:45 AM, St Alipius

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Thursday 15 December, 7:00 PM, Cathedral
Monday 19th December, 6:00 PM, St Alipius

Simbang Gabi, nine Filipino Christmas masses

Starts Thursday 15 December, 7:00 PM, St Alipius

Mass for children who received sacraments

Sunday 11 December, 5:00 PM, St Alipius

Anointing Mass

Friday 23 December, 12 noon, St Alipius

UKRAINE ADVENT APPEAL

This third Sunday of Advent, there is a special appeal for the people of Ukraine on behalf of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; and shelters for internally displaced persons. To find out more visit www.catholic.au/s/article/Advent-Appeal-for-Ukraine-2022

ANOINTING MASS

Parishioners are invited to attend our anointing mass at St Alipius on Friday 23 December at noon. A small plate to share following mass would be welcome. If transport is required, please call the parish office on 5332 6611.

OLHC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree Parish is hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in their hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00 – 2.00 PM. Transport is available if needed. Limited places, so bookings are essential. Phone 0419 975 914 to book or to register your availability to volunteer on the day.

GIVING TREE APPEAL

This Christmas, please help low-income families struggling with rent increases, unemployment, and mental and physical health issues by donating to CatholicCare Victoria's Giving Tree Appeal.

www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/19/giving-tree-appeal

BAPTISMS

Mack John Hannaford and Frankie Hannaford
Children of Joshua and Elizabeth Hannaford

Hugo Quinton Blood
Child of Andrew and Cyndi Blood

The church gives faith to your children through Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow.

Pope Francis

PALMS VOLUNTEERING

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. In January, parishioners who are interested in harnessing the diverse gifts of our community and making it stronger can prepare for mission at home or abroad. Palms' Neighbours Without Borders program (7 – 11 January) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the Plenary Council. Completing a further four days of training (12 – 15 January) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators, health professionals, administrators, and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training. Enquire about Palms Orientation for Mission on 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567 or via www.palms.org.au.

CARDS AND CALENDARS

2023 Columban calendars (\$10) and St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards (5 for \$5) are available at the piety stall. Proceeds support disadvantaged and homeless people.

CARITAS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts, assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. They bring joy to the recipient and help them build a better future. Please buy a gift that changes lives at www.globalgifts.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.

NATIVITY EXHIBITION

Making a Scene at Christmas is an exhibition of over 500 nativities from more than 60 countries, as well as frankincense, myrrh, and coins from around the time Jesus was born. On from 10 – 23 December in the Bridge Mall. Entry by gold coin donation.

ST VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions can be made by calling 13 18 12 or visiting the appeal website: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>.

2023 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Expressions of interest are invited to join a fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 11–24 June 2023. Arranged through Lifestyle Travel Ballarat and accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll. Visit Jordan, Petra, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, and Qumran. For further information, phone Fr Justin on 0448 220 685 or email info@lifestyletravel.com.au.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

As climate change damages our homes and land, the impact on our neighbours in the Pacific is extreme. Our voices, together, can get governments and polluters to take action to achieve climate justice and protect our common home. Support Caritas Australia's climate action campaign by signing the pledge at www.caritas.org.au/act/climate-change-action/

CHRISTMAS STALL

Nazareth House Auxiliary is having a Christmas stall on Saturday, 17 December and Sunday, 18 December in the reception area of Nazareth House, 218 Mill Street, Ballarat, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM each day. For further information please contact Margaret, ph. 0419 003 415.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

3rd Sunday of Advent: Matthew 11:2–11

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called *Gaudete* (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: “the desert shall rejoice and bloom ...” (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.” He adds a comment about those who take no offense at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with

an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kin-dom is greater than John.

Christ lives on in the community

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating his building of Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee. Herod arrested and imprisoned John and will later have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod: he is steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God's Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity.



Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (today's first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends. The women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who have known the indignity of detention on Manus Island or Nauru and who live in expectation of permanent visas. We might well pray: “Strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees” in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 35:1–6,10
JAMES 5:7–10
MATTHEW 11:2–11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 7:10–14
ROMANS 1:1–7
MATTHEW 1:18–24