



▶ **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

18 December 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Let the Lord enter*

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/)

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 AM

Friday 12 noon – anointing mass

Saturday 6.00 PM

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

10.30 AM (2nd & 4th)

### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Counting team 2 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:** Raymond Barnes (funeral 2 PM Wed), John Britt (funeral 10 AM Thurs)

**Anniversaries:** Margaret Clifford, Anna Ridsdale

**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.

*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](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

### Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn

[stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com](mailto:stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com)



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Saturday 24 December

6:00 PM St Alipius (carols 5:30 PM)

7:00 PM Buninyong

9:00 PM St Alipius

11:00 PM St Alipius

### Sunday 25 December

9:00 AM Buninyong

10:30 PM St Alipius



## 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.

## ANOINTING MASS

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

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will close for the Christmas and New Year period at 1:00 PM on Friday 23 December and reopen on Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 10 AM. We wish everyone a very happy and safe festive season.

## 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. 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 our 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 – **\$1,108** Presbytery and Priest support  
Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$373.20**  
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](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 6:00 PM, St Alipius

### Simbang Gabi, nine Filipino Christmas masses

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

### Anointing Mass

Friday 23 December, 12 noon, St Alipius

## YEAR 12 RESULTS

Congratulations to those who have studied for their VCE over the past two years, which has been a difficult time for students. We hope that you have achieved the results you need to take the next step in your education, or that you find satisfactory employment as you begin life away from your school community.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

As teaching and learning come to an end for another year, we would like to wish all students and school staff a very safe and happy holiday. We thank you for all your work throughout this year and wish you a very peaceful Christmas period.

## 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](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/19/giving-tree-appeal)

## BAPTISMS

**Jackson John and Tristan Joseph Mitchell**  
Children of Brendan and Allison Mitchell

**Mackenzie Jane and Lottie Jane Donnelly**  
Children of Christopher and Tamara Donnelly

**Tucker Mathew and Dusty Grace Gleeson**  
Children of Sean and Gabrielle Gleeson

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

Pope Francis

## 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](http://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. In the Bridge Mall from 10 – 23 December. Entry by gold coin donation.

## 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.

## ONLINE STUDY IN 2023

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is a new initiative that offers adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. This US\$50 online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through the diocese's partner, Dayton University. There are 36 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open for 2023's first cycle which begins 9 January. For details, visit: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

## 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](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.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.

## POPE'S PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

"I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day. Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood and that all hurts, fears, and divisions will be overcome.

We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests. Please, no more war."

**Pope Francis**

# Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Matthew 1:18–24

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. “Nothing,” was my immediate response. “I just want to be with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone”. Being with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and we are well aware that “being-with” is not restricted to physical presence.

There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are “with-us” even in our absence and “being-with” in spirit or in person is closely allied with “being-for”. Today’s gospel affirms “being-with” as God’s Christmas gift to us. It calls us to search out ways of being with and for those outside our immediate circle, particularly those affected by war or by climate distress.

The first chapter of Matthew’s gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is “God-with-us”, Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the

assurance of the resurrected Christ, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into the gospel story of God-with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives.

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### *Joseph trusts the word of God’s messenger*

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There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew’s gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds, or shepherds’ fields. These are all features of Luke’s tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew’s characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God’s revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic announcement in today’s gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God’s people. Joseph trusts the word of God’s messenger: he



abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or “being-with” as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

#### **THIS WEEK’S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

#### **NEXT WEEK’S READINGS THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

ISAIAH 52:7–10  
HEBREWS 1:1–6  
JOHN 1:1–18