



▶ **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

27 November 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Stay awake, you must be ready

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Friday 9:30 AM

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 1 this week

Counting Tuesday at 9:30 AM

WE PRAY FOR

Anniversary: Peter Begbie

Unwell: Remy Bourke, Anne D'Cruz, Waffa Ghali, Ray Gregory, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Betty McGarry, Peter McLachlan, 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.



St Alipius
Parish Community

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



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.

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 the 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.

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will have their final catchup for the year with afternoon tea at St Alipius Hall on Friday 2 December at 2:00 PM. Please bring a plate to share.

VINNIE'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Alipius Conference of SVDP is grateful for the support it receives from the parish so they 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 piety stall at St Alipius. You can also donate by calling 13 18 12 or via the website. To ensure your donation is used locally, type "Ballarat East" in the "Comments/ Conference name" section near the end of the form: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

MAKING A SCENE DISPLAY

Making a Scene at Christmas is a display of over 500 Nativities from more than 60 countries, as well as frankincense, myrrh, and coins from around the time Jesus was born. Entry by gold coin donation. Bridge Mall, Saturday 3 December and from 10–23 December.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The final edition of ODC 2023 has been published. Please take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to help spread the news from the diocese.

OLHC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree 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.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,236** Presbytery and Priest support
Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$398.20**
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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caring Group afternoon tea
Friday 2 December. 2:00 PM, at St Alipius Hall

SVDP 110th birthday mass and morning tea
Thursday 8 December, 9:30 AM, St Alipius

THEOLOGY STUDIES

Join the Catholic Theological College's online information session on Monday 5 December at 7:30 PM to learn about their wide range of study options. For more information, email jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au or register at <https://ctc.edu.au/open-days>.

GIVING TREE APPEAL

The last two years of the COVID pandemic have had a devastating impact on low-income families. Rent prices, unemployment, and mental and physical health issues are just some of the things which can lead to a financial crisis. Please help families in need this Christmas by donating to CatholicCare Victoria's Giving Tree Appeal www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/19/giving-tree-appeal

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.

FREE ADVENT RESOURCES

Advent resources that provide practical ideas to help families journey through Advent, including a 2022 Advent Calendar, Nativity packs and more, are available at evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/shop/free-resources/

SYNOD OF BISHOPS

The Catholic Church has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Prayer resources, including the document and access to the submission portal, are available at www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch

YCW CRICKET CLUB REUNION

Former players, supporters and families of the club are invited to get together for lunch on Sunday 4 December at midday, at the Robin Hood Hotel. Call Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080 to RSVP.

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/

ADVENT WITH POPE FRANCIS

You are invited to an Advent retreat guided by the words of Pope Francis and his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, to prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world and of all Creation. The retreat is offered through the global Hozana prayer online community platform: <https://hozana.org/en/community/11261-advent-with-pope-francis-and-laudato-si>. The guiding theme is "Preparation for the Good News", a pathway for our encounter with God, Jesus Christ, who comes to meet us in Creation. Each week you will be invited to reflect on a specific topic through a short clip of "The Letter", a documentary with Pope Francis on *Laudato Si'*, followed by a brief reflection on that topic and a prayer.

PRAY WITH POPE FRANCIS

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention that covers various areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service and he asks us to join him in prayer. The Pope's intention for November is for children who are suffering, including the homeless, orphans and victims of war. May they be guaranteed access to education and experience family affection. The Pope Video forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and can be viewed at www.thepopevideo.org

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

You are invited to Prepare for Christmas this Advent with a new Daily Devotional series starting 27 November. Each day, Bruce "The Catholic Guy" Downes, will send you a short inspirational video that is full of real-life stories, and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be! Register now or for more information: <https://BruceDownes.org/Advent> or email: info@brucedownes.org

ADVANCE NOTICE

Rite of Election 2023. Saturday 25 February at 12.30 PM at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

Mass of the Oils 2023. Monday 3 April 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30 PM. Supper will follow in the Hall.

BAPTISMS

Johnathan Max Giblett

Child of Samuel Giblett and Victoria Walter

Jasmine Tess Manicolo

Child of Tyson Manicolo and Helen Besic

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

Pope Francis

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of e-News has been published at <https://mailchi.mp/0c9beb40539a/edition-93-october-8-13816430>. You can view this edition and subscribe at: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/ to receive future editions straight to your email.

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>.

You can also make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shop at the point of purchase, or via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

1st Sunday of Advent: Matthew 24:37–44

“Where is the Life we have lost in living?” asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot’s *The Rock*. The Jesus of Matthew’s gospel is implicitly asking the same question as Eliot’s Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, “Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.” We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the destruction of our planet. Right now, the human community is challenged in unprecedented ways to restore the life we have lost by living beyond our means and by destructively exploiting the riches of the Earth.

As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew’s Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present, a “present” where some twenty per cent of the world’s human community is homeless and where land-clearing has decimated the other-than-human life of the planet. The Matthean Jesus tells us to be “awake”, to be “ready” all the time, not because death or the

end of the world is around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple “advents” or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters.

*We are to be agents
of our own future*

In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God’s creatures.

We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that ‘[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there.’ Advent invites us to look



forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality.

Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-effecting change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God’s ways. We seek the grace to “see” God’s word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isaiah 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 2:1–5
ROMANS 13:11–14
MATTHEW 24:37–44

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 11:1–10
ROMANS 15:4–9
MATTHEW 3:1–12