



▶ **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
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

8th December 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent

'All people shall see the salvation of God.'

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tues 9.30 am

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place
(All welcome)

Thurs - Sat 9:30 am

Sat 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)
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

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

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

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Anniversaries: Madeleine Ballinger, Jim Power

Unwell: Pam Hill, Kathy Towns, Socorro De Chavez, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest

Fr Matthew Restall

Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Gleeson

Finance Officer

Jackie Wrigglesworth

Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke

Principal – St. Alipius School
Phone: 5331 1816

PARISH VISION

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.

PARISH MISSION

Our mission in the Parish of St Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel. Strengthened in the spirit of faith, hope, love acceptance and Mercy, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Guided by God's call to service, we aim to build strong connections, provide spiritual nourishment, promote social justice, and offer support to individuals and families in their journey of faith. Through our dedicated interactions, we seek to deepen our relationships with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.



PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our planned giving program. Your generosity is appreciated.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Supporting our parish priests | \$1003 |
| Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc. | \$643.20 |

Counting Team this week: No. 2

UPCOMING DATES

Anniversary Mass & Picnic
December 14th @ 6pm – Church and Grounds

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

Following consultation with the Bungaree and Gordon Parish Leadership Teams and the Ballarat East Parish Liturgy Team, the schedule for 2024 will be:

Christmas Eve (Tuesday December 24th)

4.00pm Mercy Place Ballarat East

5.30pm Ballan

6.00pm Ballarat East

6.30pm Clarkes Hill

7.00pm Gordon

7.30pm Buninyong

9.00pm Ballarat East

Christmas Day (Wednesday December 25th)

9.00am Ballarat East

9.00am Dunnstown

The above schedule is reliant on the generosity of Frs Kevin Maloney and Wally Tudor assisting Frs Justin and Matt.

CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS

On the Christmas tree down the back of the church are tags for the residents at Mercy Place to receive a gift for Christmas. We invite people to take a tag and return the gift back ASAP.

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS STALL

Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th December. Foyer of Nazareth House 218 Mill St 9am - 2pm.

Baked goods, Christmas Gifts & Decorations and much more. Great Christmas Hamper raffle to be drawn on the Sunday.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

◆Summer Appeal◆

The Ballarat East Conference of SVdP invites you to support our Christmas Appeal.

Please do so by donating

1. Via envelopes found on pews, please place completed envelopes on collection plate
2. Online vinnies.org.au
3. By phone 13 18 12

Donations greater than \$2 are Tax deductible

◆Christmas Raffle◆

A Christmas raffle will be held with tickets being sold for \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. Winners will be announced at the Anniversary Picnic on December 14th.

PRIZES - first drawn parishioner chooses from three prizes:

BIKE for 6 - 8 year old

HAMPER - including fruit cake, meat voucher and other goodies

DOLLS - porcelain dolls

◆Piety stall - cards and calendars◆

The stall will be open after Masses commencing 23rd November for sale of:-

SVdP Christmas Cards \$5 for pack of 5

St Columban's Calendar \$10

BAPTISMS

Joe Lucas Hobbs

Child of Nicholas Hobbs and Georgia Smith

Patrick James Eldridge

Child of Greg and Carmel Eldridge

'You are precious in my sight and I love you'
Isaiah 43:4

◆ INVITATION ◆



Next Saturday night, December 14th we will acknowledge our parish anniversaries. **Everyone is invited** to join Bishop Paul who will celebrate 6pm Mass. Following Mass please stay and share a meal. This is a

wonderful opportunity for all parishioners to come together and we hope to see you there. The displays will be a wonderful talking point and we expect a number of our previous priests from the parish to join us. For more information please call the parish office.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

“Holding the Light” Remembering Victims and Survivors of Family Violence

This ecumenical service offers an opportunity to remember and mourn those who have been killed as a result of domestic violence, to stand in solidarity with victim survivors and to reflect and commit ourselves to addressing the causes of violence in our communities. The service will be held on **Tuesday December 10th at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East at 5.00pm**. December 10th is the UN Human Rights Day, concluding the 16 days of Activism against gender-based violence campaign from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women). Joce Bignold, CEO of McAuley Community Services for Women will be the guest speaker. All members of the community are welcome!

END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASSES

Year 6 Graduation for St. Francis Xavier will be held on Thursday December 12th at 6.00pm. St Alipius School Ballarat East will celebrate their end of school year Mass on Tuesday December 17th at 1.30pm in St Alipius Church.

Emmaus, Mt Clear will celebrate their end of school year Mass on Thursday December 16th at 11.30am in St Alipius Church as well as staff Mass celebrated on Friday December 17th at Ss Peter and Paul Church Buninyong at 2.00pm.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Following the appointment of Fr Andrew Hayes as Parish Priest of the Parishes of Apollo Bay, Cororooke & Colac, Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Neville Stanislaus, Parish Priest of Gariwerd (Ararat, Lake Bolac, Landsborough & Stawell) from January 15th. Priests of the Diocese have now been invited to express interest in being appointed Parish Priest of the Parishes of Camperdown (Cobden & Lismore), Hampden (Mortlake & Terang) and Timboon (& Simpson). These three parishes will form a Ministry District, cared for by one Parish Priest, with the assistance of another priest or priests who will help particularly with Sunday Masses.

WORKING BEE

Following the 6pm Mass this weekend (Dec 7th) we encourage parishioners to stay around and help to set up the Nativity Scene in the church yard. We will also have some cleaning equipment available and ask people to do a little dusting or wipe down some surfaces if they are able.

BISHOP PAUL WRITES ON THE HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT AND VICARIOUS LIABILITY

In cases where there is evidence that the Diocese of Ballarat has been negligent in the duty of safeguarding children, the Diocese accepts liability and provides compensation to victims.

In the case considered by the High Court, Victorian courts had found that the Diocese of Ballarat was not negligent but still held that the Diocese was liable – vicariously. The High Court set aside this decision of the Victorian courts.

I would like to make it clear that the Diocese of Ballarat will continue to accept liability and provide compensation in cases where there is evidence that the Diocese has been negligent in safeguarding. In addition, the Diocese will continue to provide compensation through the Federal Government’s Redress Scheme and through the state-wide Church process called Pathways Victoria. As well as providing compensation in these ways, the Diocese will continue to provide assistance to those who have suffered abuse by funding counselling and other pastoral help.

MORE FROM THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

A formal report on the Assembly held at Federation University Mt Helen on Leadership and Governance for a Missionary Synodal Church will be released in the coming weeks. In the meantime, our newsletters for the coming weeks will include reflections from parishioners in attendance as either delegates or facilitators.

Sr Berenice Kerr (Mercy Sister, Ballarat East) Delegate

The Assembly gave me hope. I went, not sure where we were going, but ready to trust the process. I made a commitment to myself to be open to the promptings of the Spirit and the ‘word’ coming from the gathered members. I believe the Spirit was present and active. Some aspects of people’s behavior and attitudes disappointed me but remembering that I did not have to control the responses of others was liberating. The Diocese of Ballarat has chosen a direction from which we cannot turn back. No matter how small nor how faltering the steps we take from here on, our public, diocesan-wide resolution cannot be ignored, nor can it be negated. The Wild Goose will ultimately have her way. My prayer now is not ‘Come, Holy Spirit’ but ‘Stay, Holy Spirit, and continue to chase us’.

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

Making a Scene at Christmas will be held in the Bridge Mall from Wednesday December 4th until Friday December 20th, 2024. Entry by gold coin donation.

Prepare the Way

Reflection on the Gospel- 2nd Sunday of Advent

(Luke 3:1-6)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has called us to look into our hearts and to bring the compassion and mercy of God to our troubled planetary home. Care of our common home and of all that inhabits our planet is both a gospel imperative and an urgent call to the whole human community. Our courageous pope gives extraordinary leadership in this respect. Like Luke, author of the third gospel, Pope Francis recognises that the message is for the whole world and not simply for the Church community. Luke situates his gospel drama on a national and international stage and in relation to global events. He wants to insist that religion is no private affair and that the story of the movement around Jesus of Nazareth is no ordinary, everyday story. It is, rather, a story with momentous political and religious significance. His references to Herod Antipas and to Pilate foreshadow the imminent fate of John and the eventual fate of Jesus. Luke is strong on dramatic impact and less concerned about the facts. He situates events in the “pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas”, implying that there were two high priests at the same time. In fact, Caiaphas succeeded his father-in-law Annas as high priest, even if the influence of the latter persisted into Caiaphas’ pontificate.

Luke presents John the son of Zechariah as a prophet in the long line of prophets that culminates in the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the global stage. Jesus is the one who truly brings the salvation of our God. It is worth noting that prophecy in Luke is not reserved to the male characters. With the shift from private to public space in Luke 3, however, women

prophets who featured prominently in the earlier chapters (Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna) now disappear from the narrative.

Luke 3:1-6 contains some of Luke’s favourite themes: prophecy and its fulfilment; the word of God; reversal of expectations; conversion or repentance; proclaiming the good news; forgiveness of sins; salvation. As in Israel’s past, the wilderness or desert is the locus of God’s revelation. The prophet John calls on the people of the region around the Jordan River to turn their hearts and their lives around, to accept “a baptism of *metanoia*/conversion for the forgiveness of sins’.

We listen to the Isaiah citation that follows (“Prepare the way...”) against the backdrop of the first reading from the prophet Baruch. While we might critique the violent metaphorical language that speaks of God’s salvation in terms of filling the valleys and levelling the hills, we yearn for a time when “all flesh”, human and other-than-human, will see the salvation of God. God’s way involves putting on the “cloak of integrity” or the “robe of righteousness” and allowing God to provide an escort of mercy and right relationship. If we take seriously the call to live the gospel, we shall surely search for ways to heal the broken relationships within our ailing planet.



THIS WEEK’S READINGS

2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Lk 3:1-6

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7
Lk 3:10-18