



▶ **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

8 January 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

We have seen his star in the east

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 AM
Wed 9:30 AM Pope Benedict memorial
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 5 this week – 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: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Doreen Braybrook, Thomas Linane

Unwell: Remy Bourke, Anne D'Cruz, Sr Joan Dalglish, Waffa Ghali, Ray Gregory, Noreen Griffin, Heather Healy, John 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.



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 OFFICE REOPENING

The parish office has been closed for the Christmas and New Year period and will reopen at 10:00 AM on Tuesday 10 January 2023.

POPE BENEDICT XVI MEMORIAL

We offer our prayers for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who passed away on New Year's Eve, aged 95, with his final words being "Lord, I love you." Pope Benedict led the Catholic Church from 2005 until his resignation due to ill health in 2013. Ordained a priest in 1951, by the decade's end, he was a highly regarded theology professor and remained an active theological scholar throughout his life. Pope Benedict visited Australia in 2008 and some parishioners fondly remember attending an outdoor mass he led in Sydney. A memorial mass for Pope Benedict will be held at St Alipius at 9:30 AM on Wednesday 11 January. In the words of Pope Francis, "Let us unite all together, with one heart and one soul, in giving thanks to God for the gift of this faithful servant of the Gospel and of the church."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish office reopens
Tuesday 10 January 2023

Memorial Mass for Pope Benedict XVI
9:30 AM Wednesday 11 January at St Alipius

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Recital
8:00 PM Monday 16 January at St Alipius

RITE OF ELECTION 2023

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of an adult who has undertaken formation on their journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. The Rite of Election for catechumens and candidates will take place at 12:00 PM, on Saturday 25 February at St Patrick's Cathedral, with Bishop Paul Bird CSsR presiding. At the conclusion, all are invited to join the bishop in the cathedral hall for a light lunch.

GOLDFIELDS ORGAN RECITAL

The 2023 Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Festival runs from 13 – 17 January. Recital 8 is at St Alipius Church on Monday 16 January at 8:00 PM and will feature Jenny Chou playing the organ, with Joseph Yu on Trombone. Come and hear St Alipius' wonderful Fincham organ being played from the organ loft. Tickets for this recital cost \$35 (full), \$30 (pensioner and student card holders), or \$5 (secondary school students), and are available at www.ballaratorgans.com.au/. Tickets must be pre-booked by 12 January as there are no door sales.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

The collection basket supports the *Presbytery and Priest*. Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits help run the parish, including maintaining buildings, office administration, and 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

AID TO CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)

ACN Australia is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal "Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas." The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria. With your help, ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas! To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit

www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022

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.

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/ or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

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."

BAPTISMS

Lincoln Hank Edwards

Child of Stephen Edwards & Elizabeth Schroeders

Charlie Cornelius Meeuwse

Child of Sally Meeuwse

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

Pope Francis

MASS OF THE OILS 2023

The Mass of Oils will take place at 6:30 PM, on Monday 3 April at St Patrick's Cathedral with supper to follow in the cathedral hall.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA APPEAL

The new year is a time of hope and renewal. Throughout rural Vietnam, children and families living with disabilities, like Mrs Lan and her children Quan and Loah, are less likely to be employed, and children are less likely to go to school. Mrs Lan's dreams for her children are simple. She wants them to "live like every other child, going to school, playing, having a happy life, and growing and learning like other children." Through the generosity of Caritas supporters, Quan and Loah joined a community-based classroom, learned to socialise with other children, and found confidence in themselves. They found more joy from having fun with others, learned to tell jokes, and found themselves smiling more. This year, you can help create opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and to enable more families like Mrs Lan's to access resources to improve their income and living status. Please join Caritas Australia's wonderful community of generous supporters this year in giving loving parents of children with disabilities the incredible gift of seeing their children smile. Call 1800 024 413 toll-free or visit www.caritas.org.au/christmas to help bring more smiles to children's faces this coming year.

PRAYING 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 and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

The Pope's intention for January is for educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

MADE FOR EACH OTHER 2023

The Archdiocese of Hobart is hosting the fifth annual "Made for Each Other Summer School" with the theme 'Him & Her: Vive La Difference', which celebrates and explores the differences and complementarity of the sexes. The event is an overnight retreat with engaging speakers, the opportunity for prayer, reflection, and social interaction on 27 – 28 January in Launceston, Tasmania and is for adults who are discerning marriage and forming relationships. Register at www.himandher.eventbrite.com.au For more information email rachel.bradley@aohtas.org.au

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Feast of the Epiphany: Matthew 2:1–12

The ancient feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the whole created universe is in God and that God is in us. It celebrates the presence of God who is revealed to us in wondrous ways: in creation, in our dreams, in our day-to-day experience, and in our sacred stories. Readiness to encounter God in these diverse ways has nothing to do with naïve dependence on our own judgment or on the judgement of others. It has more to do with a way of being in the world that involves openness to the unexpected and a critical and careful communal dialogue between our life experience and our faith tradition. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and kinship with the more-than-human teaches us respect for all beings and respect for the power of God's Spirit to lead us beyond ourselves towards a more profound encounter with the divine.

Epiphany is associated with magi/astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. While magi were not known for their wisdom in the ancient world, the magi of our story are depicted as making a wise

decision. They form a preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of the star. Their questioning in Jerusalem attracts the attention of Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews" who turns to the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures for information on the birthplace of the Messiah. They follow the star that leads them to Bethlehem, to the newborn child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many magi come to pay homage to the child whom Matthew has already named "Emmanuel", God-with-us. There is no indication in the story as to their number or whether there are women among them.

*Follow the star that leads
to truth and lasting peace*

The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have traditionally been associated with three different characters, usually kings, of diverse nationalities and colours. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise in a



dream the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a newborn king of the Jews. They have the wisdom not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with people of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
ISAIAH 60:1–6
EPHESIANS 3:2–3,5–6
MATTHEW 2:1–12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ISAIAH 49:3, 5–6
1 CORINTHIANS 1:1–3
JOHN 1:29–34