

St. Aloysius' Redan St. James' Sebastopol St. Peter's Linton

(Encompassing Skipton, Smythesdale and Snake Valley)

3rd Sunday of Advent

Universe - Year B

Sunday 17th December 2023

Parish Priest: Fr. Eugene McKinnon

Presbytery: 508 Leith Street Redan

Ph: 0402 804 104

Assistant Priest: Fr. Eladio Lizada OSJ

Ph: 0450 017 007

Parish Coordinators & Safeguarding Officers:

Redan - Bernadette Lynch

Ph: 0455 212 123

Email: redan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office hours: Wed & Thurs 9.00am – 4.00pm

Sebastopol - Pauline O'Brien

Ph: 0428 699 624

Email: sebastopol@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office hours: Tues & Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

For Linton Parish enquiries contact

Fr. Eugene McKinnon

Next Week's Readings: 4th Sunday of Advent -2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Roman 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

The parishes acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation people and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

Parish Mass Times

St. Aloysius, Redan

Thursday 9.30am

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 9.00am

St. Brigid's, Snake Valley

Saturday 6.30pm

St. Peter's, Linton

Sunday 9.00am

St. James, Sebastopol

Friday 9.30am

Sunday 10.30am

St. John's, Skipton

Sunday 10.30am

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries: William Downing, Michael Duffin, Brian Everard, Denis Hishon, Maisie Lamb, Mary Matherson, Sammy Mercieca, Stephen Mills, Joe Symonds,

Please remember in your prayers: Margaret Cooper, Yvonne Farrugia, Leila Hudson, Glenys Miller, Maggie Mitchell, Koha Tracey, Annie Welsch

Centralised Baptism Preparation Session will be held at MacKillop and Glowrey Rooms of St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall on **Thursday 1st February 2024 at 10.00am & 5.30pm**. Bookings to be made with the Parish Offices.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Christmas Eve Mass – Sunday 24th December

St. Aloysius Redan School Auditorium - 6.00pm Mass

St. Brigid's Snake Valley – 6.00pm Mass

St. James' Sebastopol – 7.00pm Carols & 7.30pm Mass

St. John's Skipton – 7.30pm Mass

Christmas Day Mass – Monday 25th December

St. James' Sebastopol – 9.30am Mass

St. Peter's Linton – 9.00am Mass

New Year's Day Mass - Monday 1st January 2024

St. James' Sebastopol - 9.30am

The Parishes of St. Aloysius, St. James' & St. Peter's are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. We uphold that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult.

Advent Appeal for Ukraine – this weekend. During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection for the people of Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars was raised to support people in the war-torn nation through the work 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; shelters for internally displaced persons. At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops were asked to again consider if an appeal could be taken for the people of Ukraine during Advent. To donate, go to the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/advent-appeal-for-ukraine-2/>

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal - Once again our conference will be assisting families for Christmas. If you are able could you please donate an item of perishable foods, donation envelopes are also available and can be placed on the collection plate or handed to a member of our conference. On Wednesday 20th we will be putting together hampers and doing lots of deliveries as many of these house- holds do not have transport. If you have some time you are welcome to assist us in the St James' school hall from 10am. With thanks Sebastopol conference members.

St. Aloysius' Parish Redan

Collections for previous weekend

Parish \$793.00

Presbytery \$578.00

Opportunity for Prayer at St Aloysius - Rosary will be prayed every Thursdays after 9.30am Mass

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas cards and Columban calendars are now available for purchase after Mass in the church foyer. There is also a giving tree if you wish to contribute.

Working Bee - This will be held on Saturday 23rd December, 9.30am. Come along to lend a hand to clean up the gardens. If you are able, could you please bring brooms, shovels and leaf blowers. All welcome, morning tea after the working bee will be provided in the Parish Centre

St. James' Parish Sebastopol

Collections for previous weekend

Parish \$525.00

Presbytery \$452.00

Dates to Remember: Filipino Rosary Group - 1st Wednesday of the month - Wednesday 3rd January at 700pm.

Sacrament of Baptism - This Sunday we welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism, Cooper Grayson & Charlie Luca Dunne, sons of Ashley and Cassandra. *"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..." - Pope Francis*

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas cards and Columban calendars are now available for purchase at St. James' Piety counter or see Anne Dark. Vinnies Christmas Appeal Envelopes can be placed on the Parish plate. Thank you.

Ballarat Diocesan Information, News and Events

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition and it is also the spiritual preparation for Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a series of nine Masses on the days leading up to Christmas, which will be held at **St. Alipius Parish Church, Victoria Street, Ballarat East**. Everyone is welcome to attend the masses at St Alipius at 7:00 PM from Friday 15 – Saturday 23 December. On Saturday 17 December the mass will be at 8:00 PM. A shared Christmas gathering in the hall will follow the final mass on Saturday 23 December. Please contact Dion 0427 876 553 for further information.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch - OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0419 975914. If you are able to volunteer on this day, please phone the number listed to register your availability. Please see invitation on foyer notice boards

Making a Scene at Christmas - Over 500 Christmas Nativities will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat and at the Catholic Diocesan Archives til Frid, Dec 22, 2023. For information please contact Fiona Tonkin Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Everyone is welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation.

Advance Notice 2024 - Rite of Election 2024: Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall. **Mass of the Oils 2024:** Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.

Pope's intention for December – For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. Lord, hear us.