



*Welcome to  
St. Alipius Parish*  
Ballarat East & Buninyong



*Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

*St Alipius' Parish acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



*God of Justice Empower us to work together as one global community, to find creative and just solutions to protect those Most vulnerable in our world, and all of creation for future generations. Move us into action for climate justice and to restore your creation. Amen*

**Parish Office & Presbytery:**

- 84 Victoria Street  
Ballarat East 3350
- 5332 6611
- ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Office Hours:**

*Tuesday 10.00am to 3.30pm*  
*Wednesday through Friday 10.00am till 1.00pm*

**Liturgy Online:**

- [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

**Parish Coordinator:** Bronwyn Ballesty

**PPC Chair:** Cathy Prunty

**Child Safety Officer:** Bronwyn Ballesty

**Finance Officer:** Kerrie McTigue

**Finance Com. Chair:** TBA

**Liturgy Coordinator:** David Santamaria

**Funeral Ministry:** Carmel Flynn

**Masses during the week**  
**St Alipius' Church at 9.00am**

Weekday mass will be held on Wednesday.

Mass Times will vary due to Christmas Mass Times.

Thank you.

*Rosary and divine Mercy will be said each morning after the 9.30am mass. Please join us on the left of the church.*

**Ss Peter & Paul's Church,**  
**Buninyong**

Mass Times will vary due to Christmas Mass Times.

Thank you.

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

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

**Counting Team No .1 is rostered this week**  
Noonan, Clarkson, Mullane

***In our prayers we remember.....***

**Recent Deaths:** Isidoro Lizada (P)

**Anniversaries:**

**Unwell:** We pray for Mary Hall, Perla Manguiat, Peter Kelly, Betty McGarry, Valerie Reilly (UK), Anne D'Cruz (Singapore), Peter Saunders, Agnes Peters, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray, Ann Coswello, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, Letitia Simmons, and all who are unwell.



*This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:*

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

*(Pope Francis)*



**Amirah Gargaritano**  
Daughter of Mark and Cristine

**Finlay Johnstone**  
Son of Luke and Demi

**Iljo Scarfe**  
Son of Dale and Chloe

*May these  
children grow  
in Love and  
Faith with  
the support  
of their family  
and their  
Catholic  
Community*



***OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch***

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers will be preparing free, hot Christmas meals for people to collect on Christmas Day. This is the 30th year the parish has provided Christmas lunch for those in need. Bookings are essential, ph. 0419 975 914 or email

[christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com](mailto:christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com). Arrangements can be made for those unable to collect meals.

***CatholicCare Victoria Giving Tree Appeal***

This pandemic has been hard on us all. But as with every disaster, COVID-19 is making the already vulnerable more vulnerable still. Your generous donation to this year's Giving Tree Appeal will provide practical and financial support for struggling Victorian families - from three square meals a day to help with utility bills... every gift you choose helps. To donate go to

<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/14/giving-tree-appeal>

***Making a Scene at Christmas***

A display of over 500 Christmas nativities from more than 60 countries will be held in the Bridge Mall Ballarat on December 11-20, 2021. Entry by gold coin donation. All welcome. More information available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/making-a-scene-at-christmas/>

 **THE BRIDGE MARKET**  
presents  
**MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS**  
at BRIDGE MALL  
December 4 – 5 and  
December 11 - 20, 2021

**MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS**  
is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries.

You can - see and smell real frankincense and myrrh;

- see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; and
- see cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica)
- Nativities that prize social justice and the environment

Entry is a gold coin donation. Every one welcome.

**Simbang Gabi**

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas and it is also the spiritual preparation for Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a series of Nine Evenings of Masses leading up to Christmas. It will be held in St Alipius Church, from December 15<sup>th</sup> to the December 23<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.

*Please note when mass falls on Saturday (18<sup>th</sup>) this will be held at 8.00pm.*

On the 24<sup>th</sup> mass will be at midnight.





## Upcoming Dates in the Parish Community

### December

15-23	Simbang Gabi	7.00pm	St Alipius Church, Ballarat East
18 <sup>th</sup>	Simbang Gabi ( <i>Sat Mass only</i> )	8.00pm	St Alipius Church
21 <sup>st</sup>	Penitential Rite (Lay led)	7.30pm	Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve Mass</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>St Alipius Church, Ballarat East</b>
		<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's Church, Buninyong</b>
		<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>St Alipius Church, Ballarat East</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Midnight</b>	<b>St Alipius Church, Ballarat East</b>
		<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Ss Peter &amp; Paul's Church, Buninyong</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St Alipius Church, Ballarat East</b>
26 <sup>th</sup>	Ss Peter & Paul, Buninyong	9.00am	Sunday Mass
	St Alipius Church Sunday Mass	10.30am	Sunday Mass

### Lay-led Advent Penitential Service



Let us gather together to a special lay-led Penitential service to prepare ourselves for Christmas during this time of waiting in Advent. We are focussing on Fr Barry's homily last weekend where he defined 'Repentance' as "Have another look at life through a different lens'. Fr Barry noted that we are good people, but we often need to take a fresh approach. This service will help give us a bit of time to challenge ourselves. Please note the following details in your calendar:

**When:** 7.30pm, Tuesday December 21

**Where:** Ss Peter & Paul church, 71 Fiskin St, Buninyong.

### St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal

The St Alipius' Conference is most grateful for the support we receive from the parish as it enables us to continue assistance to those in need in the local area. This year the theme of our appeal is, **"EVERY BABY SHOULD BE BORN WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE."** and we invite you to join us in our challenge to *"help provide food and financial aid to families at breaking point"*.

You can donate to our appeal via:

1. **Envelopes** that are available at the end of each pew and at the piety stall.
2. *Envelopes can be put in the collection plate or posted in the Christmas Appeal Box at the Piety Stall. Please write your name and address if you require a receipt.*
3. The **online links** below. The first link will take you to the Ballarat East donation page

<https://my.fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/vinnies-christmas-appeal-2021/svdp-ballarat-east>

The second link below will take you to the general Vinnies page [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) (to ensure that your donation is used locally type in "Ballarat East" in the "Comments/Conference Name" section in the final box on the second page of the online

Comments/Conference Name (if applicable)

Please type your comment here

donation process.)

4. By **phone** 13 18 12

*All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.*



### Planned Giving

Should you wish to continue our Planned Giving or contribute to the First Collection, please place your offering in an envelope into the mailbox near the front door of the Presbytery. Any queries regarding Planned Giving, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie McTigue, on 53 312 933 or via email: [ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Presbytery \$ 1097.00   Envelopes \$618.20   Retired Priests \$ 725.00

*We thank you for your continued support*

## Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Advent Year C (Luke 1:39-44)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The fourth Sunday of Advent draws us closer to the celebration of the Christmas mysteries. The gospel offers the story of the young pregnant woman, Miriam of Nazareth, travelling purposefully from her home town of Nazareth to the hill country of Judaea, some 130 kilometres to the south, to be with an older woman who is also pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth. Mary enters “the house of Zechariah” who remains in the background. While Zechariah is the householder according to Jewish law, his earlier reluctance to believe renders him silent and powerless to offer hospitality. Elizabeth’s contrasting openness to recognise and to affirm the living presence of God in their midst makes her the true householder and foreshadows the reversal that is to characterise the new order, an order that is yet to be fully realised. The two women embrace and, in their loving embrace, the Spirit-filled life gestating within Mary encounters and physically affects the life that is coming to birth in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth’s words resound throughout the ages in the prayer we know as the Hail Mary: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb....” These are the words of one prophetic woman to another. Elizabeth recognises that Mary is blessed by God because she believed that God’s promise to her would be fulfilled. As God’s prophet, Elizabeth gives expression to the faith that is to be embraced by all who accept that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Miriam of Nazareth, is the Holy One of God (Luke 1:35). The lives of both women prophets have been transformed through the power of God’s Spirit. Their respective children will bring to birth unprecedented events in human history.

Elizabeth’s proclamation of the blessing of God on Mary is found daily on the lips of countless faith-filled Christians across the globe. It echoes the blessing prayer of Moses to the Israelites (Deuteronomy 28: 2-4): “May you be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Blessed is the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock....” This ancient blessing recognizes the interconnection of all God’s creation. We might make it our own blessing prayer. In our times, God’s blessing on the whole Earth community can only become a reality when we stop playing politics in the interests of short-term gains or personal greed, when we read the signs of the times and work together to address the underlying causes of global warming and its effects. Advent is not a time of passive waiting. It is a time to ponder the various ways that God sustains life in its diverse forms. It is a time to become householders, like Elizabeth, who clear the paths and open our doors for the God of life to enter in. It is a time to embrace, to “be there” for one another and to nurture the life that is coming to birth.

### *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

**First:** Micah 5: 1-4

**Second:** Heb 10:5-10 **Gospel:** Lk 1: 39-44

### *The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph*

**First:** 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

**Second:** 1 Jun3:1-2 **Gospel:** Lk 2: 41-52

