



WEEKLY BULLETIN

CATHOLIC PARISH OF BALLARAT EAST

Serving the Church Communities of

✚ **ST ALIPIUS (Ballarat East) and ✚ STs PETER & PAUL's (Buninyong)**
(84 Victoria Street) (701 Fiskens Street)



SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018 – SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, YEAR C

Who We Are

The Parish of Ballarat East encompasses the worshipping communities of St Alipius in Ballarat East and Sts Peter and Paul's in Buninyong; Sisters of Mercy, St Alipius Kindergarten, St Alipius Parish School, Emmaus Catholic Primary School, St Francis Xavier Primary School, and Damascus College. Each community contributes towards the richness of our parish life in its own unique way.

Our Mission/Vision

At Ballarat East Parish we believe that we all share in the call to proclaim the Word of God. We believe that although called to various ministries, by virtue of our common baptism, we share equally in the commission to announce that Word and to embody it by the way we live our lives.

Every community within the parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Parish Contact Details

Clergy & Staff:

Parish Priest – Fr Peter Sherman
Parish Coordinator – Lucy O'Beirne
Bereavement Coord – Joan Dagleish
Child Safety Officer – Roxanne Leed

Office Hours:

Tue, Thu & Fri
9.30 am—1.30 pm

Address:

84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350

Telephone:

5332 6611

Email:

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Website:

<http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

Second Week of Advent: Hope



We light a second purple candle on the second Sunday of Advent to represent the hope of Christ coming to the world.

The word "hope" has two meanings in the Bible. The first, *tiqvah*, contains the sense of eager anticipation or waiting. The second, *elpis*, depicts a sense of confident expectation based on certainty. Biblical hope is secured by God's faithfulness to His promises. For the Old Testament leaders, their hope was in the Messiah's arrival. For us, it is the hope of the Messiah's return.

God's plan for humanity unfolded in the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the Messiah, joyously fulfilling a long-awaited promise. Today we confidently wait for the Messiah's triumphant return.

(Source

<http://www1.cbn.com/devotions/celebrate-second-week-advent>)

Why We Do, The Things We do?

The Jesse Tree

No, it's not just another Christmas tree you see in churches at this time of year. The 'Jesse tree', in Christian tradition, represents the family tree of Jesus. Beginning with Abraham, the names that you see decorating the tree are the characters listed in the genealogy of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew (1.1-16). The name Jesse comes from the father of King David who is listed in verse 6. The tree reminds us that Jesus is revealed as Saviour, not as an isolated super-hero, but as the Messiah intimately connected with Israel, the people of God. He is truly *God-with-us*.



JESSE TREE GIFT TAGS

Parishioners are invited to collect a tag from the Jesse Tree (still a few left) to purchase a small gift for friends of the parish who are in care. The gift **must** be returned by the weekend of the 15th & 16th December. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

We Remember in Prayer



Recent Deaths:

Pat (Patricia) McDougall,
Lynne Devlin.

Anniversaries:

Terry Towns, Margaret Clifford.

The Sick:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth,
Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh,
Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty,
Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnot,
John Darroch, Maggie Brown,
Margaret Meerbach, Eleanor Keating,
Terry Foran, Cathy Jones.

Prayer of the Week

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

Thomas Merton (1915-1968)
Thoughts in solitude:



Parish & Diocesan News & Events

PARISH CENSUS – UPDATING OUR RECORDS & CONFIDENTIALITY

All census cards should be returned this weekend please. Either place with the collection or drop off to the parish office.

ADVENT CALENDAR

Community Celebration Reconciliation

Tuesday 11th December, 7 pm.

As part of our preparation for Christmas, parishioners are invited to a celebration of Reconciliation within the parish. This is an opportunity to reflect together on the actions of our lives and how we are in relation to one another, our God and our earth. This year's theme: *The environment, Our Common Home.*

RECEIVING MASS-SHEET VIA EMAIL

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to receive the new-look weekly mass-sheet in *glorious colour* via email.

To add your name to the distribution list, please drop off a note to the parish office or email

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au stating your name.

Families or couples are welcome to list more than one email address if that is desired.

SCHOOL NEWS

EMMAUS - NOTICE OF AGM

Emmaus Community Leadership Team AGM will be held Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm in Wayaperri (School Gymnasium).

GRADUATIONS

Congratulations and blessings to Grade six students who will be celebrating graduation masses in the coming weeks:

St Alipius' PS	Wed, 12 th Dec	7.00 pm
St Francis Xavier PS	Thu, 13 th Dec	6.00 pm
Emmaus Catholic PS	Thu, 20 th Dec	12.00 pm

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Damascus College will be finishing their school year on Thursday 6th December, we wish students and staff a safe and happy holiday.

Good Luck to Year 12 VCE students who are awaiting results on December 14th.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS APPEAL, CALENDARS & CARDS

Christmas Appeal envelopes are available from the piety stall. Be assured all donations from Ballarat East Parish go towards assisting families in Ballarat. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Also available are Columban calendars and Christmas cards.

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

NATIONAL PRAYER OF SORROW AND PROMISE

16 December, 5pm: National Prayer of Sorrow & Promise
Mercy Place Chapel, Ballarat East.

The Catholic Religious of Australia encourage the people of the Diocese to join them in prayer for those who have been abused, their families, and communities.

All welcome. Enquiries: 0407820622 or 0419575419

REGINA CAELI'S "CAROLS IN THE CATHEDRAL"

On Friday, 21st December once again St Patrick's Cathedral will host Regina Caeli's *Carols in the Cathedral*. The congregation are warmly invited to join in singing their favourite carols, hear beautiful traditional and contemporary music performed by local ensembles and enjoy the power and glory of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus sung by the combined chorus of over 60 voices, 15 brass and our heritage listed organ. As with last year, donations will be taken at the door to support the 3BA Christmas Appeal who donate to St Vincent de Paul, Anglicare, UnitingCare and the Salvation Army. It promises to be a wonderful evening and we look forward to you joining us with your family and friends.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

You are invited to join us on Christmas Day for Lunch (no cost). Please share this invitation with someone you know who may not have other arrangements.

Time: 12.00 -2.00pm (meal served at 12.30pm)

Where: OLHC Parish Hall
482 Gillies St. Wendouree

Book Early, Transport Available, Phone: 0419 975 914

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next Baptism preparation is on Thu, 7th Feb 2019 - 10.00 am and 7.00 pm. Please contact parish office for details.

GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE (COP) 24

A Prayer for the COP24 Climate Summit
(Katowice, 3-14 December)

Our Common Home

Leader: Let us pray as Pope Francis taught us in Laudato Si':

Assembly: Creator God, please guide us.
Help us act in love and courage
To honour You, O Creator,
And to fulfill our role as protectors of
The Earth, our common home.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Amen.

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 10th December 2018

Mon:	No Mass
Tue:	5.00 pm Mercy Centre
Wed:	9.30 am Mercy Centre
Thu:	11.00 am Mercy Place
Fri:	9.30 am St Alipius
Sat:	6.00 pm St Alipius
Sun:	9.00 am St Alipius 10.30 am Sts Peter & Paul's

Finance



COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Parish:		
Envelopes	\$	2838.60
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards	\$	0.00
Direct Debits	\$	1325.00
	\$	4313.60
Presbytery:	\$	824.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 8:

B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale,
K. McKeegan.

Team 9:

J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane,
J. O'Brien.

Appreciation Corner

Many thanks to staff, the various community groups, and volunteers who generously give of their time and talent each week – the parish couldn't function without you!

Special thanks this week to those who set up the crib outside in the church grounds and to the St Alipius Grade 6 boys for setting up the Jesse tree in church.



Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C (Luke 3:1-6)

Pope Francis has called us to look into our hearts, to let go of all that is harsh or cruel and to bring the compassion and mercy of God to our troubled planetary home. At the International Conference marking the third anniversary of *Laudato Si'* (July 2018), he thanked the participants for coming together to hear “with their hearts the increasingly desperate cries of the earth and its poor.” The Conference title, “Saving our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth” underscores the urgency of the call. Our courageous pope is giving extraordinary leadership to the global community.

Like Luke, author of the third gospel, Pope Francis recognises that this 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. 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* or conversion for the forgiveness of sins’.

We might listen to the Isaiah citation that follows (“Prepare the way...”) against the backdrop of the first reading from the prophet Baruch. God’s way involves putting on the “cloak of integrity” or “robe of righteousness” and allowing God to provide an escort of mercy/works of mercy (*eleēmosunē*) and integrity/right relationship (*dikaïosunē*). 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.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel (Luke 3:10-18)

When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptize you with water, but someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Question of the Week

In what areas of your life do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)