



## 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 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 – THIRD 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](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

#### Parish Website:

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

### Third Week of Advent: Joy

The Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*, has a very ancient, unique character in the history of Christian worship. It is the Sunday for joy and rejoicing. It gets its name from the first words of the Latin Introit appointed for this Sunday, "Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete."

The historic liturgical colour for the day is rose or pink, the colour for joy. Churches have an Advent wreath with a pink candle for lighting today. Many churches call it the Candle of Joy. We get at this same reality indirectly as we call it the Shepherds' Candle, remembering the scripture, "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy..."

Are our lives too noisy to hear the joyful song of the angels? Are we too busy to look up and see them singing in the night?

(Source/s

<https://www.quora.com/topic/Gaudete-Sunday>;

<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/Story/TabId/2672/ArtMID/13567/ArticleID/16471/Advent-by-the-Nativity-Scene-Week-3---Joy.aspx>



### Why We Do, The Things We do?

#### Why the different colours

As mentioned in an earlier bulletin, Advent marks the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year.

You may notice that during the Church year the colours of the vestments of the priest and the altar change from time to time. This has nothing to do with the whims of fashion! Different colours are used to symbolise the truths and sentiments expressed by the

various liturgical celebrations. Purple (symbolising penance) is used for Advent and Lent; red (warmth and blood) for Pentecost and for feasts commemorating the sufferings of Christ and the martyrs; white (joy, purity, innocence, glory) for celebrations such as Christmas and Easter, weddings, baptisms and funerals; green (life) for Sundays in Ordinary Time.



## We Remember in Prayer



### Baptisms:

Beau Fleming, Ivy Fleming.

### Recent Deaths:

Bernie Greene.

### Anniversaries:

Anna Ridsdale, Nola Clamp,  
Leo Clamp, Margaret Flanagan,  
Mary Hammer, John Taffe,  
Jane Taffe, Terry Howlett,  
John Curran, Bob MacDonald.

### The Sick:

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

## Prayer of the Week

### A Prayer for Joy



Heavenly Angels,

God assigned you to announce joy to the world. Please show me ways that I, too, can spread the joy of our Lord to all those I meet. Inspire me to make gestures of kindness that can help others feel God's love. Help me set aside envy and greed, so I have more room in my heart for joy. Let me greet each day with a heart overflowing with joy and gratitude.

Amen.

Source:  
<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/Story/TabId/2672/ArtMID/13567/ArticleID/16471/Advent-by-the-Nativity-Scene-Week-3---Joy.aspx>

## Parish & Diocesan News & Events

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES



#### St Alipius (Ballarat East)

Christmas Eve (Mon, Dec 24)	6.00 pm
	8.00 pm
Christmas Day (Tue, Dec 25)	9.00 am
New Year's Day (Tue, Jan 1, 2019)	9.30 am

#### Sts Peter & Paul's (Buninyong)

Christmas Eve (Mon, Dec 24)	7.00 pm
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### CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL MINISTRIES - ST ALIPIUS

Parishioners of St Alipius who would like to assist with our Christmas masses are invited to write their name on the sign-up sheet positioned near the piety stall this weekend. We need readers, special ministers and individuals or families who would like bring up the offertory. Many thanks!

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### FINAL SCHOOL MASSES

Our parish primary schools will celebrate their End-of-Year Masses at St Alipius Church this coming week as they reflect on the year of 2018. The Ballarat East Parish extends its warmest wishes and blessings to all the students, staff and families of our schools that you enjoy a happy and holy Christmas period and safe holiday!

St Alipius PS	Tue, 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12.00 pm
St Francis Xavier PS	Wed, 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30 am
Emmaus Catholic PS	Thu, 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	12.00 pm

#### CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 12 VCE STUDENTS

Congratulations are extended to all Year 12 students who received their final results on Friday. Special congratulations to Damascus College Year 12 student, 2018 School Captain and member of our Ballarat East Parish, Sean O'Beirne, who attained Dux with an ATAR of 99.90 along with many students receiving ATAR results over 90. Well done also to the teachers and families in supporting their young people throughout their studies. We wish all school leavers well as they commence a new chapter in their lives.

### 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, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 - 10.00 am and 7.00 pm. Please contact parish office for details.

### **CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2019 STUDY PROGRAMS**



CATHOLIC  
THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE



#### **Catholic Theological College**

*2019 Study Options Now Available!*

#### **UG and PG Options:**

*Choice of Philosophy, Systematic  
Theology, Moral Theology, Religious  
Education or Christian Spirituality units*

***Audit options available***

Enquiries: Mr John Bartholomeusz,  
Assistant Dean

T: 9412 3309 E: [ctc@ctc.edu.au](mailto:ctc@ctc.edu.au)

## Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

<b>Mon:</b>	No Mass
<b>Tue:</b>	12.00 pm St Alipius PS End of Year Mass 5.00 pm Mercy Centre
<b>Wed:</b>	9.30 am St Francis Xavier PS End of Year Mass
<b>Thu:</b>	11.00 am Mercy Place 12.00 pm Emmaus Catholic PS End of Year Mass
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30 am St Alipius
<b>Sat:</b>	6.00 pm St Alipius
<b>Sun:</b>	9.00 am Sts Peter & Paul's 10.30 am St Alipius

## Finance



### **COLLECTIONS FOR LAST WEEK**

<b>Parish:</b>		
Envelopes	\$	1052.00
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards	\$	0.00
Direct Debits	\$	375.00
	<b>\$</b>	<b>1577.00</b>
<b>Presbytery:</b>	\$	1157.00

### **COUNTING TEAMS**

#### **Team 9:**

J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane,  
J. O'Brien.

#### **Team 10:**

P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

## 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!*



*There's always plenty to do in a parish,  
so if you have some time to spare and  
would like to volunteer we would  
appreciate your services. Please contact  
the parish office to discuss.*

## Scripture Readings & Reflections

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C (Luke 3:10-18)

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy. This invitation is certainly present in the first two readings: God is in our midst, renewing us in love (Zephaniah) and there is no need for worry (Philippians). It is also implicit in the gospel reading from Luke with its sense of expectancy and John the Baptist's announcement of the "Good News" of the one who is to come.

There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John is asked, "What must we do?" In line with Luke's emphasis on the universality of God's saving power, the responses are directed to "all the people". Those with even minimal food (something to eat) and clothing (two tunics) are told to share. Tax agents, caught up in a system notoriously open to abuse, are to be honest. Soldiers are given three directives that provide some insight into the way the military was perceived: no extortion, no blackmail, and no complaints about wages. The third directive probably derives from the fact that soldiers were better off financially than most others. It is in no sense a prohibition on demands for just wages.

John situates himself in relation to Jesus, the anointed agent of God's liberation. John's portrait presents someone more fiery than the Lukan Jesus turns out to be. It is more like a self-portrait, especially in light of the context that has John addressing the crowds who flock to him as a "brood of vipers" or "children of snakes" (Luke 3:7). In contrast with John's water-baptism "for the forgiveness of sins", Jesus will "baptise" with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire, as we well know in this dry land of ours, is a challenging symbol, both friend and foe. In the first-century *Manual of Discipline* from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action.

John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We know our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by doing what we must: sharing our goods, treating others with dignity, justice and forgiveness as well as responding to the cry of the earth. The question "What then must we do?" is one that we might ask ourselves each day in the face of a changing world order.



#### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C

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

**Second Reading:** Hebrews: 10:5-10

#### Gospel (Luke 1:39-44)

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

#### Question of the Week

What might John the Baptist challenge you to do differently in your life?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)