



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

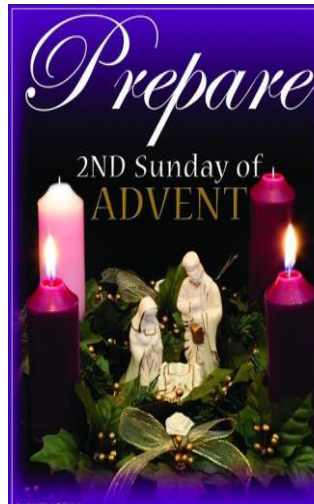
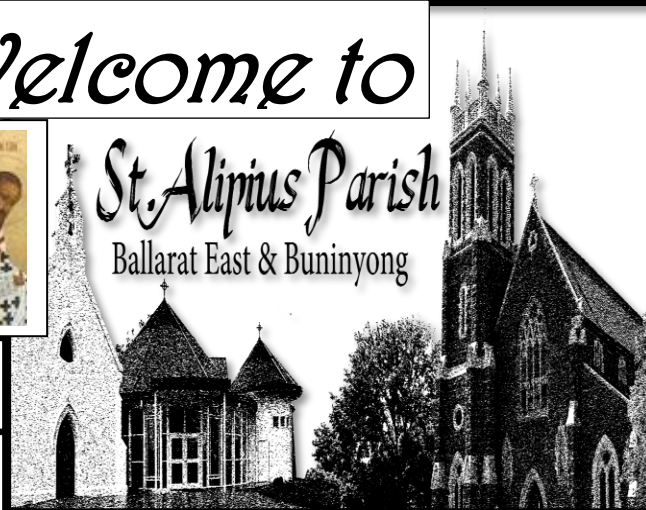
6TH DECEMBER 2020

Welcome to



St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



St Alipius' Parish Church

82 Victoria St., Ballarat East 3350

SS Peter & Paul's Church

701 Fiskens St., Buninyong 3357

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.

Parish Office & Presbytery:

- ☐ 84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350
- ☐ 5332 6611
- ☐ ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
- www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Liturgy Online:

- ☐ www.sapliturgy.net.au
- ☐ sapliturgy@gmail.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Finance Com. Chair: Paul Jans

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Funeral Ministrv: Carmel Flvnn, Kathy Curran

Masses during the week

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East for 85 attendees

Monday to Saturday 9.30 am

Registration Necessary for weekend Masses

(Registration by phone or online @ www.sapliturgy.net.au)

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am (1st, 3rd and 5th)

10:30 am (2nd and 4th)

Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong 75 attendees

Sunday 9:00 am (2nd and 4th)

10:30 am, (1st, 3rd and 5th)

(Please ring Margaret McCarty 0423 208 286)

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

St. Alipius' Parish Liturgy Website:

www.sapliturgy.net.au

St. Alipius' Church is open from 9:30 am to

11:30 am Tuesday to Sunday

Prayer Intentions:

Recent Death: Felix "Bimbo" Ramos (P)

Anniversaries: Jim Power, Lyn O'Brien, Rodolfo Lopez,
Una Williams, Tracy Howard, Maria A. De Chavez (P)

Unwell: We pray for Ann Coswello, Carmel Doherty, Heather Healy,
Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons,
Margie Wilmott, John Beattie and all who are unwell.



TRANSFER OF GOVERNANCE OF ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL

Earlier this year Bishop Paul Bird announced a new approach to the governance of parish primary and secondary schools in our Diocese. Bishop Paul has established the Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) to govern those schools.

Under the new governance model, principals will continue to have appropriate delegations to lead and manage their schools and staff supported by the CEO of DOBCEL. Priests will continue to play a fundamental and active role in the pastoral ministry of schools but they will not have full responsibility for the employment and management of staff nor the legal and compliance responsibility of parish schools.

On December 1st 2020, representatives from DOBCEL, from St Alipius Parish and St Alipius Parish School met to sign the documents that made this transfer official at our parish school. The documents were officially signed after a prayer service that celebrated the history of St Alipius School, it's humble beginnings on the Ballarat East Goldfields and the contributions made by the Sisters of Mercy and generations of staff, families and students.

This was a significant day in our parish, guaranteeing the continuous operation of St Alipius Parish School into the future.

Please continue to keep our parish school community in your prayers.

Eileen Rice

Principal



Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program

Low-cost online study and formation offered in partnership with Dayton University, for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study subjects over 5 weeks. Study Cycle 1 for 2021 begins 3rd January. Registrations open now until 21st December. For more information and to register go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Advent Recollection: Reflecting on the Joys and Struggles of 2020

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, you are invited to gather as the Church of Oceania in recollection and thanksgiving on the year that was. This event will be hosted by the Pastoral Ministry Network (formerly known as NAPPA) and supported by the Mission Planners Network Oceania and the Diocese of Parramatta. More information is available from the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Christmas Day Take-away Lunch 2020

Due to the uncertainty of gathering in large groups for Christmas Day, OLHC Wendouree is offering a Christmas Day Take-away lunch. Bookings are essential. Please phone 0419 975 914. For those without transport, alternative arrangements can be organised.

This weekend We welcome to our Faith Family through the Sacrament of Baptism



Hadley Claire Mullane daughter of Troy and Kylee

Stevie Jean Smith daughter of Adrian and Danielle

Hugo Robert and Theodore Thomas Page sons of Nathan and Lauren

May they grow in faith with the support of their families and our Parish community



Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia who have been devastated by unprecedented flooding after Typhoon Vamco hit the region - only weeks after being hit by Super Typhoon Goni, the strongest storm this year. Severe flooding has submerged towns up to 12 metres deep across the Cagayan region of the Philippines, leaving tens of thousands of families trapped without electricity, clean water or road access. Across the region, homes have been destroyed and livelihoods lost with hundreds of thousands of people fleeing to evacuation centres, where the risks of spreading COVID-19 are high. With your help, and with our church and NGO partners on the ground, we can provide vital support to those affected by this and other disasters as part of our Asia Emergency Appeal. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

St. Vincent de Paul. 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, "SUPPORT FAMILIES THROUGH A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER" and we invite you to join us in our challenge to "help provide food and financial aid to families at breaking point". **Donate via envelopes and at the wishing well beside the Jesse tree.**

Advent Jesse Tree

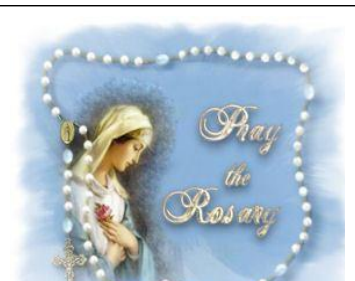
This year there will be a change to the Jesse Tree donations at St. Alipius and Sts. Peter and Paul Buninyong. We have decided to assist those who are needy and alone. There will be a wishing well next to the tree and we would welcome cash donations instead of taking a card to purchase a gift. We will be supporting Kirralee Nursing Home, Berry St., Victoria House, Buninyong Lodge and St. Vinnies. We thank you in advance for your generosity

Planned Giving

Due to the cancellation of Masses, should you wish to continue your Planned Giving or contribution to the First Collection, please put 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

St Alipius Parish collections last weekend: *Thank you very much*

Envelopes \$ 1, 460.00 Direct Debit \$ 730.00 Presbytery \$ 974.00



***You are invited - Rosary Prayer
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Buninyong
Every Thursday at 11:00 am in the side Chapel***

Rosary Beads and prayer booklet available

Rosary beads and booklet are available on the table at the presbytery verandah (84 Victoria St. Ballarat East) feel free to help yourself and share to others.

LET EVERY HEART *Prepare*

Reflection on the Gospel

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (MARK 1:1-8)

Veronica Lawson

The first verse of Mark's gospel evokes the opening words of Genesis and thus situates the saving presence of Jesus the Christ in relation to the creation of earth and of all earth beings. The whole of Mark's story of Jesus is presented as a beginning. It is the beginning of a faith journey into which the listener/reader is invited. In some manuscripts of the Greek text, there are only five words in this verse, seven in other manuscripts, and twelve in our English translation. The term gospel (euangelion) means good news. It referred originally to the news of victory delivered by a messenger, usually in time of war. The good news in this context is about Jesus, a name meaning "Yahweh saves". The reader learns that this Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Israel's longed for Messiah. The actors within the story have to discover this truth as the drama unfolds. The two additional words present Jesus as "son of God", as one having the characteristics of God.

John the Baptizer is identified as the messenger who proclaims the need to prepare the way for the arrival of a new Presence in our world. Mark creates the impression that something big is happening here. John draws massive crowds from city and country alike. They come to him in the wilderness, the home of the other-than-human, home to diverse forms of life. At a metaphorical level, wilderness recalls Israel's experience in the Sinai desert. It is the place of testing and of new beginnings for God's people, the place of God's coming or God's "advent" to Israel. Jesus will be impelled by the Spirit into the wilderness where he will pass the tests that the people Israel failed.

This reading invites us to prepare for God's advent or coming by ritualising metanoia (usually translated as "repentance"), and thus being ready for the one who comes. The translation "repentance" does not convey the nuances of the Greek term metanoia which literally means a "change of mind" and suggests an "expansion of horizons". God's advent demands a new mindset that will predispose us to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and to be open to feel the pain of earth as well as the pain of those rendered poor.

Mark's depiction of John evokes the image of the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 8 and the "hairy mantle" of the prophet in Zechariah 13:4. John is a prophet who, like the prophets of old, calls God's people to reconsider where they stand in relation to God. He is also the one who heralds the advent of the "stronger" one who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit". And yet there is nothing in the subsequent narrative about Jesus baptizing. As we reflect attentively on Mark's gospel during this liturgical year, we might ask ourselves what it means to "baptize" with the Holy Spirit and what it means to follow one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. .

Readings for this week: Second Sunday of Advent

First: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second: 2 Peter 3:8-14 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Readings for next week: Third Sunday of Advent

First: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Second: 1 Thessalonian 5:16-24 Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

