Next Week's Readings: 4th Sunday of Advent - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Romans 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 Arrangements

With the further easing of the Covid 19 restrictions we will be able to have the following number of people gathering in our Parish while meeting the density quotient of 1 person per 2 square metres. This will enable the following number of people to celebrate Mass together in our Parish Churches:

St. Aloysius, Redan - 88 people, St. James, Sebastopol - 160 people, St Brigid's, Snake Valley - 48 people, St Peter's, Linton - 38 people, St John's, Skipton - 48 people

If you wish to attend a Mass please make a booking either by <u>phone, text, or email</u> with the Parish Coordinators. Your name and contact details which will be recorded when you make a booking. Face Masks are no longer compulsory in Churches but recommended.

St. Aloysius, Redan		St. James, Sebastopol
Thursday 9.30am		Friday 9.30am
Saturday 6.00pm		Sunday 10.30am
Sunday 9.00am		
St Brigid's, Snake Valley	St Peter's, Linton	St John´s, Skipton
Saturday 6.30pm	Sunday 9.00am	Sunday 10.30am

Masks are not compulsory but recommended for the duration of the Mass except when receiving communion Continue with hand sanitising on entry and wiping down of church seats after each Mass Continue with social distancing when in the Church, please sit in allocated seats No gatherings before or after Mass Please do not just arrive at a Mass because if the Church is at capacity you will not be able to stay

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.

Redan, Sebastopol and Linton Parishes – Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Eve Mass - Thursday 24th December 2020

St. Aloysius Redan, School Auditorium (max. 150 people) & School Grounds (max. 350 people) - 6.00pm

St. Brigid's Snake Valley (max. 48 People) - 6.00pm

St. James Church Sebastopol (max. 160 People) - 7.30pm

St. John's Skipton (max. 48 People) - 7.30pm

Christmas Day Mass - Friday 25th December 2020

St. James Church Sebastopol (max. 160 People) - 9.00am

St. Peter's Linton (max. 38 People) - 9.00am

New Year's Day Mass - Friday 1st January 2021, St. James, Sebastopol (max. 160 People) - 9.30am

(Please note – max. numbers stated are in line with current government COVID safe guidelines)

In order to comply with the Government CODIV-19 number restrictions, you must ring, text or email to register a place for any of the above Masses

Third Sunday of Advent

Presider: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the rose coloured candle, the candle of rejoicing on our Advent Wreath. Let us pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ.

Blessing of the Wreath

Presider: Let the wilderness and the dry lands exult.

ALL: Let the wasteland rejoice and bloom.

Presider: Let us bring forth abundant flowers.

ALL: Let us rejoice and sing for Joy.

Presider: Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees.

ALL: For God is coming, our God is coming to save.

The third candle is lit Opening Prayer

Presider: Let us pray

ALL: God of eternal joy, you are faithful to your promises and close to your Church. The earth rejoices in the hope of the Saviour's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove any sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy, which His coming will bring, for He is the Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Mary Clohesy, Michael Duffin, Brian Everard, Joan Hayes, Denis Hishon, Mary Matherson, Mary Wilkie,

Please remember in your prayers: Margaret Cooper, Fr. Denis Dennehy, Winifredo Ferrer, Heather Healy, Gerard Hoogenboom, Constancio Laduan Sr., Corazon Laduan, Lucas Mactingrao, Loreto Martinovic, Kevin Orchard, Jonathon Rice, Louis Sykes, Sr. Patricia Vagg, Jo van Gaans,

ANOINTING MASS 2020 St. James' Sebastopol - Friday 18th December at 9.30am

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE - Wednesday 16th December 7.00pm at St. James' Sebastopol

You will need to ring to book a place for either of these ceremonies

Collections for previous weekendSt. AloysiusParish: \$762.00Presbytery: \$262.00

St. James Parish: \$670.00 Presbytery: \$128.00

Opportunity for Prayer at St James' - Wednesday at 10.30am Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All welcome.

St. James Vinnies Piety Stall - Christmas cards and Columban calendars are now available. These will also be available at St. Aloysius Church

Vinnie Christmas Appeal envelopes are now available and can be placed on collection plates at the entrance door. Receipts will be issued. Any queries contact Anne 0409 547 953.

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.

Filipino Simbang Gabi - 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 on: Tuesday 15th December at 7.00pm, Wednesday 16th December at 7.00pm, Thursday 17th December at 7.00pm, Friday 18th December at 7.00pm, Saturday 19th December at 8.00pm (NB: change of time), Sunday 20th December at 7.00pm, Monday 21st December at 7.00pm, Tuesday 22nd December at 7.00pm, Wednesday 23rd December at 7.00pm, Christmas Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 24th December at 12 midnight. If you have any questions/need further information, please contact Fr Jorge 0432 569 070, Fr Eladz, 0450 017 007 or Dion 0427 876 553. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please inform and invite family members, friends and friends of friends. Thank you.

Ballarat Diocesan Information, News and Events

#AdventHope

Read the latest from the Global Catholic Climate Movement at <u>https://preview.mailerlite.com/u9i6z9/1558374805588153901/o6p7/</u> The November *Laudato Si* monthly reflection can be found at <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NmLYsqsX0Ue6qqIz9LofeVjunZUagKym/view</u>

Making a Scene at Christmas

In this year of COVID, travelling around the world is but a dream. Making a Scene at Christmas, a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities, can take you around the world and through time using the lens of hand-crafted Nativities. Currently we have Nativities from Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa and North and South America. We have nativity related artifacts (coins) that are 2000 years old, nativities made of different materials including bullets and bullet shells, recycled potato chip packets, spark plugs, pewter, china, wood and our latest acquisition is a 1.2 m high wooden Herod about 100 years old that came from a carousel in NY State. We will be displaying these in The Bridge Mall, Ballarat, from December 17 - 20, All are welcome.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.