



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 2ND DECEMBER 2018 – FIRST 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:

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Ballarat East 3350

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Parish Website:

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

New Look Bulletin

Welcome to the new look parish bulletin. We trust that you like the new design and layout, and hope that you will embrace the bulletin as your very own. Hence, your contribution to its weekly publication is greatly sought and will ensure that the bulletin is kept fresh and interesting. Any comments, suggestions and items of community interest are most welcome. Please send these in to the parish office by close of business each Thursday for inclusion in the next bulletin.

In deference to Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* on the environment, in which he calls us to better care for our common home, *Mother Earth*, we encourage those of you who can to register to receive the bulletin online – **so if you haven't already done so, we ask that you please send in your email address to the parish office as soon as possible so that we can include you on the circulation list.**

Season of Advent



This Sunday, we enter into the season of Advent. It is the season that marks the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year. Advent precedes and prepares for Christmas. It is a time of hope and of longing, of joyful expectation and of peaceful preparation. Many symbols and traditions are associated with Advent, especially the *Advent wreath*.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, *Gaudete Sunday*. It is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

(Source: <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-history-of-the-advent-wreath.html>)

We Remember in Prayer



Recent Deaths:

Eileen Keating,
Sr Connie Walsh RSM.

Anniversaries:

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 for the Sick

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.

(Source:

http://holyfamilyparish.ca/news/prayers_for-the-sick/100-prayer-for-the-sick)

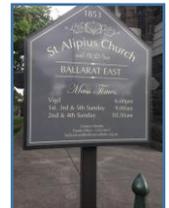
Parish & Diocesan News & Events

PARISH CENSUS – UPDATING OUR RECORDS & CONFIDENTIALITY

This is the second weekend where we are inviting parishioners to fill in a census card in order for the parish to have up-to-date information of contact details. This information is confidential to the parish with limited access only to parish staff. If you would like to receive the notice-sheet/bulletin via email please indicate in the comments section and write your email address on the card. The notice-sheet can be emailed on Friday afternoon. Many thanks – Fr Peter.

NEW SIGN BOARD

Did you see our new sign board? Thank you to those who have assisted in setting this up – much appreciated. (*Who wants the former sign?*)



JESSE TREE GIFT TAGS

Parishioners are invited to collect a tag (or two) from the *Jesse Tree** 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 to the ladies who helped on Wednesday. (*St Alipius tags are available in a labelled basket at the back of the church where the tree will be placed next week).

ADVENT CALENDAR

Anointing Mass

Wednesday, 5th December, 2pm

Following mass there will be afternoon tea in the hall. We would appreciate donations of food for the afternoon tea. Anyone requiring transport please contact any member of the caring group or the parish office.

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.*

HELP SOUGHT FOR 2018 BUNINYONG COMMUNITY CAROLS – SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2018



Sts Peter & Paul's have been involved each year with the Carols. Preparation of materials for the activities is usually done over a couple of afternoons, with materials provided as required. On the day of the Carols, a couple of volunteers (Working With Children Certificates) assist in the marquee with those from the other churches, from about 4.30 until the carols are about to start. A couple of people to assist with setting up and taking down the marquee is also requested. If you can help please see Mike Maloney or June or John Marmo.

THE SWAG

New copies of the Summer edition of *The Swag*, the quarterly magazine of the National Council of Priests of Australia, are now available in the foyer. Please feel welcome to take a copy home to read and then return for others to share.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Thursday, 6th December - 10.00 am and 7.00 pm.
St Patrick's Parish Hall. Contact local parish for details.

JOY SPREADING

The next *Joy Spreading* event for young adults (18-30 yo) will be held Friday, December 7, 2018 from 6.30pm - 9.00pm in the Cathedral Parish Office meeting room with guest speaker Fr Justin Driscoll. An opportunity for young Catholic adults to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. Festive snacks and drinks provided. For further information see www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone: 5337 7160.

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.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 UPDATE



Much of the focus for the Plenary Council so far has been on the primary question that the Council is considering: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" That is the first of three pieces of stimulus that people are invited to reflect upon when making a submission to the Council. More than 21,000 voices have now contributed to this phase of the three-year process, and that number is growing quickly. Topics that are passionately and frequently raised include leadership and governance within the Church, the place and role of women, the importance of young people, the living tradition, liturgy and music, the priesthood and other vocations, inclusion and welcome, the sacramental life of the Church, ecology and creation, and social justice. More stories and submissions will be shared over the coming months, with the Listening and Dialogue phase running until Ash Wednesday -- March 6, 2019. For further information go to <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au> for further information.

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 Sts Peter & Paul's 10.30 am St Alipius

Finance



**COLLECTIONS FOR
LAST WEEK**

Parish:		
Envelopes	\$	606.00
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards	\$	0.00
Debit Cards	\$	1086.00
	\$	1842.00
Presbytery:	\$	866.00

COUNTING TEAMS

Team 7:
K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood,
G. Duck.

Team 8:
B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale,
K. McKeegan.

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 - you're a Star!

There's always plenty to do in a parish, so if you have some time to spare we will find you a job and put your particular talent to good use. Please contact the parish office to discuss.



Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. Its depiction of global devastation has a particular resonance in a post-industrial world faced with the effects of climate change. Some may be tempted to interpret "apocalyptic" events of today as the judgement of an interventionist God. This is far from the truth. Our mindless exploitation of planetary resources has brought its own judgement and we must struggle together to save our planet from further destruction.

Advent and Christmas are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would soon return and bring everything to completion. Some decades after Jesus' death, Luke's community had come to realize that the "final" coming of Christ was not just around the corner as they had expected. They needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that de-sensitize the heart or the human spirit.

For Luke, an attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes is the proper stance for the Christian believer. An attentive heart will be attuned to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court are located in the heavens above. It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event, not just a once-off event limited to one place and one time.

We might do well to read this gospel passage against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the "virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship". Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice

and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation. Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the plight of the earth itself and the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression. We might remember those seeking asylum among us and those who have been granted refugee status yet still await the justice of resettlement. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Gospel (Luke 3:1-6)

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Iturea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see
the salvation of God.

Question of the Week

What have been the strengths of your prayer life? What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season?

(Source:
<http://www.pastoralplanning.com/>)