



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 Fisken Street)



SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2018 – FOURTH 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>

Fourth Week of Advent: Love



Today we light the last candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of Love, symbolising God's amazing love for us. We reach the culmination of the *O Antiphons* - a collection of ancient passages from biblical texts, sung or said seven days before the Vigil of the Nativity. Since the Vatican II reform of the Catholic liturgy, these texts are used as the Alleluia verse before the Gospel at Mass through the week preceding Christmas. The very popular hymn "O come, o come Emmanuel" makes use of these texts for its verses. Each antiphon begins with the letter "O" followed by a salutation with one of the biblical names for Christ, *eg, O Wisdom, O Lord, O Emmanuel*. They speak of man's desire and longing for God, a longing which has existed throughout the history of God's people from the beginning of time, fulfilled on the night when Emmanuel (God with us) JESUS was born. Reading this final antiphon gives the feeling that a climax has indeed come. The very term Emmanuel, God with us, reveals the kindly, human heart of Jesus — He wants to be one of us, a Child of man, with all our human weakness and suffering; He wants to experience how hard it is to be man. He wants to remain with us to the end of time, He wants to dwell within us, He wants to make us share His nature.

(Source/s

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2018-12-23>; <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/blog/entry/o-come-o-come-emmanuel-lyrics-o-antiphons>

Why We Do, The Things We do?

A Christmas Question

Since we do not know the exact historical date of Jesus' birth, why do Christians celebrate Christmas on 25th December? In the ancient world, a pagan festival worshipping the sun as the divine controller of all life was celebrated on 25th December. The Roman Emperor Aurelian established this festival in 274, naming it *Natalis Solis Invicti* (the Birth of the Unconquered Sun). By choosing this day as the birth of Christ, Christians intended to counteract the pagan belief by celebrating Christ as the true light of the world, the Saviour who dispels all darkness with the light of faith.



We Remember in Prayer



Baptisms:

Sienna Pace.

Recent Deaths:

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 of the Week

A Prayer for Resting in God's Love

Father God, I come into your presence so aware of my human frailty and yet overwhelmed by your love for me. I thank you that there is no human experience that I might walk through where your love cannot reach me. If I climb the highest mountain you are there and yet if I find myself in the darkest valley of my life, you are there. Teach me today to love you more. Help me to rest in that love that asks nothing more than the simple trusting heart of a child. In Jesus name, Amen



Source:

<https://www.beliefnet.com/prayers/christian/guidance/a-prayer-for-resting-in-gods-love.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 WISHES

Father Peter and the Parish Team wish those parishioners who will be celebrating Christmas away from the parish, a joyous and peaceful time wherever you are.

May you have:

The Spirit of Christmas Peace

The Gladness of Christmas Hope

The Heart of Christmas Love



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

Transport Available, Phone: 0419 975 914

CHRISTIAN MONASTIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOURTH CENTURY

John van de Laar (Ballarat Diocese) has written a book on monasticism in the early Church and the importance of women monastics in the fourth century. The intention of this book is to give the reader some inside knowledge of the Christian Church in the fourth-fifth centuries, which saw corruption and disagreements between many sections of the church. It was a period where women were extremely influential and tried in many areas to maintain the original Christian teaching of Jesus, and the Scriptures, alive. Bishop Paul has written the foreword. Copies are available to peruse from the Catholic Education Office or for purchase for \$25.00 from John, ph. 53002327.

POPE FRANCIS AND WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Pope Francis' World Day of Peace is on January 1, 2019. The theme of Pope Francis' Message for the 52nd World Day of Peace is that politics must be at the service of peace. Join the world in praying for peace on January 1.

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish & Diocesan News & Events cont'd

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN YOUR PARISH

The next World Youth Day is on Sunday, January 27, 2019 in Panama City. You may wish to view the live stream of the Vigil with Pope Francis on Sunday morning before or after your regular Parish Mass, or include prayers for young people in your Mass. Prayers, information and the live stream link will be on the Youth & Young Adult Ministry pages of the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC WOMEN RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT

The Council for Australian Catholic Women warmly invites you to their 2019 National Colloquium from February 22-24 in Adelaide. Early bird registration closes January 15, 2019. More information on www.ballarat.catholic.org

BAPTISM PREPARATION

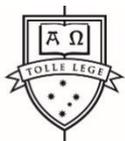
The next Baptism preparation is on Thu, 7th Feb 2019 - 10.00 am and 7.00 pm. Please contact parish office for details.

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST SERIES

Men of all ages are invited to a Catholic Man Breakfast to be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Craig's Royal Hotel in Ballarat. The Breakfast will be hosted by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and will feature former leading Radio Executive, Shane Healy, as guest speaker. Shane has walked a fascinating path to the top of the highly competitive radio industry in Australia and has connected with high profile performers such as Brian Taylor, Neil Mitchell and Rex Hunt.

Further information from Chris Liston, ph. 0437 318 251 or email chris.listo2@gmail.com or Vincent Sully, ph. 0407 310 115 or email vcjjdh.sully@gmail.com.

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

Mass Time Table for Week Beginning 24th December 2018

Mon:	6.00 pm St Alipius 7.00 pm Sts Peter & Paul's 8.00 pm St Alipius
Tue:	9.00 am St Alipius
Wed:	No Mass
Thu:	11.00 am Mercy Place
Fri:	No Mass
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	\$	777.70
Loose	\$	150.00
Credit Cards*	\$	0.00
Direct Debits*	\$	0.00
	\$	927.70

**Figures not available at time of printing*

Presbytery: \$ 781.00

COUNTING TEAMS

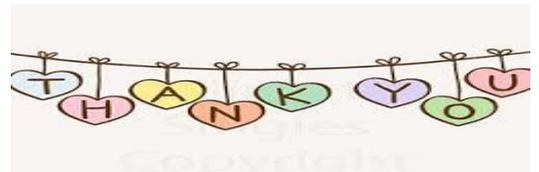
Team 10:

P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

Team 11:

E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

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 all parishioners who contributed to the Jesse Tree. Your gift given with love was gratefully received by the happy recipient.
Wishing you all a truly Happy and Holy Christmas.*

Scripture Readings & Reflections

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Veronica Lawson RSM

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C (Luke 1:39-44)

The fourth Sunday of Advent draws us closer to the celebration of the Christmas mysteries. The gospel offers the story of the young pregnant woman, Miriam of Nazareth, travelling in haste from her home town of Nazareth to the hill country of Judaea, some 130 kilometres to the south, to be with an older woman who is also pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth. Mary enters “the house of Zechariah” who remains silent and in the background throughout. While Zechariah is the householder according to Jewish law, his earlier reluctance to believe renders him silent and powerless to offer hospitality. Elizabeth’s contrasting openness to recognise and affirm the living presence of God in their midst makes her the true householder and foreshadows the reversal that is to characterise the new order, an order that is yet to be fully realised. The two women embrace and, in their loving embrace, the Spirit-filled life gestating within Mary encounters and physically affects the life that is coming to birth in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth’s words resound throughout the ages in the prayer we know as the Hail Mary: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb....” These are the words of one woman prophet to another. Elizabeth recognises that Mary is blessed by God because she believed that God’s promise to her would be fulfilled. As God’s prophet, Elizabeth gives expression to the faith that is to be embraced by all who accept that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Miriam of Nazareth, is the Holy One of God (Luke 1:35). The lives of both women have been transformed through the power of God’s Spirit. The birth of their children will bring to birth unprecedented events in human history.

Elizabeth’s proclamation of the blessing of God on Mary is found daily on the lips of countless faith-filled Christians across the globe. It echoes the blessing prayer of Moses to the Israelites (Deuteronomy 28: 2-4): “May you be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Blessed is the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock....” This ancient blessing recognizes the interconnection of all God’s creation. We might make it our own blessing prayer. In our times, God’s blessing on the whole Earth community can only become a reality when we stop playing politics in the interests of short-term gains or personal greed, when we read the signs of the times and work together to address the underlying causes of global warming and

its effects. Advent is not a time of passive waiting. It is a time to ponder the various ways that God sustains life in its diverse forms. It is a time to become householders, like Elizabeth, who clear the paths and open our doors for the God of life to enter in.net.



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK Feast of The Holy Family, Year C

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel (Luke 2:41-52)

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day’s journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him and his mother said to him, ‘My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.’ ‘Why were you looking for me?’ he replied. ‘Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father’s affairs?’ But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Question of the Week

When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

(Source: Pastoral Centre.com)