



*A shared newsletter for the Parishes of St Alipius' Parish
Ballarat East and Buninyong & St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat*

The Baptism of the Lord (Year A) Sunday January 12th 2020

The parishes of St Patrick's Cathedral and St Alipius' acknowledge that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

We are Child Safe Parishes following the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government, implementing procedures and standards as directed by the Professional Standards Office of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

During January, with Parish Coordinators on annual leave and the Ballarat East Parish Office closed, we will have a shared Parish newsletter. The Cathedral Office will be open 10am – 5.00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please contact Juanita Bongiorno on 5331 2933 or ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Next Weekend's Readings and Mass times

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A, 12th January 2020

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6	1 Corinthians 1:1-3	John 1:29-34
Cathedral 6.30pm Vigil,	8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm	
Ballarat East 6.00pm Vigil,	9.00am	Buninyong 10.30am

Masses during the coming week

- Monday 12.05 pm Cathedral
- Tuesday 12.05 pm Cathedral
- Wednesday 12.05pm Cathedral
- Thursday 9.30am Ballarat East, 11.00am Mercy Place, 12.05pm Cathedral
- Friday 9.30am Ballarat East, 12.05pm Cathedral
- Saturday 10.00am Cathedral, 2.00pm Ballarat East (Profession of Emma Llewellyn)
- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Cathedral) Friday 11.00am, Saturday 11.30am
- Morning Prayer of the Church (Cathedral) Monday – Saturday 8.00am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Cathedral) Monday & Tuesday 10am-11.45am
- Friday 12.30pm-Benediction 1.30pm

Responsorial Psalm: *All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God*

Anniversaries: Ed Carmody, Murray Casey, John Crowe, Kevin Daly, Florence Flynn, Thomas Hartigan, Tony Houlihan, Mary Payne, Bert Pollard

We pray for those who are unwell: Kateri Byrne, Fr. Denis Dennehy, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott

Thank you to all who contributed to the **collections last weekend**

Ballarat East	Envelopes \$792.70	Parish loose \$300	Presbytery \$641
Ballarat Cathedral	Envelopes \$1478	Parish loose \$153.95	Presbytery \$1725.35
	Christmas Offerings \$1,335		

Counting Teams

Ballarat East	This Week: L. Noonan Team 1	Next Week: C. Tarquinio Team 3
Cathedral	This Week: Team 4	Next Week: Team 5

Clergy Appointments

Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Jorge de Chavez OSJ as Parish Priest of St Alipius' Parish Ballarat East and Buninyong. Later in January, Fr Jorge OSJ will be joined by Fr Eladio OSJ to form an Oblate community at the Ballarat East presbytery. Fr Eladio will be Chaplain at ACU Aquinas Campus and St Pat's College as well as assisting in the Parishes of Greater Ballarat.

Fr Sajan Mathew appointed Administrator of the Parish of Bungaree, Visiting Priest of Gordon.

Fr Peter Jose CMI has been appointed to the Parish of Robinvale – Manangatang.

Fr Jim McKay will assist Fr Eugene McKinnon in the East Wimmera Parish of Mary Glowrey (Banyena, Birchip, Boort, Charlton, Donald, Nullawil, St Arnaud, Wedderburn & Wycheproof).

We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism (celebrated at the Cathedral):

Seamus Joseph Cahir	son of Nathan and Maria
Luna Grace Reid	daughter of Joanne and Kelly
Willow Pamela Vargas	daughter of Herbert and Tammy



"The Church gives the faith to your children through Baptism and you have the task to make it grow..." Pope Francis.

May they grow in faith with the support of their families and our Catholic Community

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Festival

Welcome to all who are visiting our communities for the 25th Organs of the Godfields Festival! The Festival continues this week with the following recitals at St Patrick's Cathedral:

Sunday January 12th at 3.00pm, an organ recital by Pavel Kohout;

Friday January 17th at 3.00pm an Organ recital by Thomas Wilson (Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney); Saturday January 18th at 8.15pm, the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral Sydney; and the closing concert on Sunday January 19th at 8.00pm, *Art of Sound Orchestra directed by Mario Debernig.*

For full details of other recitals and bookings contact www.ballaratorgans.com.au

Vinnies Bushfire Appeal

“For more than 165 years, Vinnies Victoria volunteers have assisted people in crisis, and we will continue to be here – for absolutely everyone and anyone who seeks assistance – for as long as we are needed.” Kevin McMahon, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria, State President

Vinnies will be focusing on helping people re-establish their lives through assistance such as:

- the provision of food and petrol vouchers.
- help with medical expenses and unexpected bills.
- replacement of necessary farm equipment, white goods and furniture.
- assisting with sick animals.

Above all, we provide the emotional support of showing, long term, that the community hasn't forgotten them.

How can you Donate?

Donations can be handed to volunteers at our piety stall. This money will be used by Ballarat Conferences to purchase vouchers for fire victims to replace essential tools. Vouchers will be distributed via East Gippsland Conferences.

Electronic donations can be made via the website <https://www.vinnies.org.au>

Please be assured that all donations from Victorians will be directed to Victoria.

Parish Secretary Position – Bungaree and Gordon

The Parish of Gordon and the Parish of Bungaree are looking to jointly employ a suitably qualified person to fill the position of Parish Secretary to support the business and clerical requirements for both Parishes. The position is 12 hours per week for the Parish of Gordon and 5 hours per week for the Parish of Bungaree. More info at: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

- Choose Bungaree or Gordon Parish

Celebration of Profession as a Sister of Mercy

Prayers and blessings are offered for Emma Llewellyn who will make her first Profession with the Sisters of Mercy, Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) at St Alipius' Church on Saturday January 18th. This is indeed a very special celebration and the Parish of St Alipius' is delighted to host this celebration after having Emma within our community and amongst the local Sisters of Mercy during this time of her initial formation and discernment.

A word of thanks

Frs Justin and Jorge OSJ sincerely thank parishioners of Ballarat, Ballarat East & Buninyong for your generosity to us at Christmas through your contributions to the collections, Christmas Offerings and your many cards, gifts, hampers, vouchers, prayers and good wishes to us.

We greatly appreciate your kindness to us at Christmas and all through the year. Thank you.

Reflection on the Gospel – Baptism of Jesus Year A

(Matthew 3:13-17)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

According to the Church calendar, today's celebration of the Baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. In many cultures, this feast coincides with the end of the Christmas break, the return to work and to the regular patterns of life. Some of us have been fortunate enough to get some "down time" since Christmas, precious time to reflect on the past year, alone or with loved ones, to set goals for the year ahead and to move into Ordinary Time with renewed life and vigour. For those affected by the prolonged and increasingly devastating bush fires in this land and on the west coast of the United States, Ordinary Time this year will be anything but ordinary. Their struggle to rebuild their lives and their homes invites us in the first place to open our hearts and to share our resources. It invites us to open our eyes to the changes we can expect as our planet warms. It also alerts us to our particular personal and collective responsibility to change the way we live so that life on this planet might actually have a future.

The baptism story is an initiation or commissioning story. We hear it against the backdrop of the first reading from Isaiah 42. Jesus is God's chosen one on whom God's Spirit rests. The voice of God commissions God's chosen to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare: to be a light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. A Spirit-filled life consists in fulfilling such a mission.

In Matthew's account of the baptism, "the heavens are opened" and Jesus sees God's Spirit descending on him "like a dove". While the image of the heavens opening presents an ancient three-tiered understanding of the structure of the cosmos, we might nonetheless appreciate the sense it evokes of the all-encompassing cosmic nature of this commissioning event. God's words are addressed to all who listen to the gospel: "This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Jesus' mission is to be understood in terms of "righteousness" or right relationship. Jesus' insistence that John baptise him despite John's reluctance points to the reversal of values that will characterise his mission. There is no pursuit of status or personal aggrandizement in a gospel way of life. Right relationship lies rather in respecting as God's creation the entire Earth community, in bringing forth justice and setting the captives free. Each one of us can make a difference to the "ordinary time" of those with whom we share life on this planet. The image of "the heavens" opening might serve as a reminder of the destructive effects of human-introduced space debris and of our responsibility to promote global legislation that might inhibit further devastation of this kind.