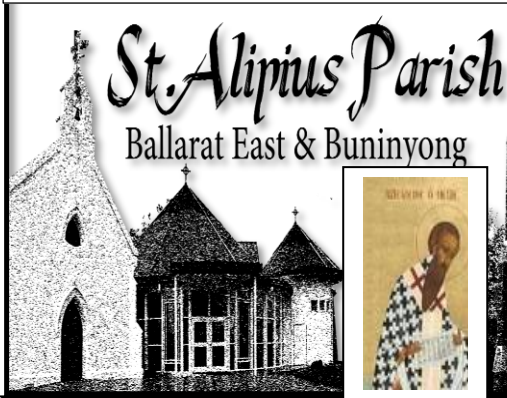


# Welcome to



**St Alipius' Parish Church**  
82 Victoria St., Ballarat East 3350

**SS Peter & Paul's Church**  
701 Fiskens St., Buninyong 3357

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

*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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

#### Office Hours:

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

#### Liturgy Online:

- [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)
- [sapliturgy@gmail.com](mailto: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 Ministry:** Carmel Flynn, Kathy Curran

#### Masses during the week

##### St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East for 180 attendees

Monday to Saturday 9.30 am

##### Registration Necessary for weekend Masses

(Registration by phone or online @ [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au))

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)

10:30 am (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)

##### Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong for 150 attendees

Sunday 9:00 am (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)

10:30 am, (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)

(Please ring Margaret McCarty 0423 208 286)

##### Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese Website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

St. Alipius' Parish Liturgy Website:

[www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

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

11:30 am Tuesday to Sunday

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES:

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ARE PLAYED 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO MASS

**St Alipius (Ballarat East): Christmas Vigil (December 24) Mass times are 6pm, 8pm, midnight.**

**Christmas Day Mass (December 25) is at 8am.**

**Ss Peter & Paul (Buninyong): Christmas Vigil (December 24) Mass time is at 7pm.**

**Christmas Day Mass (December 25) is at 9.30am.**

#### NEW YEAR'S MASSES

**St Alipius church only. New Year's Eve at midnight: New Year's Day at 9 am.**





### Prayer Intentions:

**Recent Death:** Felix "Bimbo" Ramos (P)

**Anniversaries:** Jim Power, Lyn O'Brien, Tracy Howard

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

### Wanting to come to Mass in the Parish?

**St Alipius (Ballarat East)** can now accommodate 180 people.

**Ss Peter & Paul (Buninyong)** can accommodate 100 inside the church plus another 50 in the Narthex

ALL those attending Mass on the weekends or over Christmas **MUST** register your attendance either with our online pre-registration ([sapliturgy.net.au](http://sapliturgy.net.au)) or the QR Code system when arriving, including children over 1 year old. Welcomers can assist you if you haven't used the QR system before.

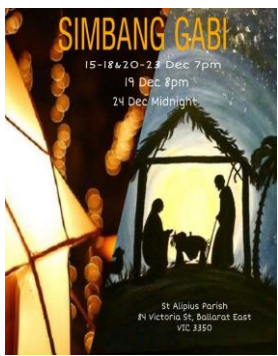
All those attending Mass during the week **MUST** use the QR contact system on arrival.

We encourage you to wear your facemask during Mass. **At St Alipius church** we have every 2<sup>nd</sup> pew being used. Family groups may use a whole pew, while single attendees are asked to limit seating to 3 people per pew, maintaining social distancing, **At Ss Peter & Paul church** every 2<sup>nd</sup> seat should be used. Please follow instructions for seating on arrival.

### Liturgy Roster for Christmas & New Year Masses.

Roster templates for both St Alipius community and Ss Peter & Paul community will be placed in the porch of both churches. We ask those who can be involved in the liturgical ministries to write their names in the spaces for the following roles for as many Masses as they are interested:

Sacristan	Welcomer (2 people)	Reader (2 people)
Special Minister of the Eucharist (2 people)	Powerpoint Operator (1 or 2 people)	Musician (up to 5 singers plus any instrument players)



Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition and it is also the spiritual preparation Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a series of nine Masses days leading up to Christmas, it will be held at St Alipius Parish Church, 84 Victoria St., Ballarat East on the 15<sup>th</sup> until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December at 7.00pm. Christmas Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 12 midnight.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

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

*Envelopes \$ 691.00    Direct Debit \$675.00    Presbytery \$ 752.30*



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

**Hudson Alfred Jakins** son of Andrew and Grace

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

*Bishop's Annual Christmas appeal*

At Christmas Masses in the Diocese of Ballarat all are invited to contribute to the special collection that seeks to respond to some of the many who seek assistance from us. Envelopes are available on the church seats. Many thanks. The money from last year's appeal is distributed as follows:

St. Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal	\$ 5,000.00	Catholic Mission	\$ 5,000.00
Caritas Australia	\$ 5,000.00	Taal Volcano Appeal (Philippines)	\$ 5,000.00
St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal Ballarat	\$ 5,000.00	Nazareth House Ballarat	\$ 4,000.00
St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal Mildura	\$5,000.00	3BA Christmas Appeal	\$ 4,000.00
Exodus Community Wendouree West	\$ 2,000.00	ACRATH	\$ 2,000.00

*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*

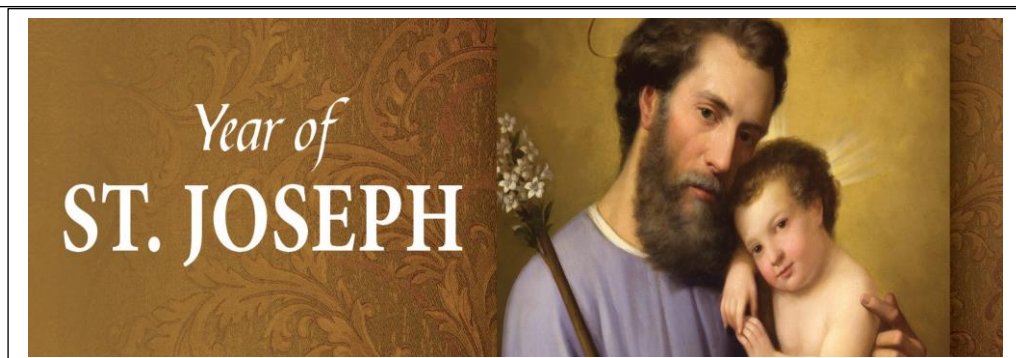
This year there will be a change to the Jesse Tree donations at St. Alipius and Sts. Peter and Paul Buninyong. We have decided to assist those who are needy and alone. There will be a wishing well next to the tree and we would welcome cash donations instead of taking a card to purchase a gift. We will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

*St. Alipius' Advent Anointing Mass*

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 12 noon**, we will have the anointing mass. Those needing transport please contact the parish office or ring **0432569070**. **There is no mass at 9:30 am on this day**

*Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent*

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 10 am until 11:30 am At St. Alipius' Church.**



*Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"*

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.





## Reflection on the Gospel

***FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28)***

*Veronica Lawson*

We are all familiar with Luke's story of the annunciation, a story that has inspired artists through the ages. God's messenger, Gabriel, approaches a young Galilean Jewish woman, Mary of Nazareth, and greets her as God's graced one. The angel's greeting to Mary is unique. No other person in the Christian scriptures is addressed as "favoured one" or "graced one". The Greek form *kecharitōmenē* contains within it the notion of grace, *charis* in Greek. It can also mean "mercied one".

Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting, succinct as it is. After being addressed as "favoured or mercied one", she is told only that God is with her. She knows the traditions of her people. She knows that those said to be the graced or favoured of God (Noah and Moses and Gideon and Samuel) are called to be agents of God's saving action and to carry heavy responsibilities. Now a young woman is called to be God's agent. In a formula that forms part of angelic announcements of birth, the angel tells Mary not to be afraid and reassures her by stating explicitly that she has been graced by God. The angel then proceeds to announce the conception and birth of the child she is to name "Jesus". This child will reign forever. The prophecy of Nathan, recounted in today's first reading, is to be fulfilled in the conception and birth of Mary's son who is also, and especially, God's son in the line of David who in his turn was first of many "sons of God" called to rule with the justice and the wisdom of God. In the face of almost constant failure on the part of the kings, later prophets projected Israel's hope into the future and looked for one who would truly have the characteristics of God, who would truly be "son of God".

Mary's response to the angel, "How can this be...?" echoes the prayer of David in the continuation of today's first reading: "Who am I...and who are we that you have brought us to this point?" (2 Sam 7:18). Mary learns that God's dwelling place is her own human flesh and that this extraordinary event will be accomplished through the grace of God and the power of God's Holy Spirit. Mary is also to learn that her cousin Elizabeth with conceive a child despite her age "for nothing will be impossible for God." The mysterious workings of God in our world invite the response of Mary: "How can this be...?" As we approach the celebration of the ongoing comings of the Christ into our world, we might pause to wonder at the goodness of God at work in all that incarnates the grace and mercy of God. Let us give thanks in the spirit of today's gospel for the deep incarnation we celebrate at this time, even if pandemic continues to place limits on our communal celebrations.

*Readings for this week: Fourth Sunday of Advent*

***First: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16***

***Second: Romans 16:25-27 Gospel: Luke 1:39-45***

*Readings for next week: Feast of Holy Family*

***First: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3***

***Second: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40***

