

*Welcome to
St. Alipius Parish*
Ballarat East & Buninyong



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.

12th December 2021
Third Sunday of Advent



*God of Compassion
Breathe into us solidarity with all
who suffer now,
and the future generations who will
suffer because of our environment
irresponsibility.
Help us to put people before profit,
and being before having.*

Parish Office & Presbytery:

- 84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350
- 5332 6611
- ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

*Tuesday 10.00am to 3.30pm
Wednesday through Friday 10.00am till 1.00pm*

Liturgy Online:

- www.sapliturgy.net.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Parish Coordinator: Bronwyn Ballesty

PPC Chair: Cathy Prunty

Child Safety Officer: Bronwyn Ballesty

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Finance Com. Chair: TBA

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn

Masses during the week
St Alipius' Church at 9.00am

Weekday masses will be held on Wednesday (Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary) Friday and Saturday. Maximum of 50 people.

Vaccination Status is not required.

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 9:00 am (1st, 3rd and 5th)

10:30 am (2nd and 4th)

Rosary and divine Mercy will be said each morning after the 9.30am mass. Please join us on the left of the church.

Ss Peter & Paul's Church,
Buninyong

Sunday 9:00 am (2nd and 4th)

10:30 am, (1st, 3rd and 5th)

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting Team No .7 will be on this week.

Bevelander, Lister, Maguire

In our prayers we remember.....

Recent Deaths: Peter Begbie

Anniversaries: Margaret Clifford, Jim Power

Unwell: We pray for Mary Hall, Perla Manguiat, Peter Kelly, Betty McGarry, Valerie Reilly (UK), Anne D'Cruz (Singapore), Peter Saunders, Agnes Peters, Brian (Jack) Patton, Ray, Ann Coswello, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Margie Wilmott, Letitia Simmons, and all who are unwell.



This weekend we welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:

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

(Pope Francis)



Kenzie Blaszk

Daughter of Andrew and Kassie

May these children grow in Love and Faith with the support of their family and their Catholic Community



OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch


OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers will be preparing free, hot Christmas meals for people to collect on Christmas Day. This is the 30th year the parish has provided Christmas lunch for those in need. Bookings are essential, ph. 0419 975 914 or email


christmaslunchwendouree@gmail.com. Arrangements can be made for those unable to collect meals.

CatholicCare Victoria Giving Tree Appeal

This pandemic has been hard on us all. But as with every disaster, COVID-19 is making the already vulnerable more vulnerable still. Your generous donation to this year's Giving Tree Appeal will provide practical and financial support for struggling Victorian families - from three square meals a day to help with utility bills... every gift you choose helps. To donate go to

<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/14/giving-tree-appeal>

 **THE BRIDGE MARKET**
presents
MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS
at BRIDGE MALL
December 4 – 5 and
December 11 - 20, 2021



MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS
is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries.

You can - see and smell real frankincense and myrrh;

- see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; and
- see cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica)
- Nativities that prize social justice and the environment

Entry is a gold coin donation. Every one welcome.

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 Evenings of Masses leading up to Christmas. It will be held in St Alipius Church, from December 15th to the December 23th at 7.00pm.

Please note when mass falls on Saturday (18th) this will be held at 8.00pm.

On the 24th mass will be at midnight.



Planned Giving



Should you wish to continue our Planned Giving or contribute to the First Collection, please place 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

Presbytery \$ 1183.00 Envelopes \$338.00 Loose \$ 100.00

We thank you for your continued Support



Upcoming Dates in the Parish Community

December

12 th	Working Bee TODAY	11.30am	St Alipius Grounds
15 th	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	6.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong
15-23	Simbang Gabi	7.00pm	St Alipius Church, Ballarat East
17 th	Anointing Mass	9.00am	St Alipius Church
18 th	Simbang Gabi (<i>Sat Mass only</i>)	8.00pm	St Alipius Church
21 st	Penitential Rite (Lay led)	7.30pm	Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong
24 th	Christmas Eve Mass	6.00pm	St Alipius Church, Ballarat East
		7.00pm	Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong
		9.00pm	St Alipius Church, Ballarat East
		Midnight	St Alipius Church, Ballarat East
25 th	Christmas Day	9.00am	Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong
		10.30am	St Alipius Church, Ballarat East
		6.00pm	St Alipius Church, Ballarat East

(pre-booking required)

Working Bee – SUNDAY

The parish will be holding its Working Bee on SUNDAY !!
 This will involve bringing pews back into the church and some general cleaning and tidying. We look forward to sharing this with you all.
 Please stay for a BBQ lunch.
 We look forward to seeing you all there.



Lay-led Advent Penitential Service



Let us gather together to a special lay-led Penitential service to prepare ourselves for Christmas during this time of waiting in Advent. We are focussing on Fr Barry's homily last weekend where he defined 'Repentance' as "Have another look at life through a different lens". Fr Barry noted that we are good people, but we often need to take a fresh approach. This service will help give us a bit of time to challenge ourselves. Please note the following details in your calendar:

When: 7.30pm, Tuesday December 21

Where: Ss Peter & Paul church, 71 Fiskin St, Buninyong.

St Vincent de Paul Society 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, **"EVERY BABY SHOULD BE BORN WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE."** and we invite you to join us in our challenge to *"help provide food and financial aid to families at breaking point"*.

You can donate to our appeal via:

1. **Envelopes** that are available at the end of each pew and at the piety stall.
2. *Envelopes can be put in the collection plate or posted in the Christmas Appeal Box at the Piety Stall. Please write your name and address if you require a receipt.*
3. The **online links** below. The first link will take you to the Ballarat East donation page

<https://my.fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/vinnies-christmas-appeal-2021/svdp-ballarat-east>

The second link below will take you to the general Vinnies page vinnies.org.au (to ensure that your donation is used locally type in "Ballarat East" in the "Comments/Conference Name" section in the final box on the second page of the online

donation process.)

4. By **phone** 13 18 12

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday of Advent Year C

(Luke 3:10-18)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer a penitential period, but rather a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy. This invitation is explicit in the first two readings and implicit in the gospel.

There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John the Baptist is asked, “What must we do?” In line with Luke’s emphasis on the universality of God’s saving power, the responses are directed to “all the people”. Those with even minimal food (something to eat) and clothing (two tunics) are told to share. Tax agents, caught up in a system notoriously open to abuse, are to be honest. Soldiers are given three directives that provide some insight into the negative way the military was perceived: no extortion, no blackmail, and no complaints about wages. The third directive probably derives from the fact that soldiers were better off financially than most others. It is in no sense a prohibition on demands for just wages. In Luke’s depiction of John, there is no critique of the harsh Roman taxation system or of the presence of the Roman army. Here as elsewhere, Luke seems to be seeking acceptance for the Christ movement within the Roman Empire by demonstrating that it is no threat to the occupation and its values.

Luke’s John situates himself in relation to Jesus, the anointed agent of God’s liberation. John describes the one to come in much more fiery terms than the Lukan Jesus turns out to be. His description is more like a self-portrait, especially in light of the fact that John addresses the crowds who flock to him as a “brood of vipers” or “children of snakes” (Luke 3:7). In contrast with John’s water-baptism “for the forgiveness of sins”, Jesus will “baptise” with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire, as we well know in this dry land of ours, is a challenging symbol, both friend and foe. In the first-century *Manual of Discipline* from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and “a holy Spirit” are listed together as the instruments of God’s saving and purifying action.

John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God’s refining and purifying work in the world. We know our own ongoing need for a “baptism” with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by doing what we must: sharing our goods, treating others with dignity, justice and forgiveness as well as responding to the cry of the earth. The question “What then must we do?” is one that we might ask ourselves each day in the face of a changing world order.

Third Sunday in Advent

First: Zeph 3:14-18

Second: Phil 4:4-7 **Gospel:** Lk 3: 10-18

Fourth Sunday in Advent

First: Micah 5: 1-4

Second: Heb 10:5-10 **Gospel:** Lk 1: 39-44

