



*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.

26th December 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph



Parish Office & Presbytery:

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

Office Hours:

The Parish Office will be closed until the 10th of January, where it will reopen on reduced hours until January 25th. We thank you for your support.

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
ballarateastliturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn

Masses during the week
St Alipius' Church at 9.30am

Weekday mass will be held Monday through Saturday mornings.

Mass Times will vary due to Christmas Mass Times.

Thank you.

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

Mass Times will vary due to Christmas Mass Times.

Thank you.

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

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

Counting Teams have been contacted privately

In our prayers we remember.....

Anniversaries: Mary Barnett

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.



Christmas Messages from within the Parish

It is my second Christmas with you my dear parishioners, and together we are able to celebrate amidst the many challenges. Through the years this Christmas becomes the most meaningful to me for it really captures the essence of Christmas; we rejoice on the wonderful truth that God is With Us, He is indeed the Emmanuel. To be honest, what kept me going this trying times are your generous support and constant presence, in all of you I can see and feel Jesus the Son of God Incarnate, for this I am very grateful. In my life and ministry you encouraged and strengthened me.

It is my wish for you and all your loved ones a Blessed Christmas. Let us make our hearts, the crib for Jesus, welcome Him in our brothers and sisters specially those who are in need.

Fr. Jorge, O.S.J

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners and visitors to our parish, a very safe and happy Christmas. A big thank you to Fr. Jorge and Bron for the work they have done in a difficult year and to the many volunteers who, while unseen, continue to devote many hours to ensuring that the wheels keep turning. I look forward to seeing you all and working with you in 2022 in my role as chair of the PPC.

Cathy Prunty

As Christmas draws near reflecting on the year past is always important, giving thanks to those that have nurtured, inspired and laughed with me. It is approaching 12 months since I began working for Fr Jorge and this Community. I want to say thank you. Thank you for your warm welcome to not just myself but to my family. Starting my first day with a coffee cup that I still drink from each day, to the many hands that hold mine as I learn more and more. These are such true signs of God's love that I have each and every day.

Thank you.

Sending you all my wishes for a very Merry Christmas

Bron





Thank you

We extend a special thanks to Fr Barry Ryan, Bishop Peter Connors, and Fr Eladio for their generous support whilst Fr Jorge was able to visit his family. We extend to them our warmest wishes for a peaceful Christmas Season.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every parishioner that has helped to bring this Christmas Season together. From all of the planning stages, the Working Bee, those on the doors, to the cups of tea made for a Parish Staff. For all the thoughts, prayers and ongoing support. We thank you.

Looking Forward Booklet 2021-2025

The new "Looking Forward" pastoral planning booklet 2021-2025 is now available and can be accessed and/or downloaded from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/looking-forward/>. Hard copies will be distributed to parishes in the new year. This new edition of "Looking Forward" provides principles to guide our pastoral planning, includes data about the diocese and offers information on changes to parishes over the next few years.

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.)

Comments/Conference Name (if applicable)

Please type your comment here

4. By **phone** 13 18 12

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



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 \$ 795.00 Envelopes \$628.00 Christmas Offerings \$ 310.00

We thank you for your continued support

Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of the Holy Family Year C (Luke 2:41-52)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time. It is also a time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle various conflicting commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is now six years since the Synod on the Family in Rome. So much has happened globally since then that we are in danger of letting this significant event pass into history without giving it the ongoing attention it deserves. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" merit our attention. For Pope Francis, the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The pope reasserted his constant message that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy."

Today's readings invite us to focus on family relationships. At a very basic level, we are all "children of God" (1 John 3:1), invited to remember the love that God has "lavished on us". In the gospel reading, Luke presents the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who become aware only after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and has not joined the extended family group or *synodia* for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him. This may sound familiar to those who are parents of young adults.

As Luke's story unfolds, Joseph fades from the narrative. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with the wishes or hopes of their parents. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to hold on to them, we do so at our peril, while respecting the fact that many are constrained by lack of employment and affordable housing to remain with their parents well into adulthood. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture their uniqueness, and we pray that they will grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God as responsible members of the whole Earth community.

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

First: 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

Second: 1 Jun 3:1-2 **Gospel:** Lk 2: 41-52

The Epiphany of the Lord

First: Is 60: 1-6

Second: Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8 **Gospel:** Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

