



▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**
701 FISKEN ST
BUNINYONG 3357



▶ **ST ALIPIUS**
82 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350



▶ **PARISH OFFICE**
84 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350
PH 5332 6611
OPEN TUE – FRI
10.00 AM – 1.00 PM

4 December 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare a way for the Lord

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Monday – Friday 9:30 AM
Saturday 9:30 AM and 6.00 PM
Sunday 9.00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
10.30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)
10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 2 this week
Counting Tuesday at 9:30 AM

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

THE COMBINED
COMMUNITIES OF ST ALIPIUS
PARISH REACH OUT IN THE
SPIRIT OF FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE, AND ACCEPTANCE, AS
GOD CALLS US TO IN THE
GOSPELS.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed: Kathleen Perkins

Anniversary:

Unwell: Remy Bourke, Anne D'Cruz, Waffa Ghali, Ray Gregory, Heather Healy, Peter Martin, Betty McGarry, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Trish O'Donohue, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott, and all who are unwell.

Our parish is committed to the safety, well-being, and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

We acknowledge this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.



Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Sacramental and Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council Chair

David Morrison

Finance Officer

Kerrie McTigue

Finance Chair

Paul O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordinator

David Santamaria
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry

Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



FILIPINO CHRISTMAS MASSES

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition of nine masses to spiritually prepare for Christmas and commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to attend these masses at St Alipius at 7:00 PM from Thursday 15 – Friday 23 December. On Saturday 17 December the mass will be at 8:00 PM. A shared Christmas dinner in the hall will follow the final mass on Friday 23 December. Please contact Fr Eladio (0450 017 007) or Dion (0427 876 553) for further information.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Alipius Conference of SVdP is grateful for the support it receives from the parish so it can help those in need. In Ballarat this year, more than \$334k in material assistance was provided to families struggling to survive the cost-of-living crisis. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who is doing it tough this Christmas. Give them hope for a better future by donating using the envelopes located in the churches and placing these in the collection baskets or Christmas Appeal Box at the St Alipius piety stall. You can also donate by calling 13 18 12 or via the website. To ensure your donation is used locally, type "Ballarat East" in the "Comments/ Conference name" section near the end of the form: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

MAKING A SCENE DISPLAY

Making a Scene at Christmas is a display of over 500 Nativities from more than 60 countries, as well as frankincense, myrrh, and coins from around the time Jesus was born. Entry by gold coin donation. Bridge Mall, Saturday 3 December, and from 10–23 December.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Collection basket – **\$968.00** *Presbytery and Priest support*

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$383.20** *Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance.*

For any queries or concerns, or should you wish to join our stewardship program to support our Parish, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie on 5331 2933 or email ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

CARDS AND CALENDARS

2023 Columban calendars (\$10) and St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards (5 for \$5) are available at the piety stall. Proceeds support disadvantaged and homeless people.

THANK YOU

Mark, Cathy, Bridget, and Thomas Prunty would like to acknowledge and thank parishioners for their prayers and support during Connor's short illness and following his passing.

Thanks also to anyone who contributed in any way to Connor's Mass or the refreshments at the Buninyong Golf Club. While we as a family are devastated by our loss, we are also comforted to know that we are surrounded by such caring people. Please know that we are grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you all.

OLHC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree Parish is hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in their hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00 – 2.00 PM. Transport is available if needed. Limited places, so bookings are essential. Phone 0419 975 914 to book or to register your availability to volunteer on the day.

110 YEARS OF VINNIES

December 9th marks the 110th anniversary of the foundation of the Ballarat East Conference of St Vincent de Paul. SVdP takes this opportunity to thank both the parish and school communities for their support and encouragement throughout the journey. We look forward to continuing this relationship in the future. We would be delighted to talk with anyone interested in joining our conference. Please leave your name and contact details with the parish office and we will be in touch.

UPCOMING EVENT

SVDP 110th birthday mass and morning tea
Thursday 8 December, 9:30 AM, St Alipius

Mass for children who received sacraments
Sunday 11 December, 5:00 PM, St Alipius

GIVING TREE APPEAL

The last two years of the COVID pandemic have had a devastating impact on low-income families. Rent prices, unemployment, and mental and physical health issues are just some of the things which can lead to a financial crisis. Please help families in need this Christmas by donating to CatholicCare Victoria's Giving Tree Appeal www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/19/giving-tree-appeal

FREE ADVENT RESOURCES

For Advent resources that provide practical ideas to help families journey through Advent, including a 2022 Advent Calendar, stations of the cross, Nativity packs, and more, visit evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/shop/free-resources/ and <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/>

VOLUNTEERS DAY 5 DEC 2022

Volunteering Australia proudly supports International Volunteer Day (IVD) to raise awareness of volunteers' important role in responding to challenges facing the world. The 2022 theme is "Solidarity through Volunteering". There are millions of volunteers in Australia and the contribution that they make to communities around the country is enormous. IVD is a day to celebrate and promote volunteering. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge, thank and shine a light on the important work of volunteers. It inspires people to volunteer and take action now for the common good of people and the planet www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/events/international-volunteer-day/#/

CARITAS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards are in the form of Global Gifts, including Education, Empowerment, Health, and others. These real items help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. They will bring joy to the recipient and help them build a better future. This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll-free.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

Climate change damages our homes and land, so the impact on our neighbours in the Pacific is extreme. Our voices, together, can get governments and polluters to take action to achieve climate justice and protect our common home. Support Caritas Australia's climate action campaign by signing the pledge at www.caritas.org.au/act/climate-change-action/

ST VINNIES FLOOD APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions can be made by calling 13 18 12 or visiting the appeal website: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>.

You can also make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shop or purchase an appeal token at your local IGA to support the recovery of devastated Victorians.

ADVENT WITH POPE FRANCIS

The global Hozana prayer online community platform: <https://hozana.org/en/community/11261-advent-with-pope-francis-and-laudato-si> offers an online Advent retreat guided by the words of Pope Francis and his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, to prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world and of all Creation. The theme is "Preparation for the Good News", a pathway for our encounter with God, Jesus Christ, who comes to meet us in Creation. Each week you will view a short clip of "The Letter", a documentary with Pope Francis on *Laudato Si'*, followed by a brief reflection on that topic and a prayer.

BAPTISM

Eden Dorothea Van Meel
Child of Samuel and Jacquelin

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

2023 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Expressions of interest are invited to join a fully escorted, all-inclusive pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 11–24 June 2023. Arranged through Lifestyle Travel Ballarat and accompanied by Fr Justin Driscoll. Visit Jordan, Petra, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Jericho, and Qumran. For further information, phone Fr Justin on 0448 220 685 or email info@lifestyletravel.com.au.

UKRAINE ADVENT APPEAL

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSSR, Eparch of Ss Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. Collections on the third Sunday of Advent will support Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at www.catholic.au

BISHOPS ASSEMBLY IN FIJI

The Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania will be held in Fiji on 5-10 February 2023. Please pray for blessings on this assembly www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/federation-of-catholic-bishops-conferences-of-oceania/.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

2nd Sunday of Advent: Matthew 3:1–12

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times of fluctuating flood and fire and desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptist is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way..." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight, and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing *metanoia* or re-evaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kin-dom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kin-dom is both present and yet still approaching: the verb used here, *ēngiken*, allows for this ambiguity.

The first reading from Isaiah (11:1–10) provides content to the notion of kin-dom or *basileia*: John is

announcing the advent of God's long empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (*metanoia*). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judaea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for *metanoia* (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out".

Prepare the way

Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. In our gospel text, it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as



we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is 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 recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care for all God's people and for all creation.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 11:1–10
ROMANS 15:4–9
MATTHEW 3:1–12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 35:1–6, 10
JAMES 5:7–10
MATTHEW 11:2–11