



▶ **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

25 December 2022

The Nativity of the Lord Day

Today is born our saviour

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday &
Friday 9:30 AM
Saturday 9:30am & 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

No counting team this week

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Anniversaries: Mary Barnett

Unwell: Remy Bourke, Anne D'Cruz, Waffa Ghali, Ray Gregory, Noreen Griffin, Heather Healy, John Healy, Peter Martin, Betty McGarry, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Trish O'Donohue, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott.

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.



St Alipius
Parish Community

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



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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

My dearest St Alipius family, Glory to God in the highest and peace and love to one and all! It is my third 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 in the wonderful truth that God is with us. He is indeed the Emmanuel. To be honest, what kept me going in these trying times is 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. I invite you all to do the same with each other.

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

Fr Jorge

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,411** Presbytery and Priest support Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$538** 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

GIVING TREE APPEAL

The last two years of the COVID pandemic have had a devastating impact on low-income families. Rent increases, unemployment, cost of living pressures, and mental and physical health issues are just some of the things which can lead to a financial crisis. Please help a family in need this Christmas by donating to the CatholicCare Victoria Giving Tree Appeal:

www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/19/giving-tree-appeal

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 24 December

6:00 PM St Alipius (carols 5:30 PM)

7:00 PM Buninyong

9:00 PM St Alipius

11:00 PM St Alipius

Sunday 25 December

9:00 AM Buninyong

10:30 PM St Alipius



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will close for the Christmas and New Year period at 1:00 PM on Friday 23 December and reopen on Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 10 AM. We wish everyone a very happy and safe festive season.

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Bishop Paul's Christmas message can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/XtPS8nZ3ifY>

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This appeal supports a variety of local and distant charities. Last year's appeal provided support for the people of Ukraine, the Catholic Mission, Nazareth House, Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal, and others. A collection will be taken up at our Christmas masses. Donations can also be made via the diocesan website.

CARITAS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts, assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. They bring joy to the recipient and help them build a better future. Please buy a gift that changes lives at www.globalgifts.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Alipius Conference of St Vincent de Paul is grateful for the support it receives from the parish so it can help those in need. 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.

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>. To ensure your donation is used locally, type "Ballarat East" in the "Comments/Conference name" section near the end of the form. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Office closed

23 December – 10 January 2023

Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Recital

Monday, 16 January, St Alipius

ONLINE STUDY IN 2023

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is a new initiative that offers adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. This US\$50 online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through the diocese's partner, Dayton University. There are 36 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open for 2023's first cycle which begins 9 January. For details, visit www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/ or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

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>.

RITE OF ELECTION 2023

12:00 PM, Saturday 25 February at St Patrick's Cathedral with lunch to follow in the hall.

MASS OF THE OILS 2023

6:30 PM, Monday 3 April at St Patrick's Cathedral with supper to follow in the hall.

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.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA APPEAL

Christmas is a time of miracles – of hope and renewal. Throughout rural Vietnam, children and families living with disabilities, like Mrs Lan and her children Quan and Loah, are less likely to be employed, and children are less likely to go to school. Mrs Lan's dreams for her children are simple. She wants them to "live like every other child, going to school, playing, having a happy life, and growing and learning like other children." Through the generosity of Caritas supporters, Quan and Loah joined a community-based classroom and learned to socialise with other children and found confidence in themselves. They found more joy from having fun with others, learned to tell jokes, and found themselves smiling more. This Christmas, you can help create opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and to enable more families like Mrs Lan's to access resources to improve their income and living status. Please join Caritas Australia's wonderful community of generous supporters this Christmas in giving loving parents of children with disabilities the incredible gift of seeing their children smile. Call 1800 024 413 toll-free or visit www.caritas.org.au/christmas to help bring more smiles to children's faces this coming year.

BAPTISMS

Dustin Yeshua Lape

Child of Dean Lape and Rikka Lacbayo

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

Pope Francis

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/.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2023

Pope Francis' message for the 56th World Day of Peace, 1 January 2023, "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace" is available from www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Christmas: Matthew 1:1–21, Luke 2:1–20, John 1:1–18

The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary from celebration to celebration. The prologue to Matthew's gospel provides the first part of the gospel for the Christmas Vigil Mass. The first two words of the gospel (*biblos geneseōs*) evoke the first words of the Book of Genesis and thus locate the child to be born within the broad sweep of the birth of the cosmos. At the same time, the child Jesus is identified as Messiah or *Christos* (the anointed of God) and a descendant of Israel's ancestors, Abraham, and David. His name is symbolic of the salvation or liberation he will bring for "his people". At this time of Earth's distress, we are conscious of our need to be saved from our "sins" which include our capacity to destroy God's world for selfish gain.

The gospel for Midnight Mass (Luke 2:1-14) comes from the great storyteller, Luke, as does the gospel for the early morning Mass (Luke 2:15-20). Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the

people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace, albeit by violent means. Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus rather than Caesar Augustus as the face of God, as saviour of the world and as bringer of the good news of peace.

*All things came into being
through the Word*

Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The violence that brought the "peace" of the Caesars to the Roman Empire has no place in this scene. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and



reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of our hearts.

On Christmas morning, we hear the words of John's prologue. Once more, Earth's genealogy in Genesis 1 is evoked: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God." The gospel then asserts that "all things came into being" through the Word and that "what has come into being was life and the life was the light of the people". These assertions prepare the way for the extraordinary statement that the Word was enfleshed and tented among us. John brings home to us the momentous nature of the incarnation, the deep incarnation that embraces all of God's creation.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 62:1–5, ISAIAH 9:1–7, ISAIAH 52:7–10
ACTS 13:16–17, 22–25, TITUS 2:11–14, HEBREWS 1:1–6
MATTHEW 1:18–25, LUKE 2:1–14, JOHN 1:1–18

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

NUMBERS 6:22–27
GALATIANS 4:4–7
LUKE 2:16–21