



▶ **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

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/)

26 November 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

*The Lord is my shepherd*

# St Alipius parish

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Friday 2:00 PM anointing mass

Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weeks)

10:30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

Rosary – Tuesday 6:30 PM

### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

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

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

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

Counting team 3 this week – 9:30 AM

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

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

## WE PRAY FOR

**Faithfully departed:** Agnes Hughes (Arundell)

**Anniversaries:** Anne Veronica Duck, Peter Begbie

**Unwell:** Socorro De Chavez, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Patricia Murry, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

## PARISH TEAM

### Parish Priest

Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

### Visiting Priest

Fr Barry Ryan

### Sacramental and Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

### Administrative Assistant

Natalie Shannon

### Finance Officer

Bernadette Prestwood

### Child Safety Officer

Emily Clarke

## PARISH VISION

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.

## PARISH MISSION

Our mission in the Parish of St Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel.

Strengthened in the spirit of faith, hope, love acceptance and Mercy, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Guided by God's call to service, we aim to build strong connections, provide spiritual nourishment, promote social justice, and offer support to individuals and families in their journey of faith.

Through our dedicated interactions, we seek to deepen our relationships with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.



**Our Lord  
Jesus  
Christ, King  
of the  
Universe**

## FR JORGE FAREWELL

Father Jorge's final mass with us will be on Christmas Day. He heads off on Boxing Day for the long drive across the Nullarbor to his new parish in Western Australia. Everyone is invited to join Fr Jorge for a farewell mass at 6:00 PM on Saturday 9 December at St Alipius, followed by a BBQ in the church grounds (weather dependent). This is our chance to gather as a parish to thank and say goodbye to Fr. Jorge. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Sausages will be provided. BYO drinks.

## CHURCH WORKING BEES

To prepare our churches for Christmas, the Parish Pastoral Council has organised a working bee at each church. Tasks include cleaning, weeding, and setting up Nativity scenes. If you can spare some time, please join us after Sunday's 10:30 AM mass at St Alipius on 26 November, and at Ss Peter and Pauls on 3 December.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Anointing Mass

2:00 PM, Friday 1 December, St Alipius

#### Farewell Mass and BBQ for Fr Jorge

6:00 PM, Saturday 9 December, St Alipius

## LITURGY ROSTER

The St Alipius liturgy roster for December and January will be emailed to volunteers this week. For those not on email, hard copies will be provided in the sacristy. Please remember to diarise when you are scheduled and arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of mass to sign in and check that all volunteers have turned up. Thank you.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated.

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,068
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$248.20

We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

## ANOINTING MASS

Parishioners are invited to attend our anointing mass at St Alipius at 2:00 PM on Friday 1 December, followed by a cuppa in the hall. A small plate to share following mass would be welcome. If transport is required, please call the parish office on 5332 6611.

## ALTAR SERVERS

The Children's Mass at 6:00 PM on Sunday 24 December provides a wonderful opportunity for any children in the parish who are interested in participating in the mass as an altar server. If you have children who are interested, please let the Parish Office know. Training will be provided, and altar servers will have an opportunity to serve during Advent Masses with coaching, in preparation for the Children's Mass.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, so masses that weekend will be as follows:

**Saturday 23 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent vigil**  
6:00 PM – St Alipius

**Sunday 24 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 AM – Ss Peter and Paul's  
10:30 AM – St Alipius

**Sunday 24 December – Christmas vigil**  
6:00 PM – Children's mass at St Alipius  
7:30 PM – Ss Peter and Paul's  
9:00 PM – St Alipius

**Monday 25 December – Christmas Day**  
9:00 AM – Ss Peter and Paul's  
10:30 AM – St Alipius

## SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Ballarat East Conference of SVdP invites you to support their Christmas Appeal which plays a vital role in enabling the good works of the Society to continue serving the community.

Over the past six months, the Society has provided over \$5.9 million in material assistance, including food, clothing, furniture, and financial support, to families and households in need throughout Victoria. With the current cost-of-living crisis, the assistance they provide for people experiencing hardship this festive season will be needed more than ever.

Parishioners are encouraged to help continue the Society's work of helping those most in need by donating via the envelopes at the end of the pews (put into the offertory collection basket), via [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au), or phoning 13 18 12. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

## PIETY STALL

Packs of five Christmas cards are now available from the Piety Stall for \$5.00. Columban Calendars will be available for \$10 when stock arrives.

### BAPTISMS

**Lylah Hosking**

Child of Callum and Tahlia-Paula Hosking

**Marley Isobel Walker**

Child of Dylan Walker and Jenna Baker

**Lincoln James Burns**

Child of Kyle and Sophie Burns

**Thea Ada Acebu May**

Child of Murray May and Mary Jane Acebu

**Niel Jhopet Acebu Copertino**

Child of Nolly Copertino and Mary Jane Acebu

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

Pope Francis

## CHANGES TO POWERPOINT

In keeping with the Diocese of Ballarat's [Guidelines for the Use of Visual Display Systems in Liturgical Celebrations](#), starting from the first week of Advent, the parish will be using an updated template for the PowerPoint slides that are used to accompany our masses. The most noticeable change is the reduction in the number of slides to help ensure that the focus of those present at mass is on the sacred mysteries that are celebrated at the altar, not on the overhead projections. Some shorter responses will no longer be displayed, but longer prayers and the lyrics to hymns will still be provided on screen. Please note that the Gloria is not said during Advent or Lent masses.

## OLHC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Lady Help of Christmas Parish Wendouree is hosting Christmas Day lunch in their parish hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12:00 noon – 2:00 PM. Bookings are essential as seating is limited. If you can volunteer on this day, please phone 0419 975914 to register your availability or to book for lunch.

## DEACON ORDINATION

Seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained as a Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 16 December at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. All are welcome to attend.

Singers and musicians are invited to join the music group which is being formed to perform at the ordination. Practices will occur on Sunday 3 and 10 December at the Cathedral. Please register your interest with Julie Boyd at [julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7159.

## ADVENT RESOURCES

Caritas Australia invites you to journey through the four weeks of Advent, reflecting on scripture, and sharing stories from around the world. For resources that explore the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, with a focus on justice and integral ecology which the Pope emphasises in *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023), visit [www.caritas.org.au/advent](http://www.caritas.org.au/advent).

## MERCY PLACE MARKET

Mercy Place are holding their Christmas Market on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November between 1:30PM and 4PM. Everyone is welcome. 60 Corbett Street Ballarat East.

## VICAR GENERAL UPDATE

Fr Kevin Maloney is retiring from the role of Vicar General due to health concerns. Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Marchello Colasante to be the Diocese of Ballarat's new Vicar General. Fr Marcello will continue to serve as parish priest for Ballarat North and Wendouree.

## NATIVITY DISPLAY

To spread a Christmas message of peace, love and family, this year's "Making a Scene at Christmas" display will be spread across two locations: a shop in the Bridge Mall from Tuesday, 5 December – Friday, 22 December and at the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat archives by appointment between 20 November – 22 December, and 4– 20 January 2024. Over 500 Christmas nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed. 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; see handcrafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); and nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Everyone is welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation. Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information, please contact Fiona Tonkin at [Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

# Inheriting the Kin-dom of Justice

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Solemnity of Christ the King: Matthew 25:31–46

“It has long been a common custom to give to Christ the metaphorical title of King.”

These are the words of Pope Pius XI who established this feast between two world wars in the hope of counteracting the growing secularism “in public affairs and politics” and of finding a way towards global peace. Peace would never be achieved, wrote Pope Pius XI, until and unless individuals and nations accept the “rule of our Saviour”.

In many ways, hope for the global reign of the Prince of Peace seems more remote than ever. The challenge of war and the plight of those denied humanitarian assistance have marked new low points in more than a century of violent and ongoing conflict which is claiming lives in ever-increasing numbers.

The three-year pandemic underscored the vulnerability to violence of those rendered poor by the prevailing inequitable global economic system.

The world needs the sort of leadership that Jesus of Nazareth advocated in first-century Palestine, the kind of leadership that Pope Francis offers to our world.

The gospel for today provides a blueprint for Christian living in general and for leadership in particular.

Matthew presents Jesus as both shepherd and sheep: as judge and king on the one hand and as a suffering human (“the least”) on the other.

Works of mercy are the measure of justice or righteousness. Those who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, and set the prisoners free are “the righteous/the sheep” who will inherit God’s empire and have life.

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### *Matthew presents Jesus as both shepherd and sheep*

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Those who fail in these respects are the unrighteous/the goats who fail to recognise the presence of the shepherd/king in the suffering of “the least”.

Why sheep and goats? “Sheep” is a frequent biblical designation for the people of God’s fold. While goats grazed with the sheep, they were never imaged as God’s people, somewhat unfairly, I suggest.

This gospel story is replete with mixed metaphors. It is the gospel source of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that have informed the Christian way of life for centuries. It focuses on suffering humanity.



In proclaiming an eighth work of mercy, care for our common home, Pope Francis has asked us to expand our horizons and to extend our concern to the suffering of the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human.

The Feast of Christ the King brings the church year to a close. It invites us to consider ways to achieve the things that make for peace.

If we wish God’s reign of peace to be realised on planet Earth, then we might heed the invitation of Pope Francis (in both *Laudato Si’* and more recently in *Laudate Deum*) to engage in “grateful contemplation of God’s world” and in daily gestures that “break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.”

We might also take seriously his urgent plea to become a synodal church, listening to one another and walking together in faith and hope.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**  
**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING**  
EZEKIEL 34:11–12, 15–17  
1 CORINTHIANS 15:20–26, 28  
MATTHEW 25:31–46

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
ISAIAH 63:16–17, 64:1,3–8  
1 CORINTHIANS 1:3–9  
MARK 13:33–37