



▶ **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

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

31 December 2023

Feast of The Holy Family

He speaks to us through His Son

St Alipius parish

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Wed – Sat 9:30 am

Saturday 6:00 PM

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

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

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

Recent Deaths: Steven McDougall

Anniversaries: Fr. Paddy Culligan

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

PARISH TEAM

Parish Administrator
Fr Concord Bagoisan, 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.



WELCOME FR. CON

The parish warmly welcomes Fr. Concord "Con" Bagoisan OSJ, from the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph.

Fr. Con was born in a small town in the southern part of the Philippines in 1968. He joined the Oblates in 1985 and was ordained a priest in 1996.

In 2009 Fr. Con began his mission to Australia. His first parish was in Albany, Western Australia, where he started to learn the Australian language and culture.

Fr. Con remembers being asked to "Bring a plate" and wondering why he should bring a plate. Another time he was asked, "How are you travelling?"

Over time, Fr. Con learned the idiomatic expressions we use in Australia, and he still loves learning about the Australian way of life. St Alipius will be Fr. Con's fourth Australian parish.



BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Bishop Paul's Christmas message is available here: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/bishop-pauls-christmas-message-3/.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will not be open during usual hours between Boxing Day and 22 January 2024. We will check emails and messages regularly, so please don't hesitate to make contact if needed.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

CHRISTMAS MASS THANK YOU

Christmas is a special time of the year and it is wonderful to have the opportunity to come together to celebrate it with the Eucharist. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in any way in preparing for or participating in our Christmas Masses. It was a privilege to be able to attend such beautiful celebrations.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Pope Francis' message for the 57th World Day of Peace, which is on 1 January 2024, and titled, "Artificial Intelligence and Peace" is available from:

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20231208-messaggio-57giornatamondiale-pace2024.html.

DIOCESE TURNS 150

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on 30 March 2024. There will be several events held next year to mark this occasion. The latest edition of Our Diocesan Community has a very informative article about the formation of the diocese, written by Sr Berenice Kerr RSM. A timeline of events is on display in each church.

GENEROUS DONATIONS

A number of parishioners have made generous donations to the parish in recently and we wish to thank them. These donations mean that we have new fans in the St. Alipius church which we hope will move the air around, make the environment more pleasant on hot days. We also are thankful for the new lawn mower which has been donated allowing our grounds to continue looking amazing. Thank you for your generosity.

*thank
you*

COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

The College of Consultors is a group of priests who serve as an advisory body for the bishop in the pastoral care of the diocese.

The members of the present College of Consultors will conclude their five-year term at the end of this month and a new College will take up this role from the beginning of January 2024.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, has announced that the following priests will be members of the new College of Consultors: Fr Marcello Colasante, Fr Andrew Hayes, Fr Kevin Lenehan, Fr Ed Moloney, Fr John Monaghan, Fr John Corrigan, Fr Justin Driscoll, Fr George Kuruvila and Fr Neville Stanislaus.

Five of these are members of the current College (Fathers Colasante, Hayes, Lenehan, Moloney and Monaghan). Four will be new members (Fathers Corrigan, Driscoll, Kuruvila, and Stanislaus).

Three members of the current College will be retiring from this role at the end of this month. They are Fr Kevin Maloney, Fr John Fitzgerald, and Fr Jorge de Chavez.

Fr Justin Driscoll will be the contact person for Clergy Life and Ministry.

PRAYING WITH THE POPE

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope's intention for January – For the gift of diversity: Let us pray that the Spirit helps us recognise the gifts of different charisms within the Christian community and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The final edition of Our Diocesan Community has been distributed and is also available to view on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/odc/.

SAVE THE DATES

The Mass of the Oils will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday 25 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall. This Mass will honour the anniversary of the Diocese, so you will note a change in time. Parishioners are all welcome and encouraged to attend.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Everyone is welcome to attend Mass at St. Alipius at 10.30 pm on New Year's Eve. This is a Filipino tradition, which all parishioners are invited to attend. This is a wonderful way to welcome 2024.

AID TO CHURCH IN NEED

The Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has committed an aid package of \$190,000 to support the Christians of the Holy Land during the current crisis. This aid will assist impoverished Christians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, as well as Christian migrant workers and asylum seekers in Israel. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



FR. JORGE'S TRAVELS

At the time of writing the newsletter, Fr. Jorge was nearing his destination, having travelled well into Western Australia. It would seem that his trip has been uneventful and his new parish awaits. He has taken some moments to enjoy the view as he travelled, although much of his travels appears to be long, lonely roads. **Fr. Jorge has asked us to pass on his sincere thanks for your cards and gifts, but particularly your prayers.**



The Best of Parenting

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Feast of the Holy Family: Luke 2:22–40

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a time to think about what family means, to reflect on the successes and struggles of the past year and to consider the inevitable challenges of the year to come.

It can be a difficult time for families facing financial or other concerns. It can be a time to connect with those who are alone or struggling in some way. Few families are exempt from the “sword” that pierces the soul.

The first and second readings for today engage the family story of Sarah and Abraham, of God's promise to give them a child, and of the fulfilment of that promise in the most unlikely of circumstances.

The wonder of God's ways and the need to trust in God are at the heart of their story.

At the same time, there is humour reflected in Abraham's choice of name for their son: “Isaac” means “he laughed”.

Does Abraham detect God's humour in providing a son for an elderly couple? Does he laugh for sheer joy at the birth of the child who will hold the traditions of the past and the hopes of the future?

Whatever about this, the family story of Sarah, Abraham and Isaac

foreshadows the even more extraordinary family story to be found in today's gospel.

Luke depicts Mary and Joseph as observant Jews bringing their child to the Jerusalem Temple in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Law, even if the Law applied only to the woman who had given birth and not to the man.

Mary and Joseph listen in wonderment at what is said of their child

Two prophetic figures, Anna, and Simeon, recognise God's saving and redemptive purpose at work in this child who is presented in the Temple.

Mary and Joseph listen in wonderment at what is said of their child. When they have “fulfilled the demands of the Law”, they return to their hometown of Nazareth.

In the care of Mary and Joseph, the child Jesus grows to maturity, is filled with wisdom and God's favour is with him.

Luke's summary statement introduces us to the wonderful world of a grace-filled family home. It invites us to ponder the wisdom that both Mary



and Joseph had to share with their child.

They taught him to pray and told him the stories of his people. They filled him with wonder at the goodness of God and of God's creation. They mediated the grace and favour of God and watched him grow and gain the strength he needed for life. They allowed him the freedom to develop his own personality and to find his own Spirit-filled way on the earth.

Finally, they had to let him go so that he might follow a path that was beyond their imagining when they came to the Temple in fulfilment of the Law.

In other words, while they did what so many parents would want to do for their children, they knew the pain involved even in the best of parenting.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

GENESIS 15:1–6, 21:1–3
HEBREWS 11:8, 11–12, 17–19
LUKE 2:22, 39–40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 60:1–6
EPHESIANS 3:2–3, 5–6
MATTHEW 2:1–12