



▶ **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
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

24th November 2024

Solemnity of Christ the King

“The Lord is King, he is robed in majesty.”

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tues (No Mass)

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place
(All welcome)

Thurs & Fri 9:30 am

Fri 10.30 am Funeral Prayers
(Buninyong)

Sat 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 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

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

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

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Robert Page, George Edmiston, Imelda Hewitt, Sue Ayres, Paul Bound

Anniversaries: Tracey Howard

Unwell: Kathy Towns, Socorro De Chavez, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest

Fr Matthew Restall

Parish Coordinator

Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant

Natalie Gleeson

Finance Officer

Jackie Wrigglesworth

Child Safety Officer

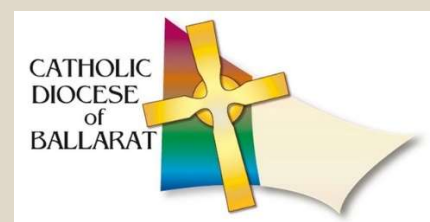
Emily Clarke
Principal – St. Alipius School
Phone: 5331 1816

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.



PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$734
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$393.60

Counting Team this week: No. 7

UPCOMING DATES

Preparation of Nativity Scene

November 28th @ 5pm – Church Grounds

PPC Meeting

November 28th @ 6.30 pm

Anniversary Mass & Picnic

December 14th @ 6pm – Church and Grounds

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

Following consultation with the Bungaree and Gordon Parish Leadership Teams and the Ballarat East Parish Liturgy Team, the schedule for 2024 will be:

Christmas Eve (Tuesday December 24th)

- 4.00pm Mercy Place Ballarat East
- 5.30pm Ballan
- 6.00pm Ballarat East
- 6.30pm Clarkes Hill
- 7.00pm Gordon
- 7.30pm Buninyong
- 9.00pm Ballarat East

Christmas Day (Wednesday December 25th)

- 9.00am Ballarat East
- 9.00am Dunnstown

Each of the three parishes will have one less Christmas Mass than 2023. There will not be a Christmas Mass in either Bungaree or Springbank. The Gordon Parish Leadership Team have decided that the Gordon and Springbank communities will alternate hosting both Christmas and Easter Sunday Masses each year. The above schedule is reliant on the generosity of Frs Kevin Maloney and Wally Tudor assisting Frs Justin and Matt.

LITURGY ROSTER

Preparation has started to organise the liturgy roster for December and January. Please let the office know of any dates you are not available.

Y.C.W. CRICKET CLUB

The Y.C.W. Cricket Club are gathering for lunch at the Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 1st December, 2024. All former players, families and supporters are welcome to attend. For further details please contact Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

◆Christmas Appeal◆

The Ballarat East Conference of SVdP invites you to support our Christmas Appeal. Each year the appeal plays a vital role in raising funds, enabling the continuation of support to those in need.

Between January to October this year SVdP conferences in Ballarat provided assistance to the value \$495,883.00 to local families.

Parishioners are encouraged to help continue the Society's good work of 'helping those most in need'.

Please do so by donating

1. Via envelopes found on pews, please place completed envelopes on collection plate

2. Online vinnies.org.au

3. By phone 13 18 12

Donations greater than \$2 are Tax deductible

◆Christmas Raffle◆

A Christmas raffle will be held with tickets being sold for \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. Ticket sales will commence **after** Masses this weekend, with winners being announced at the Anniversary Picnic on December 14th. PRIZES - first drawn parishioner chooses from three prizes:

BIKE for 6 - 8 year old

HAMPER - including fruit cake, meat voucher and other goodies

DOLLS - porcelain dolls

◆Piety stall - cards and calendars◆

The stall will be open after Masses commencing 23rd November for sale of:-

SVdP Christmas Cards \$5 for pack of 5
St Columban's Calendar \$10

BAPTISMS

Hayley Jane Perkins
Child of Jacob and Laura

'You are precious in my sight and I love you'
Isaiah 43:4

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

A formal report on the Assembly held at Federation University Mt Helen last weekend on Leadership and Governance for a Missionary Synodal Church will be released in the coming weeks. In the meantime, our newsletters for the coming weeks will include reflections from parishioners in attendance as either delegates or facilitators.

Rosemary Canavan (Ballan) reflects on her role as a table facilitator:

Being one table in a room of tables built the atmosphere of knowing that focused on our table, the energy and enthusiasm, discernment, passion and impatience was multiplied across the room.

Led by Karon Donnellan RSM I felt encouraged to facilitate well and the check in meetings with us as a group strengthened us through the journey.

In the table group I felt accepted and trusted. All were committed to the process and very respectful of each other. It is such a privilege to listen to each of the delegates and keep the process on track, holding back others from jumping in to respond, gently but firmly holding to the conversation in the Spirit. It was a sacred time, embraced in prayer with such openness and hope and the honesty of concerns and frustrations.

I am so energised by what was raised in the sessions at our table and across the room. I would so like for us to practice this synodal conversation in the Spirit in our parishes for the power of deeply listening to each other builds bonds of relationship and empowers us in our mission.

This was just a beginning, a beautiful unfurling of the breath and energy of the Holy Spirit so beautifully imaged as "wild goose" by Karon Donnellan RSM and Justin Driscoll PP in input. So much is to be further discerned from all the hopes and dreams and proposals from the Assembly. What a wonderful river of hope running through the diocese.

Rachel Allan (Ballarat East) Delegate

I went to the Diocesan Assembly with the hope of finding a space for renewal—a chance to open outwards, to reimagine our faith for today. I carried with me a concern that we might fall into the temptation of looking back.

There's comfort in the familiar, in what we know, and sometimes it's easy to cling to what's past rather than looking forward. I wondered if we'd turn inward, focused more on preserving what we've always done, rather than opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities ahead.

What I found, however, was something much more hopeful and spirit filled than I had anticipated. The assembly was a living, breathing moment of grace. It wasn't about retreating to what was comfortable; it was about reimagining, discerning, and flourishing. The energy in the room was palpable, and the themes that

emerged—hospitality, inclusivity, and courage—spoke to the heart of what it means to be a Church in the world today. The desire to be open to transformation was evident, and it felt like a collective readiness to accept the challenge of change, much like the challenges Jesus presented to the people of His time.

PARISH ANNIVERSARIES

All are welcome to gather at St Alipius Church for 6.00pm Mass on Saturday evening December 14th 2024. Following the Mass please stay in the Church grounds for a byo picnic tea or a delicious sausage (free from our BBQ). Hot and cold drinks will be available. Photographic displays from across the years are being collated as well as stories of 'people of St Alipius' being recorded.

For more information, please contact the Ballarat East Parish office on 5332 6611

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au. For catering purposes, please RSVP no later than December 7th.

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS



Making a Scene at Christmas will be held in the Bridge Mall from Wednesday December 4th until Friday December 20th, 2024.

Making a Scene at Christmas is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries.

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, hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica) and nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Entry is a gold coin donation. Every one welcome.

OLHC WENDOUREE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482A Gillies Street North, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0491 029217.

Thank you to all the very wonderful volunteers for all their work in making the Christmas Day lunch at OLHC so special over all the years it has been held. We welcome all those who would like to be with us as a guest or a volunteer on the day, and we are especially looking for a few fit people who might commit to two hours of their time between 2.00pm – 4.00pm to clean up/pack up. To volunteer, please phone 0467 683504.

To Rule as God Rules and not as Rome Ruled

Reflection on the Gospel-Solemnity of Christ the King, Year B (John 18:33-37)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The liturgical year always ends with the celebration of Christ's reign. The gospel reading for this year is from John's gospel where the notion of God's kingdom or reign or empire is mentioned only twice in contrast with its frequent appearance in the other gospels, especially Matthew. For readers in countries where democratic rule is valued and promoted, the whole notion of kingship or monarchy poses some difficulty. It is important to put the exchange between Jesus and Pilate into the political context of Roman occupied Judaea of the first century.

Rome was the dominant global force at that time. It had the economic and military strength to maintain its power over the whole Mediterranean world. When Jesus tells Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world, he is not pitting planet Earth or the cosmos over against a purely spiritual world. He is referring rather to the world and values of the Roman Empire and the destructive values that are sometimes espoused by his followers. Jesus' way of being in the world stands in stark contrast with the expansionist and frequently destructive ways of Roman rule. The term "world" is used in two different senses in John's gospel. It is used both literally and metaphorically. On the one hand, it is the world that came into being through the Word (1:10), the beautiful cosmos or world that "God so loved" (3:16). On the other hand, it is a "world" that rejected the light (1:10-11), a sinful world in need of God's saving power (3:17).

Jesus does not claim the sort of over-bearing political, military or economic power that Pilate exercises on behalf of the Roman emperor. His authority has nothing to do with power over or domination of others. It is grounded in truth (1:17) or, in other words, in the revelation of God. Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life" (14:6) and his mission is to testify to the truth. The path to freedom and life lies in acceptance of the truth (8:32): "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Truth is not a given: it must be sought in prayerful dialogue, in listening to earth's distress and in openness to the Spirit of God.

To celebrate this feast is to move in the direction of peaceful solutions to the conflicts in our world and away from the paths of violence, domination and imperial expansionism. It is to seek the truth in dialogue and to respond to the plight of those who suffer the pain of hunger, of persecution and of loss. It is to rule as God rules and not as Rome ruled. It is to look again at how we inhabit our world and to change our ways for the sake of truth and life, the present and future life of our beleaguered planet.



THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Solemnity of Christ the King

Daniel 7:13-14
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18:33-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36