



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 20th May 2024
Term 2 Week 6

P.O. Box 2027
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Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 15th Apr – Fri 28th Jun

Wed 22nd-Fri 24th May
Year 6 Camp

Friday 24th May
2.40pm Assembly led by FLH

Thursday 30th May
4pm Reconciliation Action
Plan Launch in the future
Indigenous Garden

Friday 31st May
2.40pm Assembly led by
6MM

Friday 7th June
2.40pm Assembly led by
5MM

Monday 10th June
King's Birthday Holiday

Friday 14th June
2.40pm Assembly led by
4ML

Friday 21st June
2.40pm Assembly led by
3JW

Friday 28th June
Assembly led by FMM

Term 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 15th Jul – Fri 20th Sep

Mon 15th & Tues 16th July
Student Free Days

Friday 19th July
Start of Term Mass

Friday 26th July
2.40pm Assembly led by 2CK

Friday 2nd August
2.40pm Assembly led by
1EM

Friday 16th August
2.40pm Assembly led by
FTW

Friday 23rd August
Book Week Parade
2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

We celebrated the feast of Pentecost on Sunday which is one of the most significant feasts in the Church calendar. Known as the birthday of the Church it recognises the calling of the disciples to go out and spread the good news.

In the gospels we are told that the Spirit of God descended on the disciples like a dove and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were commissioned to step beyond the safety of their community and to teach others what they had learned about this new faith where a preferential option for the poor was more highly regarded than the richest gold of the mighty kings. This message of universal acceptance was not only new to the masses but it was seen as being counter-cultural in every regard.

More than two thousand years later we still struggle with the message of the gospels. We may want to live a life where we practice universal acceptance for all with a preferential option for those most in need, but somehow life seems to get in the way. One thing that I keep reminding myself though, is that Jesus also preached of a forgiving God. With that in mind, I'll keep doing my best and seek forgiveness when I need to.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin

National Storytime



Along with thousands of students across the Country, we will celebrate National Story Time on Wednesday when our students have to opportunity to gather in the library to enjoy a story together. This year's story is Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker. We hope that everyone enjoys this special Storytime together.

Safe Travel Around Our School

It is vitally important that all adults observe the safety rules when approaching our school at drop off and pick up times. Parents are reminded of the need to be patient and to move with the flow of the traffic along Fortune Street by proceeding up to and around the tree (marked with a white cross) which is on the left-hand side of the road at the Golf Course end of the school. Drivers cannot legally cross the double lines which extend from the bus

Friday 30th August
Fathers/Special Friends Day
Liturgy

Friday 6th September
2.40pm Assembly led by
4BO

Friday 13th September
2.40pm Assembly led by
3DW

Term 4 (11 weeks)
Mon 7th Oct – Fri 20th Dec

Friday 11th October
Start of Term/Mercy Day
Mass

Friday 18th October
2.40pm Assembly led by 2JS

Friday 25th October
2.40pm Assembly led by
1MV

Friday 1st November
2.40pm Assembly led by
5JW

Monday 4th November
Student Free Day

Tuesday 5th November
Melbourne Cup Holiday

Friday 8th November
2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Friday 15th November
2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Wed 20th & Thurs 21st Nov
Year 5 Camp

parking area at the front of the school to the end of the barrier fence that is located opposite the school. Doing so risks the safety of other children and drivers. At pick up and drop off times most traffic on Fortune Street is directly connected to our school community so it is very important that we look out for each other and model safe practices at all times.

Year 5 Sovereign Hill School Experience

Talk about good manners! Our students became well versed in some good manners from 1850's last week when they attended two days at the Sovereign Hill schools. Our children also learned some other important life skills like their 12 and 16 times tables, how to pan for gold and when its best to speak or be silent. Well done children. You excelled at school - 1850's style!

Year 6 Excursion to The Theatre

Our Yr. 6 students had a most enjoyable trip to St. Patrick's College last week to watch the school performance of School of Rock. All our practice in evacuation drills came to the fore when the theatre had to be evacuated but luckily it was only a false alarm. Despite the interruption, the students and staff reported that a good time was had by all!

Enrolments for 2025 Foundation for current families

Enrolments for 2025 Foundation students close Thursday 23 May 2024

The application process for 2025 Foundation (Prep) Enrolments for current St Francis Xavier families in one step: Complete your enrolment by filling out the "City of Ballarat Expression of Interest for Enrolment" form found [here](#).

<https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/enrolments-application-form/>

You will be able to nominate St Francis Xavier as your first preference and nominate the child you are enrolling is a sibling.

New Families to St Francis Xavier are also required to complete the "City of Ballarat Expression of Interest for Enrolment" online and attend an Open Day Tour by booking at <https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/open-days/>

Please note: You are not required to complete a hard copy Enrolment Form. If you have any questions please contact the school office.



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday May 19, 2024 **Pentecost Sunday (Year B)** **Gospel:** John 20:19-23

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven." (*Gospel passage taken from Contemporary English Version*)

Gospel reflection: The disciples were scared of people they thought would hurt them and so they were hiding away. When Jesus came, they rejoiced, and he gave them a very special gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We cannot see the Holy Spirit, like we can see each other. The Holy Spirit is like the wind. We cannot see the wind, but we can certainly feel it on a windy day. We can see the leaves moving in the trees because of the wind, or a kite flying high in the sky. The wind can be very strong and powerful.

Just like the wind, we can see the effects of the Holy Spirit. Can you think of how we might see the Holy Spirit moving in our world?

The Holy Spirit can work through us when we are kind to our family and friends, when we think about other people around the world, and when we work together with people who need our help. The Holy Spirit can also give us courage to speak out, just like the disciples in today's readings. Can you think of a time when it might be difficult to say what you really think?

We can see that the world is not a very fair place. Many children do not have enough food to eat or clean water to drink. What do you think you could do about that?

Our Challenge: What will you do to show the effects of the Holy Spirit in your life? (*Adapted from CAFOD website*)



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Formal Reports

Teachers are in the process of gathering and updating data to assist with writing their Semester One reports. Research shows that children are more likely to perform better when school and families work together. Our formal reports are another opportunity for us to foster our school-home partnership with you. You will receive a formal written report for your child/ren on Thursday 30th June via the Parent Access Module (PAM). This

report will provide feedback about your child's progress and achievement in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

The Semester One Formal Reports will include:

1. A Religious Education comment detailing your child's Semester One learning outcomes and opportunities in alignment with our Awakenings Core Document.
2. A personalised written comment to celebrate your child's achievements, particularly in relation to their Personal and Social Learning.
3. A personalised comment to identify your child's Next Steps in Learning to ensure future success and growth.
4. Level of attainment in the form of a dot on a continuum for the learning areas explicitly taught in Semester One and in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum Achievement Standards:
 - English (Reading & Viewing, Writing, Speaking & Listening)
 - Mathematics (Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry, Statistics & Probability)
 - Visual Arts
 - Performing Arts
 - Health and Physical Education
 - Science - Environmental Education
 - Technologies
 - Humanities- History
 - Capabilities = Ethical (3&5), Personal and Social (F-6) Critical and Creative Thinking (2-6) and Intercultural (4&6)
5. An Auslan grading using a 5 point scale.

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS)

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is a wonderful initiative supporting reading and children's literacy. The official story time book for 2024 is *Bowerbird Blues* written by Aura Parker. This lyrical story follows the journey of a bowerbird on his quest for all things blue, all the while feeling that something is amiss in his life. The bowerbird's collection, dominated by plastic caps, straws and tags invites reflection on environmental pollution and its challenges. You can purchase this Book at Big W for \$10 if you are interested. NSS is a vital campaign that aims to engage children of all ages to read and enjoy books while teaching them the value of literacy.



Here at St Francis Xavier Primary school, all children are invited to join us in our library for this special event on Wednesday 22nd May at 11:00 am. Children visiting our library this week will see a display for the exciting event.

Have a great week.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal / Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News

Breaktime at St Francis Xavier Primary School always looks enjoyable, engaging and fascinating. Structured sports, pretend games, using the sandpit, downball, make believe, role playing, quiet chatting and even solitary reading or drawing - there is an extremely large range of ways our students enjoy their free time outside. For some of our musicians there are lunch time rehearsals with Mr West and the other amazing visiting Instrumental teachers Hattie, Chris and Lauren. As well as for our Sports teams there are try out and training sessions.

Some students choose more of a controlled activity during our break times - did you know there are lots of activities for your child to become involved in? Last year Mrs Meneely did an awesome job of setting up and continuing lunchtime activity groups which include great ways of ensuring our students' voices are considered and heard in different aspects of decision making.

We currently have our Builders and Traders Club and Teddy Bear Picnic (and Reading) happening each week with Mrs Meneely at the helm. As well as the Art Club in the Art Room with Mrs Molloy. You may like to encourage your child to come along and try something new at one of these brilliant lunchtime activities.

Attached is a link to our SFX [SchoolTV](#) Website, where you can jump in and read more about how fun activities and exercise can improve your child's cognitive function, elevate their mood and improve their learning!

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Division Football (AFL)

Congratulations and well done to all the students that braved the conditions and participated in last week's Eureka Division Football tournament. All players showed great skill, teamwork and enthusiasm. Both teams had a great day and achieved some excellent results. A big thank you to the families that came along to support.

Division Soccer

Good luck to the 37 students participating in the Eureka Division Soccer tournament this Friday at Morshead Park. We know that you will have a great day and represent our school well.

Sporting Schools - After School Sports Program

MONDAY - SOFTBALL - (MAY 13, 20, 27, JUNE 3 & 17)

Teddy Bannan, Harvey & Max Banwell, Greyson Broadbent, Jameson Campbell, James & Mitchell Cycles, Harriet Howard, Edward & Macie Lloyd, Harriet Locke, Audrey & Freddy Lynch, Cooper & Spencer Manning, Bailey & Devon McCartin, Arlo, Lola & Sonny Troon, Xavier Uljanic, Cruise & Jagger Van Langevelde

THURSDAY - BASKETBALL - (MAY 16, 23, 30, June 6 & 13)

Damilare, Elizabeth & Mayo Baruwa, Odie Brooks, Mackenzie Donnelly, Isla Easton, Harper, Hazel & River Fedke, Xavier Foster, Edward Giblett, Audrey, Bonnie & Edie Giles, Harper Gull, James Hocking, Harry Logan, Xavier Morris, Indi & Lyla Nestor, Asher & Finn Sutcliffe, Edith & Vivienne Young.

Term 2 Calendar:

- Week 6 - Friday May 24th - Division Soccer @ Morshead Park Redan (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 - Monday May 27th - Regional Cross Country @ Warrnambool (11 qualifiers from Division XC)

- Week 7 - Friday May 31st - Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 v STM @ SFX
- Week 8 - Mon Jun 3rd/Tue 4th/Wed 5th - Golf Clinics (all students Yr 4/5/6)
- Week 9 - Friday June 14th - Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)

Term 3 Calendar:

- Week 1 - Wed July 17th - Fri July 19th - Swimming Program Yr 3 - 6
- Week 4 - Monday Aug 5th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 6 - Friday Aug 23rd - Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 - Friday Sep 6th - Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 @ St James
- Week 9 - Thursday Sep 12th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths - Yr 4, 5 & 6)

Have a fantastic week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

Parents' & Friends' News

Hot lunches: Each Friday we require a minimum of 5 volunteers to help pack our hot lunches for an hour, 11am to 12noon. Please sign up here if you are free to help.



[Hot Lunches](http://signup.com)
signup.com

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 17th May 2024 Hosted by 1JS Theme: Compassion

We treat others the way we would like to be treated. Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering. We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

FLH	Harlee Answer & Patrick Olechnowicz	4GH	Zarli Backman and Sadie Ruxton
FGJ	Imogen Curtain and Will Green	4ML	Alexis Toohey and Noah Rice
FTW	Mya Troon & Jimmy Robinson	4BOK	Lily Davison / Anna Marson
FMM	Harper Fedke & Millie Van Gaans	5CC	Hudson Rowland and Luella Dunstan
1JS	Carter George & Ruby Plover	5MA	Michelle-May Lunn & Zach Cooper
1EM	Ruby Miles and Lillian Armstrong	5JW	Jed Hynes & Bailey McCartin
1MV	Connor Allen & Olive Anderson	6PB	Stella Reus and Milla Alford
2RR	Rome Davis and Banjo Nicholson	6ZA	Laine Anwyl & Rahui Manukoa
2CK	Matilda Bell and Harvey Slater	6MM	Lyla Deturt and Mitch Kane
2JS	Sophie Crumpton and Paityn Grant	EE	Cruize Van Langevelde & Jagger Van Langevelde
3JE	Hamish Nicholls and Myah Rivett	PA	Claudia Cochrane and Mia Hamill 5JW
3JV	Lenny Ryan and Macie Lloyd	VA	Zahli Kingston (1MV) Zarli Backman (4GH) Evie Answer (4GH) Mya Troon (FTW)
3DW	Percy Veal and Keeva Humphries	PE	Mabel Reus, Harvey Kersley
		Tch	Chloe Flynn & Sophie Keating



▶ **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

19 May 2024

Pentecost Sunday

Receive the Holy Spirit

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM
Saturday 9:30 AM, 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

Counting team 3

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: Mary Conroy

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Luka Fletcher-Leskarac, Max Green, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest
Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest
Fr Matthew Restall

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.



COMMISSIONING FOR MINISTRY

Across the parishes of our ministry district, many people serve through liturgical ministries, others in ministries of pastoral care and outreach, some in ministries of Christian initiation, faith formation and Catholic education, and others in leadership and stewardship.

As part of the Diocese of Ballarat's 150th anniversary, those members of our parish who engage in ministries will be commissioned for their service at all masses celebrated this weekend on the feast of Pentecost. We will acknowledge those who have responded to the call to ministries within our church communities and are willing to commit themselves to continued service.

The commissioning allows us to express our gratitude to all who serve in the great diversity of ministries, for as St Paul writes *'There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.'* (1 Corinthians 12,4-7).

UPCOMING EVENTS
Parish Meeting – Acknowledging our Parish's Historic Anniversaries 3:00 PM, Sunday 26 May, St Alipius Hall
Finance and Property Update Meetings 5:30 PM, 29 May, Buninyong Hall 5:30 PM, 30 May, St Alipius Hall
Social Evening and Dinner 6:00 PM, Thursday 6 June
Baptism Preparation 10:00 AM or 5:30 PM, 6 June, Cathedral Hall

ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

St Alipius Parish was founded in 1852 and the first canvas and bark church was built on the current site a year later. The foundation stone for the church at Buninyong was also laid in 1853. 170 years ago, parish priest Fr Patrick Smyth attended the Eureka Stockade and helped Peter Lalor's escape. Our church building was opened 150 years ago, and the bell tower and fence were erected 100 years ago. All parishioners are invited to a meeting in the parish hall at 3:00 PM on Sunday 26 May to share their ideas on acknowledging these historic milestones.

FINANCES AND PROPERTY

The Parish Finance Council will be holding community meetings to update parishioners on the financial position of the parish, including options for the future use of our parish land and buildings and the insurance of our churches and other buildings. These are important issues affecting the future of our parish, so your attendance and input would be greatly appreciated. A meeting will be held at 5:30 PM at each church, at Ss Peter and Paul's Buninyong on Wednesday 29 May, and St Alipius parish hall, on Thursday 30 May.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated. The figures shown below are for the past two weeks:

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,041
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$863

Contact the parish office to join the program and support your parish.

SOCIAL EVENING AND DINNER

You are invited to a social evening and dinner at 6:00 PM on Thursday 6 June to spend time with one another and our new priests Fathers Justin and Matt. The venue is yet to be finalised. Contact the parish office to RSVP.

FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATIONS

The parish welcomes children receiving their first Eucharist and their families at our masses over the coming weeks. We ask you to keep these families in your prayers in their final days of preparation. These children come to us from our local catholic schools and government schools from around the area. They have been preparing for the sacrament with their families.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

From 20–26 May we celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and say thank you, especially those who volunteer in our parish and agencies. This year's theme is "Something for Everyone" and is an invitation to those who wish to explore the many opportunities available. Contact the parish office if you can volunteer in a parish role such as welcomer, sacristan, reader, special minister, visual display operator, cleaner, gardener, or altar server. Resources for volunteer week are available at: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The second edition of ODC will focus on the diocese's 150th anniversary, with the theme "Community – Remember, Revitalise and Hope." Please share your stories with odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au by 31 May.

BAPTISMS
Henry Blaise, Bonnie Frances Joanne, Margot Mathilda & James Jack Groud Children of Lucas Groud and Sarah Groud
<i>The church gives faith to your children through Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow.</i> Pope Francis

CWL REFLECTION DAY

Ballarat Diocesan Committee Catholic Women's League invites all to the Diocesan Conference/Reflection Day on Thursday 23 May in the Mary Glowrey Room with registration (\$20 cash only) at 9.15 AM. The conference runs from 10.00 AM – 3.00 PM, including 12.05 PM Mass in the Cathedral with the Crowning of Our Lady Help of Christians, and morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Guest speakers – Diocesan Archivist, CatholicCare and Thomas More Centre. Stalls and Competitions – cash only. RSVP Margaret Rowe by 20 May on 0419 114 436 or margrowe@bigpond.com or C Kavanagh at 0401 175 045 or email annekav1234@gmail.com.

ACU PUBLIC LECTURE

The ACU Centre for Liturgy offers a new public lecture by Mr Steve Warner, a renowned liturgical musician, composer, and choral conductor who will address the topic, "The Ageless Voice of the Young: Fostering Emerging Liturgical Musicians". The lecture will be held online at 10:00 AM on Monday 20 May. Register at <https://shorturl.at/qsCKZ>.

NATIONAL FAMILIES' WEEK

National Families Week celebrates the vital role that families play in Australian society. The week is celebrated to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May. CatholicCare's theme this year is "Building Compassionate Families and Communities." The week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities and the importance families play in our lives and community. Resources are available from www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/103/familyweek

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The following resources are available from various Catholic agencies to help end domestic violence and violence against women:

A prayer service, "Prayer for the Elimination of Violence Against Women" from the National Centre for Evangelisation <https://shorturl.at/pqzBS>.

Social Justice Statement 2022-23, "Respect: Confronting violence and abuse", developed by the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference's Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace www.catholic.au/s/article/violence-against-women.

Catholic Social Services Victoria "Prevention of Domestic Violence Kit" <https://css.org.au/advocacy-policy/prevention-of-family-violence/>.

"A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence" www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding/a-catholic-response-to-domestic-violence from the Diocese of Broken Bay.

FAITH SEMINAR SERIES

The Engaging Your Faith online seminar series consists of nine stand-alone sessions on a range of themes presented by the Catholic Theological College to explore personal, theological, and spiritual development. The cost is \$25.00 per session, and they are open to anyone to attend, beginning 14 May. For details, visit: <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

LAUDATO SI' WEEK

In his encyclical Laudato Si', Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, encourages us to "**Learn about your food.**"

During Laudato Si' Week (19–26 May), we are invited to contemplate the wonder of creation and nurture the seeds of hope for our suffering planet.

COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Sunday 12 May was World Communications Day. Pope Francis' message for the 50th World Day of Social Communications, "Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication" can be read at <https://shorturl.at/xGJSV>.

The Dicastery for Communication has published a pastoral reflection on social media engagement, "Towards Full Presence" and can be read at www.fullypresent.website/en.html.

A Message of Peace

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Pentecost Sunday: John 15:26–27; 16:12–15

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church.

For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning “fiftieth”) was a harvest festival celebrated 50 days after the beginning of the harvest.

When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that God had made with Israel on Mt Sinai.

In the decades following the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God’s new covenant with God’s people.

In today’s first reading, Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God’s Law on Mt Sinai.

Just as God’s presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God’s Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire.

Luke’s account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received the Law in their own tongue.

For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John where Jesus speaks of the Spirit as both Advocate and Spirit of Truth who is “sent” by Jesus and comes forth from the “Father”. The Spirit will testify on Jesus’ behalf.

We too are called to listen

While this passage from John becomes central to later discussions about the nature of the Trinity and the fourth-century formulation of the creeds, the focus of Jesus’ words in the context of John’s gospel is on the disciples and their way of being in the world.

The message of the Johannine Jesus is that “you too will testify/bear witness.”

Jesus is speaking to disciples who have been with him “from the beginning”. They are those who know what it means to abide, to “hang in there” through the challenging as well as the good times. They have listened and learned and so have the capacity to testify or bear witness.

The expression “Spirit of truth” has a particular resonance in the present



climate of “fake news/fake wisdom” and “spin” or distortion of truth, in what Australian social psychologist Hugh Mackay dubs the “Age of Opinion.”

The Spirit of truth will guide the first disciples “into all the truth.” The Spirit of truth will continue to guide disciples throughout the ages into a deep understanding of truth.

This is the message of the Johannine Jesus for us in our times as much as it was for disciples in the first century of the common era.

We too are called to listen, to learn and to remain constant in our commitment to the truth.

We know that we are never alone, that the Spirit of truth is the source of our power to testify to the truth.

As we pray “Come Holy Spirit” this Pentecost, let us renew our commitment to the pursuit of truth.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

PENTECOST

ACTS 2:1–11

GALATIANS 5:16–25

JOHN 15:26–27; 16:12–15

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

DEUTERONOMY 4:32–34; 39–40

ROMANS 8:14–17

MATTHEW 28:16–20



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS AFTER SCHOOL *care program*

We cater to the needs of all children and offer a range of activities including sports, games, arts and crafts, cooking, creative and expressive arts such as drama, singing and dancing, board games and puzzles and much more. We also provide healthy and delicious snacks.

For more information call 0491 743 126
or visit yballarat.org.au



ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR.

Saturday 15th June at 3.30pm Sunday 16th June at 11.30am & 2.30pm

Gay Gough Theatre, Mt Clear

Tickets: \$20 - \$40 <https://events.humanitix.com/alice-jr-bcma>

Prepare to be enchanted as our students who take classes at the BCMA 2024 Junior Musical Theatre Students take the stage to present Alice in Wonderland Jr.

Join young Alice on her extraordinary journey through a whimsical world where nothing is quite as it seems. Along the way, she'll encounter peculiar characters who teach her valuable lessons about curiosity, courage, and self-discovery. With each challenge she faces, Alice grows stronger and wiser, ultimately finding her way back home forever changed by her adventures in Wonderland.