



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 17th June 2024
Term 2 Week 10

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311
Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 15th Apr – Fri 28th Jun

Wednesday 19th June

5.00pm Structured Literacy
Parent Information Session
in our school Library

Friday 21st June

Casual clothes day with gold
coin donations to Ballarat
East St Vincent de Paul

2.40pm Assembly led by
3JW

Friday 28th June

12.40pm Assembly led by
FMM

No casual clothes day today

1.45pm Opening and
blessing of our new building
(Year 2 & 3 learning areas)

2.20pm School finishes

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 15th Jul – Fri 20th Sep

Mon 15th & Tues 16th July
Student Free Days

Thursday 18th July

10.30am and 6pm
Confirmation: Compulsory
Parent Information Sessions
at St Alipius Church

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

Friday 30th August

Fathers/Special Friends Day
Liturgy

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

There has been quite a focus on education in the media over the past few weeks. Like you, I read and listen with an open mind before forming any opinion about what drives the agenda according to the latest issues. Some things are worth commenting on though, and with this in mind I would like to take a moment to explore some of the latest issues arising.

It was announced last week that students in Victorian government schools will be taught reading using a phonics approach from 2025. This approach is based on letter sound connections and how to de-code letters to make sounds which in turn create words. It's a bit different from more recent approaches which focus on site words, memory and visual cues to create meaning from text. The teaching of phonics is not new. It is however now recognized as a most effective way to learn to read. As an evidence-based approach to learning it is something that we can proudly state we are using at Saint Francis Xavier School. Our approach to the teaching of literacy is structured so that every child is given the tools they require to become successful readers and writers. At our Structured Literacy information sessions held last week Ms. Egan worked with parents to explore what a structured literacy approach to learning looks like in our classrooms today. It was a great learning experience!



You may also be aware that AI has been in the media recently. Some students in our secondary schools have been accused of misusing information technology to cause harm to others. While we use technology at school every day, we know that our children are inquisitive and will always seek to explore in different ways. Learning to use technology in moral and ethical ways takes time. It needs to be taught early and modelled every day. We know that children of primary school age are often exposed to more information than we might prefer, but as parents and teachers we must adhere to our duty to protect our children in this fast-moving technological world. Don't be afraid to say no to computers in

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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

bedrooms, phones can be monitored by parents daily and social media sites are not designed for young children. Let's not be afraid to set the boundaries early around technology so that it remains a useful tool for learning rather than something else.



One thing we know about learning is that it never stops! Let's keep working together to guide our children in the right direction, even from an early age.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin

Casual Clothes Day

This Friday will be a casual clothes day for students as we raise money for the St. Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal. If each child brings a gold coin donation, then we should be able to present our friends at St. Vincents with a cheque for \$475.00. If we doubled that with a \$2.00 coin per person then we would raise \$950.00. Now there's a challenge!

End of Term – Start of Term

Please note that our term comes to an end on Friday 28 June at 2.20pm. Classes resume for students on Wednesday 17 July. Happy holidays everyone!

Blessing & Official Opening of the New Building

After a long process of building and final adjustments we are now ready to officially open and bless our new classrooms. Please feel welcome to come along to the ceremony on Friday 28 June at 1.45pm and celebrate with us as we mark this important milestone for our great school.

EE News!

This week we received some very exciting news that we have been successful in obtaining an Edible Garden Grant for \$500! This grant was provided by Maxicrop and we can use it to enhance the work that we are doing in Environmental Education. Well done Ms. Hayward!



Are you handy with a hammer and saw? If so, we would love to hear from you! Ms. Hayward is looking for a couple of handy people to add timber boxing to our existing wicking beds. It's a small job for a clever handy person and we would love to have it done in time for the opening of our new building on 28 June. Please let the office staff, or Ms. Hayward know if you can help us out.

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 16, 2024

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus went on to say, "The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the ear, and finally the ear full of corn. When the corn is ripe, the man starts cutting it with his sickle, because harvest time has come.

"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?" asked Jesus. "What parable shall we use to explain it? It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

Gospel reflection: In today's Gospel, Jesus is trying to show what God's Kingdom is like. It's not easy to describe, so instead he tells stories so that we can try to imagine it.

Both the stories he tells are about seeds, which grow and change from small beginnings. Perhaps it's that the Kingdom of heaven is also always growing, just like the seed, so that there's room for everyone who wants to be there. The mustard seed also shows us how size doesn't matter – even a tiny seed can produce a great big tree. The same is true for us – even the smallest person can do great things and even the smallest action can have big results.

For example, being kind in the playground and inviting someone to play with you if they look lonely, is just one little thing you can do – it hardly takes any time at all, but to the person who is lonely, it can make a really big difference. Giving some money, or blankets or food to our local St Vincent de Paul group may make a big difference in the life of a family struggling to pay the bills.

Our Challenge: What are some small things that you can do that can make a big difference to other people?

Sacrament of First Communion

Over the weekend, many of our Year Four students received their Sacrament of First Communion. We congratulate these children and remember them in our prayers as they continue to grow in faith and love. Many thanks to our Parish Priests Father Justin and Matt, to their families, their teachers and all other staff who helped prepare and support them in their preparation and celebration!



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2024 VINNIES WINTER APPEAL



This year, St Vincent de Paul is focusing on the issue of the working homeless.

The lack of affordable housing and increased demand for rental properties in Australia means that even those working can't afford a roof over their heads. As a result, more and more Australians are being forced into homelessness – 'the working homeless'. The percentage of affordable rentals for a person on minimum wage has dropped to below 1% for the first time in Australia. Additionally, the Australian Bureau of Statistics found that of the 122,494 Australians experiencing homelessness in 2021, 36% were in the labour force with 12% working full time and 12% working part time. Not only is this problematic in itself, but people who are experiencing homelessness are also much more likely to be exposed to violence and victimisation, eventually fall into long-term unemployment and develop a chronic illness. Meeting basic needs such as food, water and a place to sleep can be the most important daily priority for people experiencing homelessness and is often not a reality for many Australians, even if they are employed. For

more information : [2024 Vinnies Victoria](#)



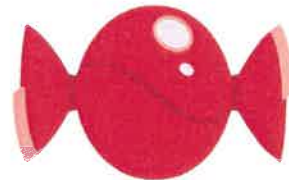
FREE DRESS DAY

On Friday June 21 we will be holding a casual clothes day!

(Please note this is a different date than previously indicated)

All children are invited to bring a gold coin donation, with all proceeds going to our local

Ballarat East St Vincent de Paul Chapter.



SWEET TREATS

In addition, two of our fantastic Year Five students Lois Cummins and Zara Thorp have suggested ways we can fundraise more money for our great causes!

From Monday June 17th until June 21st Lois, Zara and our dedicated team of Mercy Leaders

Milla, Harper, Olivia and Chelsea will be selling bags of lollies every day in the undercover area for \$2!

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Grab yourself a little treat and help a cause that is close to our heart 🍫

We will be presenting all the money we raise to SVDP chapter members Mary Reus and Liz Bingham at Assembly on Monday June 24th.



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

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Upcoming event

Book Week 2024: Book Week is held annually at St Francis Xavier to celebrate reading and engage children in literature and to bring stories to life through play and costume. It's a great time to encourage the joy of reading through dress ups.



Please save the date and more information will follow early Term 3. Each year Book Week carries a new theme, in 2024 that theme is “READING IS MAGIC”.

Semester One Reports



Currently teachers are working on finalising your child's/ren reports. I thank them for the energy, thoroughness, sincerity, and professionalism that they bring to their report writing. As communicated to families, St. Francis Xavier Primary School continues its firm commitment to working in partnership with families to enable our children to achieve their best. Our end of Semester One reports will be made available via PAM from Thursday 27th June

Structured Literacy

This Wednesday Emma Egan, our Literacy Leader, is presenting a session on Structured Literacy to those who are interested to learn more about the Literacy process we are using here at St Francis Xavier. Literacy has been in the news lately so I am sure you will find this information session most interesting and applicable. All welcome.

5:00pm-6:00pm school library.

Please see the letter on page 8 with more information about this session.

Happy week 10!



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal / Learning Enhancement

RE: STRUCTURED LITERACY PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Dear Families,

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we are very excited to partner with our neighbouring Diocese Of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCCEL) primary schools and La Trobe University as part of the Structured Literacy Project.

Structured Literacy is an approach to literacy instruction that applies a systematic, cumulative, explicit and diagnostic methodology to the teaching of phonology, orthography, morphology and etymology, syntax and semantics.

It is heartening and inspiring to see the huge groundswell of change happening in schools, sectors, and systems around the country. In response to the Grattan Institute Report, [“The Reading Guarantee”](#), now more than ever educators are accessing high-quality, independent research and evidence. Perhaps more importantly, they also have the wisdom to interpret research with discernment and informed judgement. I’m reminded of a quote by Dr Reid Lyon:

“When you’re working on something that’s so crucial to a life - a child’s life - belief systems don’t cut it. Evidence cuts it.”

As with any transitional period of growth, this adaptation towards a more evidence-informed philosophy of teaching is a gradual and ongoing journey. I am very proud of our teaching staff who have taken on the significant workload that comes with such change with enthusiasm and bravery. As a teaching team, we continue to be on the journey of implementing and adjusting our classroom instruction to provide the most effective and efficient opportunities for your children.

The partnership between school and home certainly cannot be underestimated. Given this, I would like to warmly extend the invitation to all adult family members to attend an information session detailing the changes we are making and our rationale behind these.

This session will take place in our school Library on **Wednesday, 19 June at 5:00pm**

This presentation will be the same as the one that was held on Wednesday 12th June.

Please complete [this two-minute Google Form](#) to indicate intention of attendance.

Thank you for partnership in our commitment to the success of your child. I am looking forward to supporting you with the magic that is your child’s literacy journey!

Warmly,



Emma Egan, Literacy Leader

Child Safe Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

“In a world where you can be anything, be kind!” What an amazing quote we have access to.

Kindness must be an intentional act and we must build opportunities for our students here at St. Francis Xavier Primary School to engage in acts of kindness. We also must make sure that they also know what it is like to have someone treat them in a kind way as well. This is so they understand what behaviours to copy and why being kind is so significant in people’s lives.

This means that as adults, whether that be a parent or teacher, we are in charge of modelling that kindness first. Some examples could include: giving a genuine compliment to someone, letting someone with only a few items at the supermarket go ahead in the check-out line (time permitting of course) or helping someone carry something when you see they are truly struggling. This also could mean reassuring your child that they will be better in themselves if they invite their whole class to their birthday party, instead of choosing a select few (cost permitting of course).

I have recently started listening to a Podcast titled ‘A Call Across the Pond; Transforming Relationships at School, at Home and Beyond’. Tara and Vicky had one episode named ‘The Simplicity of Kindness’ and I highly recommend you have a listen! The ladies discuss how we can create a space for children to communicate with kindness. They also ask the question, How do we lay a foundation for them to have kind, meaningful and productive interactions which develop character and contribute to healthy relationships?

Genuine kindness is one of the most serious virtues in developing a good character in our students at SFX. Let’s have a go at beginning a Kindness Revolution!



Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Division Netball

Last Friday we were proudly represented by 5 teams at the Eureka Division Netball tournament. All teams played extremely well, showcasing not only their incredible skills on the court but also fantastic sportspersonship. All players are to be congratulated on how they played on the day and the wonderful team spirit they displayed. Thank you to Mrs Barclay, Mrs Boyd and Mrs Hanrahan for coaching on the day. Thanks also to Kate and Tannah who volunteered their time to help us out with coaching the other teams. A big thank you to all of the family and friends who were able to make it along on the day to support and cheer on the teams.

Swimming Program

In week 1 of Term 3, students in Years 3-6 will be participating in a structured swimming and aquatic safety program at the Ballarat and Aquatic Lifestyle Centre. Aquatic and water safety is part of the Victorian Curriculum and this year involves 3 x 1hr sessions over the course 3 consecutive days. Year 1 & 2 will be participating early Term 4.

Term 3 Calendar:

- Week 1 - Wed July 17th - Fri July 19th - Swimming Program Yr 3 - 6
- Week 1 - Thursday July 18th - State Cross Country Finals
- 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)

Term 4:

- Week 1 - Friday Oct 11th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths - Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 2 - Friday Oct 18th - Golf Tournament @ Mt Xavier Golf Club (selected students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 4 - Wednesday Oct 30th - Eureka Division Cricket @ TBC (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 6 - Friday Nov 15th - Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 v St Alipius

SFX Football Jumpers, Singlets & Netball dresses/bibs

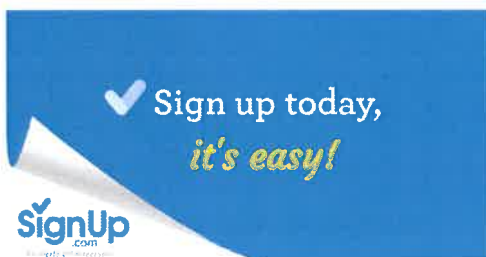
If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to Mr Down, Mr Carroll or drop into the office.

Have a great 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](https://signup.com)
signup.com

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 14th June 2024 Hosted by 4ML Theme: Excellence
 We show our personal best. Excellence means being the best person we can be.
 We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLH	Poppy Thomas and Toby Wilson	4GH	Evie Speirs and Xavier Foster
FGJ	Elsie Howe and Callum Purtell	4ML	Minti Toohey and Eli Jones
FTW	Harper Stevenson and Mille Ryan	4BO	Cleo Roney / Noah Irving
FMM	Max Banwell and Ella Finley	5CC	Archie Williams and Sophie Beseler
1JS	Jasper Rolfe and Spencer Manning	5MA	William McGregor and Evangeline Tuffen
1EM	Samuel White and Harriet Howard	5JW	Audrey Lynch and Claudia Cochrane
1MV	Nevon Thuse and Daisy Whittlam	6PB	Mylo Robertson and Molly Danaher
2RR	Oakley Smith and Fletcher Hipke	6ZA	Jessica Youl and Samuel Hill
2CK	Asher Sutcliffe and Lilly Bye	6MM	Jack Elliot and Lottie Rush
2JS	Harrison Madigan and Charlie Irving	EE	4ML for their behaviour and efficiency while emptying bins this week. Well done everyone!
3JE		PA	Murphy Daniel FGJ Charlie Johnson FGJ
3JV	Lawrence Wilson and Leighton Troon	VA	Henry Warr, Monty Harrison, Emma Locke, Jack Elliot and Chloe Flynn (6MM)
3DW	Ted Nunn and Jack Quinlan	PE	
		Tch	Billy Cheeseman and Lachie De Lorenzo
Principal's Award: Birdie Toohey and Jude Reus for both always demonstrating excellence in their attitude towards their school work and their peers.			

16 June 2024

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

I have made the small tree great



▶ **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

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

St Alipius parish

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tue 5:30 PM, Wed – Fri 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 7 – Wed 19 June

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:

Matthew Edwards, Kevin LaFranchi, Rita Wray

Anniversaries: Rosalie Barry, Bill Murphy

Unwell: Fr Barry Ryan, Socorro De Chavez, 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.



**Refugee
Week**

Coordinated by
Refugee Council of Australia

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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 16 June to plan how we will acknowledge these milestones.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Parish Meeting – Acknowledging our Parish's Historic Anniversaries 3:00 PM, Sunday 16 June, St Alipius Hall	
Parish Finance Committee meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday 19 June	
Parish Pastoral Council meeting 6:30 PM, Wednesday 19 June	
Confirmation Preparation 10:30 AM or 6 PM, Thursday 18 July	
Leadership Formation Session 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM, 4 August, Buninyong	

PLANNING GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,037
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$308

To join the program, complete the form on the next page.

ST VINCENT VOLUNTEERS

Between May 2023 – May 2024, SVdP provided \$730,000 worth of aid across greater Ballarat, which was an increase of 33% on the previous year. The gratefully received support from our parish enables SVdP to continue to assist those in need. If anyone is interested in joining the Society, please contact the parish office. SVdP needs volunteers for their Wednesday and Friday sessions held between 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, at the Ballarat Assistance Centre, 4 Dawson Street, Ballarat

FIRST EUCHARIST

This weekend we welcome children who are receiving the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. They will be joined by their families who have spent the past few weeks working at home to prepare them. Please keep them in your prayers. We are grateful for the work that our parish schools have done in supporting the students and thank the staff who have joined us this weekend.

UPDATING UNWELL LIST

Our notice sheet's unwell list will be reset soon. Please contact the parish office if you have someone currently listed who you would like to stay on the list.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Notification of confirmation preparation sessions has been provided to Catholic schools in the parish. The preparation sessions will be held on Thursday 18 July at 10.30 AM or 6 PM. If you know anyone who wishes to have their child confirmed, refer them to the parish office.

SVDP WINTER APPEAL

The theme of this year's St Vincent de Paul winter appeal is the 'Working Homeless', which focuses on the emerging trend of people who are experiencing housing hardship and disadvantage despite being in employment. Donation envelopes are available at the piety stand, at the end of each pew at St Alipius, and near Ss Peter and Paul's entrance. Envelopes can be placed in the offertory collections during mass. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please write your name and address on the envelope if you need a receipt.

REFUGEE WEEK

In a world marked by displacement and the search for refuge, this year's Refugee Week theme "Finding Freedom" – with a focus on family – encapsulates the profound journey of resilience, strength, and unity that defines the refugee experience. Refugee Week aims to shed light on the transformative power of familial bonds as well as chosen bonds in the face of adversity and emphasise the crucial role families play in providing solace, support, and a sense of belonging to those forced to flee their homelands. For information, visit <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/national-refugee-week-june-17-23-2024/>

PRAYER FOR REFUGEE WEEK

Lord, no one is a stranger to you, and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost, and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need

REFUGEE WEEK EVENT

A Refugee Week afternoon tea and garage sale will be held at 30 Waller Avenue, Newington, from 1:30 PM on Saturday 22 June. \$20 entry. All welcome. For further information, phone Carmel on 0401 175 045 or email annekav1234@gmail.com.

BAPTISMS
<p>Sonny Russell and Ted Andrew Poulton Children of Cohan Poulton and Sarah Fisher</p>
<p>Gia Silvia Brady Child Liam Brady and Georgia Cann</p>
<p>Oliver George Jones Child Xavier Jones and Adrianna Cann</p>
<p><i>The church gives faith to your children through Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow.</i> Pope Francis</p>

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Following on from the national liturgy and liturgical music conference last September, a book of selected conference papers is now available to purchase. The book is recommended for liturgists, liturgical musicians, theologians, clergy, composers, teachers, choir directors, liturgy committee members and all involved in liturgical preparation and celebration, and can be purchased from <https://shop.liturgybrisbane.net.au/products/mystery-mission-the-art-of-liturgical-celebration>.

CLC STUDY OPTIONS

The Catholic Theological College provides introductory and further studies in theology, ministry, and spirituality. See <https://ctc.edu.au/study/timetable/> for the list of units that are offered online, onsite, or via blended mode in semester two. An online information session will be held at 7:30 PM, on Monday, 17 June. Register here: <https://divinity.zoom.us/j/9241287477?pwd=UtrTooE9JlW8qcYx2wpwAdz1hMjF4P%20#/registration>

In October, CLC will offer a series of short, online presentations titled Engaging Your Faith Online Series. Topics will cover scripture, church and theology, pastoral ministry, and spiritual life. Further information to be advised.

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of the diocesan e-News has been published with stories of news and events in the diocese www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. In the lead-up to the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer, to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer. The Dicastery for Evangelisation has made some useful resources available to help people better understand and rediscover the value of prayer. In addition to the 38 catechises on Prayer that Pope Francis himself presented, a series of booklets entitled, "Notes on Prayer" is being published by the Vatican publishing house. The eight titles are designed to put the need for a profound relationship with the Lord back at the centre of people's lives, through the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition of prayer. In addition, pastoral aid is available online, in a digital version, to help parish communities, families, priests, religious, and young people become more aware of the need for daily prayer. To access resources and find out more about the Jubilee Year, go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

The Parish Planned Giving Program commences 1 July. Contributions can be made via envelopes or direct debit and are the parish's only source of income. To join the program, please complete and return the following form.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I/we would like to contribute to the financial costs of St Alipius and Ss Peter and Paul's via (tick one):

Envelope Direct Debit

Please return this form to the parish office or place it in the collection at mass.

Parables Can Be Challenging

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 4:26–34

The first of the parables in today's gospel reading has no parallel in the other gospels. It compares God's reign to a trusting sower who scatters the seed by day, sleeps by night, and simply observes the "earth produce of itself" until it is time to harvest the grain.

The sower's actions of scattering, sleeping, rising, and going in with the sickle are paralleled by "not knowing how" the seed is transformed into grain. We may, in our times, have a more sophisticated, more scientific understanding of the process of growth. We have no less reason to stand in awe at the wonder of it all.

In an era of urbanisation, and of supermarket chains and online shopping even for groceries, we can easily lose sight of the source of food and the miracle of food production.

This little parable might serve as a reminder of the goodness of the Earth and of the God who sustains our planetary home. It might inspire us to contemplate the myriad ways in which the Earth speaks to us of God and God's empire or kin-dom.

At another level, we might ask about the identity of the sower. We might question how the sower's actions and attitudes provide an image of God's reign.

Is it in the sower's trusting that all will be well while "not knowing"? Is it in the observation that the grain is ripe for the harvest? Is it in the prompt action to bring in the harvest?

The sower's "not-knowing" might resonate with us in our "not knowing" all we would like to know about dealing with the spread of the viruses that infect our world.

Parables are meant to tease their hearers/readers. They are open-ended and challenging.

Parables are meant to tease their hearers/readers

The second parable appears in all three synoptic gospels. Matthew and Luke both parallel the mustard seed parable with a parable about a woman mixing yeast into flour. Mark, in contrast, juxtaposes his mustard seed parable with that of the trusting sower.

Mustard seeds were tiny, although they were not the smallest of seeds and have never been known to become the largest of shrubs.

The idea that God's reign provides shelter for the birds to make their nests is a challenging one at a time when so many species are becoming



extinct precisely because their habitats are being destroyed by human activity.

Some scholars have pointed out that the mustard seed was a weed. To compare God's reign with a weed may have brought a smile or two. It would certainly have exercised the minds of Jesus' audience.

Maybe Jesus' disciples needed encouragement even in the early stages of the Galilean ministry. Maybe the curious and hostile needed a reminder to take this movement seriously since extraordinary things can come from the most inauspicious beginnings.

Opposition to Jesus had surfaced at the outset. Mark's community may also have been experiencing opposition and feeling the need for the wisdom that comes from a carefully crafted and perfectly timed story.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
EZEKIEL 17:22–24
2 CORINTHIANS 5:6–10
MARK 4:26–34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JOB 38:1, 8–11
2 CORINTHIANS 5:14–17
MARK 4:35–41



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For further details please contact Zack Cummins via email programs@ballaratbasketball.com or for urgent enquiries call reception on (03) 5338 1220

A promotional graphic for the Basketball Holiday Camps. It features a dark blue background with yellow and white text. On the left, a young girl in a black and yellow jersey with the number 5 is holding a basketball. On the right, two young boys in similar jerseys are playing basketball. The text in the center reads: "BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS", "WEEK ONE SESSIONS MON 1 & TUES 2 JULY - 9AM - 3PM", "WEEK TWO SESSIONS WED 10 & THUR 11 JULY - 9AM - 3PM", "SELKIRK STADIUM", and "BALLARATBASKETBALL.COM". Logos for Power FM and the Miners are at the top.

BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS

WEEK ONE SESSIONS
MON 1 & TUES 2 JULY - 9^{AM} - 3^{PM}

WEEK TWO SESSIONS
WED 10 & THUR 11 JULY - 9^{AM} - 3^{PM}

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