



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 24th June 2024
Term 2 Week 11

P.O. Box 2027
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Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 15th Apr – Fri 28th Jun

Friday 28th June

12.30pm Assembly led by
FMM

No casual clothes day today

1.30pm 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

Friday 6th September

2.40pm Assembly led by
4BO

Friday 13th September

2.40pm Assembly led by
3DW

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Welcome to our last newsletter for second term. This also marks the end of first semester and eleven weeks have certainly flown past in quick succession.

As we draw the term to a close, I would like to acknowledge our hard-working staff who continue to support our children in so many ways. Positive adult role models are so important in the lives of our young children today, and I am pleased that we have so many who care for each child every day. Whether teaching in the classroom, running the front office, assisting with program support or keeping up to the maintenance; we are fortunate to have such a caring team. They have all earned a break and a rest before we jump into third term together.

I wish all families a restful and reinvigorating break. Whether you are going away, staying at home, juggling work commitments or sharing care, may the mid-year break provide rich opportunities to spend some time together in whatever ways you choose. Whatever you get up to, I hope that you enjoy it!

God bless,



Mark Hogbin



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 1.30pm and celebrate with us as we mark this important milestone for our great school.

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!



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

New Playground

A meeting of the School Advisory Council was held on Monday 17 June. At this meeting plans for our new adventure playground were finalised. Construction of the playground will take place during the Term 3 school holidays. The cost of the playground will be covered by the P&F thanks to their fundraising activities over the past 12 months. Thanks to all families for supporting the initiatives of the P&F throughout the year. We look forward to seeing the children explore the new playground in Term 4.

Indigenous Garden



We are looking for a donation of about 6 hardwood stumps similar to the ones in the picture. They will be used as seats in our yarn circle. If you have any logs you'd like to donate, even one or two, please contact the office.

Cheers,

Rose and Jacinta

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 23, 2024 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

On the evening of that same day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat in which Jesus was already sitting, and they took him with them. Other boats were there too. Suddenly a strong wind blew up, and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?"

Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and he said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Have you still no faith?"

But they were terribly afraid and said to one another, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"
(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

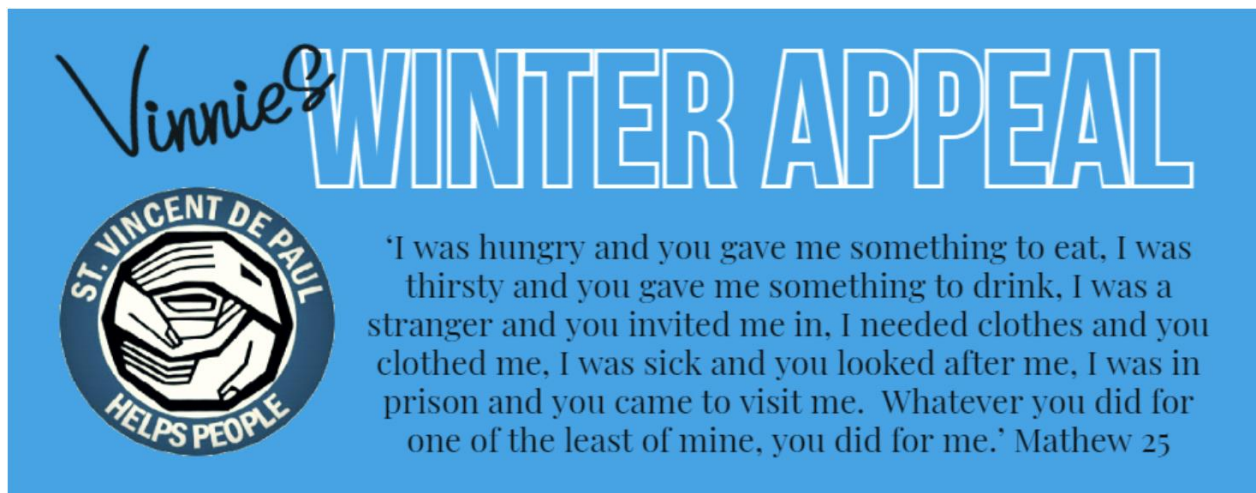
Gospel reflection:

Sometimes when everything around us is scary and going wrong, it can be hard to keep our faith in God. We can feel like God is no longer with us and it is hard to see how things will get better. In this reading Jesus tells the disciples not to be afraid. God is always with them, especially in difficult times.

God works through us and through others who are there to help and support us in difficult times. The next time that we are sad, or afraid, let us remember that we are never alone. God is always with us. Let's try to see God in those who make us laugh and be happy, or who help us when we are frightened – our friends, our family, our teachers.

Our Challenge: Let's try to be there for other people when they are facing difficult times, so that they know that God is still with them too. (Adapted from CAFOD website)

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.



FUNDRAISING FOR VINNIES WINTER APPEAL:

Many thanks to you all for your support of our VINNIES WINTER APPEAL Free Dress Day and Sweet Treat sales. We were thrilled to invite Mary Reus (Stella and Ivy's Grandmother) from the East Ballarat SVDP group to speak at our Monday morning assembly today.

We were proud to tell her we have raised over \$1000!

Mary told us SVDP Ballarat has seen a 33% increase in people seeking help and has provided over \$700,000 in support this year. Mary expressed her gratitude to our school community for our continued support in giving so generously to this appeal. This money will help provide food and assistance for local families in need. At St Francis Xavier we strive to be a community of faith in action and to make a positive difference to those less fortunate. Many thanks to Zara and Lois, who have been instrumental in raising awareness of the work of St Vincent de Paul and promoting this initiative to provide outreach to those doing it tough this winter. Your continued donations and support will go a long way in helping the needy in our local community this winter.

THANK YOU.



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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!



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader



ST FRANCIS XAVIER
PRIMARY SCHOOL | BALLARAT EAST

To all members of our School Community

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
OFFICIAL OPENING & BLESSING
OF THE
ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Middle School Learning Centre

Friday 28 June 2024

St Francis Xavier Primary School Gymnasium

100 Fortune Street, Ballarat East

1:30pm – 2:15pm



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

Our end of Semester One reports will be made available via PAM from Thursday 27th June from 12:00pm. Thank you for taking the time to read your child's report. St. Francis Xavier Primary School continues its firm commitment to working in partnership with families to enable all children to achieve their best and inform with accuracy each child's learning journey.

Seesaw

Please keep an eye out for posts made by your child this week. The end of term can bring pieces of completed work which the children are proud to display and have posted. Below is the 'traffic' we had on Seesaw last week.

Week of June 16 - June 23 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



**276
New Items**



**167
Likes**



**108
Comments**



**297
Family Visits**

Thank you for all the support you have given to your child and their teachers throughout this term. Here at St Francis Xavier, we thoroughly enjoy watching each child's learning journey.

Enjoy your holiday break.



Jane Clark, **Deputy Principal / Learning Enhancement**

Child Safe Standard 2: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

I was thinking recently about chatting with a trusted colleague of mine when I was a First Year teacher. I was feeling overwhelmed by my class's behaviour and they replied to me saying "I know! They really are acting like six and seven year olds today."

This conversation, at the beginning, made me feel better with a laugh but then it helped me change my thinking. When we take time to comprehend our students' views, problem solving gets easier.

Sometimes we may forget that children wear 'L' plates while they are learning how to "do" life. It takes many children at least five years before they can have a go at tying their own shoelaces so of course it's going to take them time to figure out how to regulate their emotions.

Some adults still struggle with this! We need to be calm while they evolve.

Attached is a link to the St. Francis Xavier [SchoolTV website](#). I have recently come across an article on the website written by Rebecca Eanes from the Creative Child website. Rebecca is a bestselling author and the founder of positive-parents.org. In this article Rebecca defines behaviour as 'teachable moments' - I suggest you jump on and have a read!



Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Thank you

As Term 2 winds up, we would like to say a big thank you to all of the students, staff, families and friends for your support and efforts throughout this term. We were fortunate to have many students across Years 3-6 involved and displaying their talents in sports and events like Cross Country, Football, Netball, Soccer, Golf Clinics and Interschool Sports. Term 3 promises many more exciting opportunities to participate in Sport.

After School Netball

Well done to all of the students that participated in the After School Netball Tournament on a Tuesday/Wednesday nights throughout this term at Llanberris Netball Centre. It was wonderful to hear that all of the players continued to learn and develop their skills, enjoy being part of a team and have heaps of fun. Interest is being taken (via PAM) for teams for Term 3.

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

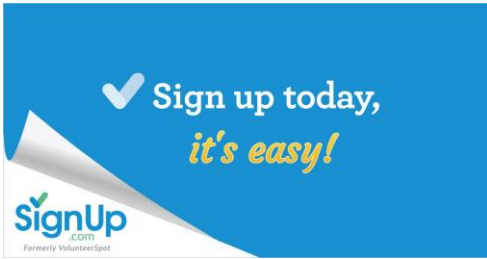
If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to Mr Down, Mr Carroll or drop into the office.

Have a wonderful 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
signup.com](http://signup.com)

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 21st June 2024 Hosted by 3JE 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	Georgia Little & Huxson Backman	4GH	Christian Wright & Sadie Buntsma
FGJ	Elle Needham & Hugo Bromley	4ML	Levi Crowe and Sonny Troon
FTW	Sophie Morvell & Alina Osciak	4BO	Finley Rolfe.
FMM	Lucinda Bartlett & Tommy Just	5CC	Hamish Lloyd and Alfie Sosinski
1JS	Harvey Mason & Marli Wilson	5MA	Haddie Morley & Sidney Porter
1EM	Alfie Waldron and Ted Gleeson	5JW	Reuben Molloy and Emerson Rolfe
1MV	Harriet Walshe & River Harney	6PB	Oscar Trigg and Harriet LeGrand
2RR	No awards for Year Two's this week. (Due to being away on our Sovereign Hill excursion).	6ZA	Pippa Dalton & Ivy Reus
2CK		6MM	Xavier Uljanic and Laura Bodnar
2JS		EE	Harriet LeGrand, Emily Hanrahan, Matilda West, Charlotte Morris & Mabel Reus
3JE	Mitchell Bone, Isla Page W9 Oliver Downes, Abbey Williams W10	PA	Sam Norris for leading his group with patience and focus during their songwriting task.
3JV	Edie Waldron and Willow Prato	VA	All of 5JW with a special mention to Ivy Miles and Harriet Locke!
3DW	Harry Logan and Harper Phelan	PE	
		Tch	Savee Thuse & Patrick Ludbrook



St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat Choral Scholarships 2025 Applications Now Open!

St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat is inviting applications from **Years 3 – 6 students in Catholic schools with musical interest and aptitude**, to apply for a Cathedral Choral Scholarship for 2025.

The Choral Scholarships are modelled on similar approaches operating in the Melbourne, Sydney and Perth Cathedrals. Children who are successful will join the Cathedral's **Cantato Domino** Choir, which is currently made up of 20 adults and children.

The Choir covers a broad and exciting range of repertoire, including traditional styles of sacred music and contemporary church hymns, along with providing opportunities for musical, vocal and personal development in a safe, fun environment.

Successful applicants are required to participate in weekly rehearsals and sing at two Masses per month during term time.

The Cathedral Choral Scholarships provide an annual contribution of \$1,000 towards the children's education and/or musical tuition.

Auditions will be held late in Term 3, 2024.

View the information video [here](#).

*For more information and/or to request an application form, please contact the **Cantate Domino** Choir Director, Mr Vincent Sully at vincenzo101923@gmail.com or 0407 310 115.*



▶ **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/

23 June 2024

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Who can this be? Even the wind and sea obey him.

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 1

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: Alan Mason

Anniversaries: Leo Tuddenham, Danny Roche

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Max Green, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Fr Barry Ryan, 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.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

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ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

Last Sunday afternoon we held our second meeting to discuss the acknowledgement of 170 years of our parish. This meeting was very well attended and a great discussion was held as to how such an acknowledgement might look. This acknowledgement will be held on Saturday 14 December, so keep this date free. Now is the time for you to start thinking about stories you might have, photos you can share etc. Keep your eye on the bulletin for more information. The next meeting will be held on Sunday 14 July at 3pm in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Baptism Preparation 10 AM or 5.30 PM, 4 July, MacKillop & Glowrey Rooms, Ballarat Cathedral Hall	
Confirmation Preparation 10.30 AM or 6 PM, 18 July, Parish Hall	
Leadership Formation Session 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM, 4 August, Buninyong	

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1209
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$978

To indicate your desire to join the planned giving program, please 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 the last of the children who are receiving the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. They will be joined by their families who we thank as they have spent the past few weeks working at home to prepare them. Thank you to the staff of each of our Catholic Schools who have supported these children throughout this term and helped to prepare weekend Masses which the children have attended. Thank you to Jason Fletcher who has prepared PPT's for each of the Masses. Last but not least, thank you to Frs. Justin and Matt who visit the children in their schools and say the beautiful Masses for them. The preparation for this sacrament was a wonderful team effort.

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.

THANK YOU

Two years ago Jason Fletcher took on the task of updating the look of our Parish Bulletin and having done this he then continued to produce our bulletin every weekend. Jason has decided that this is the time to hand this job back to the office, so we would like to say a big thank you to Jason for all of his hard work. Everyone would agree that we have a great looking bulletin and this is due to the significant amount of time Jason has spent working on the bulletin each week and we are very grateful for his efforts and commitment to this task. Jason is not going anywhere and will continue to chair the liturgy committee.

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Plans are in place for another trivia night in our parish. Please keep August 30th free so that you can join us and share your wealth of knowledge. More information to follow.

COMMITTEE THANKS

In recent times we have had some changes to membership on our Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Councils. Maria Jones has resigned from the Parish Pastoral Council as she is returning to the St. James' Parish. We thank Maria for her contribution over a number of months. Greg O'Beime has also resigned from the Parish Pastoral Council, but is doing this to move to the Parish Finance Council. We thank Greg for his contribution to the Parish Pastoral Council since its inception and look forward to his work with the Parish Finance Council. After many years, Arnoud Goossens has decided to finish up on the Finance Council. Arnoud has been a great representative on this council and has provided excellent insights into the finances of the parish. We wish him well. The contributions that all parishioners make in various teams throughout the parish are greatly appreciated.

SPIRITUAL HERITAGE PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

On Sunday, Fr Justin will lead 16 DOBCEL (Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited) Principals and Leaders from across the Diocese to Dublin to commence a 15 day spiritual heritage pilgrimage. The pilgrimage, part of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, provides an opportunity for the leaders to recognise, celebrate and understand more deeply the profound influence of the Irish on the Australian Catholic Church. *"By 1871 the population of Victoria had reached 700,000, of whom 170,000 were Catholics. 100,000 of them had migrated from Ireland in the 2 decades following the discovery of gold."* (Jill Blee, From the Murray to the Sea). It was to Ireland that the Church in Australia turned to staff its Catholic schools when state aid was withdrawn in 1872. Of the 63 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools in the Diocese, 49 schools have a heritage linked to these religious congregations that came to the Diocese from Ireland to staff our Catholic schools. The charisms of these religious congregations have formed the foundations of the distinctively Catholic education that we have today.

BAPTISMS

Noah Christopher Huw Steenhuis
Children of Jacob Steenhuis and Elena Jones

Jake William Smith
Child of Andrew and Megan Smith

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

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

Couple for Christ (Ballarat) invite all married couples to join them for 'talks and fellowship' as part of their Christian Life Program. This will be held at St. James Parish Sebastopol, beginning 13 July. Sessions will be held between 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm. For more information please call Rose on 0401 437 158.

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.

Our hope is grounded in God who moves us to action

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 4:35-41



Today's gospel story looks back to the parables of Mark 4:1-34 and to the crowds that heard them. The story also looks forward as it marks the beginning of the second major section of Mark's gospel (4:35-8:21), a section that seems to be structured around a number of crossings of the lake or Sea of Galilee. Jesus' decision to move with his disciples out of familiar territory is deliberate: "Let us go across to the other side." The crossing itself is difficult, as is the challenge that confronts them on the other side of the lake. From the disciples' perspective, the seeming indifference of the sleeping Jesus is even more disturbing than the storm that threatens their safe crossing: "Do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus demonstrates that he does indeed care. From his perspective, the problem is with the fear in their hearts, a fear that is grounded in their lack of faith: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" In the context of this Markan story, Jesus is like the sower in the parable (4:27-28) who goes to sleep and trusts that the seed will sprout and grow and

bear fruit-which it does. Within a first-century Jewish context, Jesus' ability to "rebuke" the storm is a sign of divine power. In the Psalms, for instance, the God of Israel is the one who stills the roaring of the seas (Psalm 65:5) and controls the creatures that inhabit the waters (Psalm 89:9). Today's first reading has insisted that God commands the sea and all of its moods.

In the Book of Job, God the Birthing Mother presents Job with a series of rhetorical questions, reminding him and us that, while the sea may be threatening, it is God's new born infant, wrapped in God's swaddling clothes of darkness and cloud (Job 38).

We read Mark's little story against the backdrop of the Hebrew Scriptures. We might also read it in light of contemporary science and find within

it a call to consider how our species respects or fails to respect and to nurture the fruit of God's womb, the cosmos. The story of the storm at sea is most certainly not an invitation to be complacent about the extreme weather events on our planet, trusting in God that all will be well. While such terrifying events can derive from the movement of tectonic plates over which we have no control, they can also derive from or be exacerbated by excessive carbon and methane emissions. We pollute the atmosphere and make the seas to rise at our peril. Trust in God may involve relinquishing vested interests and engaging the processes that are designed to reverse the effects of the human-induced climate catastrophe. As nations begin to embrace more ambitious climate action, we have some reason to hope. Our hope is grounded in God who moves us to action.

As nations begin to embrace more ambitious climate action, we have some reason to hope.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JOB 38:1, 8-11
2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-17
MARK 4:35-41

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WISDOM 1:13-15
2 CORINTHIANS 8:7, 9, 13-15
MARK 5:21-24, 35-43



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



NETSTARS

NETBALL CLINIC

Hosted by Julie Prendergast
3 x World Champion & Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist



BALLARAT -
Selkirk Stadium

DATE: Friday 12th July 2024
TIME: 9am - 3pm
AGES: 7 - 14 years old
COST: \$90 per participant



Every participant receives a Netstars T-shirt

Book Online: www.netstarsnetball.com.au



IT'S PLAY TIME!
THERE IS A SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM NEAR YOU

Alfredton Oval
Monday July 1 | 9AM - 3PM

nab AFL Auskick
4-8 year olds

AFL Superkick
8-12 year olds

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

WESTERN BULLDOGS

FIND OUT MORE









IT'S PLAY TIME!
THERE IS A SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM NEAR YOU

Marty Busch Reserve | Sebas
Wednesday July 10 | 9AM - 3PM

nab AFL Auskick
4-8 year olds

AFL Superkick
8-12 year olds

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

WESTERN BULLDOGS

FIND OUT MORE









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