



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024  
Term 2 Week 8

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### Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Jun

#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

2.40pm Assembly led by  
5MM

#### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June

King's Birthday Holiday

#### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Last day for Book Club  
Issue 4 Orders

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June

2.40pm Assembly led by  
4ML

#### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

2.40pm Assembly led by  
3JW

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**12.40pm** Assembly led by  
FMM

### Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jul – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Sep

#### Mon 15<sup>th</sup> & Tues 16<sup>th</sup> July

Student Free Days

#### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

10.30am and 6pm

Confirmation: Compulsory  
Parent Information Sessions  
at St Alipius Church

#### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Start of Term Mass

#### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July

2.40pm Assembly led by 2CK

#### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

2.40pm Assembly led by  
1EM

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August

2.40pm Assembly led by  
FTW

#### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Book Week Parade

2.40pm Assembly led by FGI

#### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August

Fathers/Special Friends Day  
Liturgy

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

We celebrated the feast of the most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday in Churches across Australia. The Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ is also known as Corpus Christi. It is an important day because it acknowledges the risen Christ after Easter.

Children at school have been learning about this feast day. For some it has held a special importance because it coincides with the celebrations of First Eucharist. This is one of the seven sacraments available to us today and one which the children always look forward to as the time when they can finally come forward with the congregation to receive communion. Congratulations to our First Communicants!

Our children are fortunate to belong to a faith community. Whether baptised into the Catholic church or not, all are welcome to join in the life of the parish. Through your child's place in our great school, you are already part of a thriving community, and we are all the better for your presence in it. Let's continue to grow in faith and understanding as we celebrate what it means to be a member of our faith community today.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin

### Reconciliation Action Plan Launch

We were able to officially launch our Reconciliation Action Plan at school last week. The RAP is designed to acknowledge our First Nations People and to honour our commitment to building a future where inclusion, celebration, identity and acceptance flourish.

The children are proud of the way that we have developed our RAP over time, and we are immensely grateful to our staff team who have worked so hard to bring RAP understandings into the culture of our school. **Koling Wada-Ngal**, let us walk together!



**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

2.40pm Assembly led by  
4BO

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

2.40pm Assembly led by  
3DW

**Term 4 (11 weeks)**

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

Start of Term/Mercy Day  
Mass

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

2.40pm Assembly led by 2JS

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

2.40pm Assembly led by  
1MV

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

2.40pm Assembly led by  
5JW

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

Student Free Day

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

Melbourne Cup Holiday

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Nov**

Year 5 Camp

**Sun hats at School**

Did you know that sun protection is still important during the cooler months? It is! If you would like your child to wear their sun hat outdoors any time during second and third terms, please know that this is acceptable.

**Interschool Sport**

Our senior students took part in a morning of sports activities on Friday with students from St. Thomas More school. It was a great opportunity for the children to mix across schools and compete in a friendly environment. Well done children!

**Foundation Visit to Ballarat Wildlife Park**

Our Foundation students enjoyed their first trip offsite last week when they visited the Ballarat Wildlife Park. Along with a very exciting trip on the bus, the students really enjoyed their time at the park. Well done Foundation!

**King's Birthday Holiday**

A reminder to all families that our school will be closed on Monday 10 June for the King's Birthday public holiday. We hope that everybody enjoys a happy long weekend.

## Religious Education News

### THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 2      **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Year B)**

**Gospel:** Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the day the lambs for the Passover meal were killed, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and get the Passover meal ready for you?"

Then Jesus sent two of them with these instructions: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters, and say to the owner of the house: 'The Teacher says, Where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal?' Then he will show you a large upstairs room, prepared and furnished, where you will get everything ready for us."

The disciples left, went to the city, and found everything just as Jesus had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. "Take it," he said, "this is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Jesus said, "This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God's covenant. I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God."

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:**

In our Gospel we hear how Jesus got ready to share the Passover meal with his friends- he broke the bread, blessed it and shared it with his disciples. Jesus took a cup, said a blessing and shared that with his disciples too.

Every time we go to Mass we remember this – and the priest uses the very same words that Jesus did in this reading. This is a very important moment each week as the parish shares in the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.

Can you think of any other special meals that you have shared with friends or family? What was it that made it so special? A special meal can help us feel that we belong.

**Our Challenge:** Jesus invites us to share and live in communion with all our global family. How can we invite and share with others so they too feel a sense of belonging? *(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.*

Thank you to all the children and families who supported our Free Dress Day last week. Your gold coin donations helped raise funds for Juvenile Diabetes research (which is very close to our hearts at St Francis Xavier, as we have several children and staff with T1D).

In Australia, T1D is one of the most common chronic diseases in children, so don't ignore the 4 warning signs!



### [WHAT IS TYPE 1 DIABETES ?](#)

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a lifelong autoimmune disease that usually occurs in childhood but can be diagnosed at any age. T1D is caused by the immune system (which is meant to protect you from foreign bodies such as viruses and bacteria) mistakenly targeting cells that are part of a person's own body.

In type 1 diabetes, the immune system attacks the cells in our pancreas that produce insulin. Insulin helps the body convert glucose (sugar) from food into fuel. Without insulin, glucose can build up in the bloodstream in life-threatening amounts.

Since people with T1D cannot produce insulin naturally, they must take it either through daily injections or from an insulin pump.

**If you're concerned about any of the above symptoms, contact your doctor. They can perform a simple test to find out if you have type 1 diabetes.**

Many misconceptions exist about Type 1 diabetes- follow the link <https://jdrf.org.au/living-with-t1d/faqs/> to find out the answers to questions such as:

- Can I catch Type 1 Diabetes?
- Can Type 1 Diabetes be controlled by diet?
- The difference between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
- Do you get T1D from eating junk food?

If you would like more information please contact the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at <https://jdrf.org.au/>



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

### Semester One Reports

Currently teachers are working on moderating and formulating your child's/ren work samples and testing results to ensure that their reports are accurate and up to date. 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.



Over the next few weeks classes will be administering PAT Reading Adaptive to enhance and have the most accurate results for reports. PAT Adaptive assessments create an individualised test experience for an even more precise picture of student achievement – and a more equitable way to assess.

### PAT Reading Adaptive

- Assesses reading comprehension, covering four strands:
  - Retrieve
  - Interpret implied
  - Interpret explicit
  - Reflect
- Provides five text types
- Automatic assignment of students' entry levels
- Personalised test pathways determined by student responses
- Multiple choice and complex multiple choice questions, administered in 45 minutes
- Mapped to the Australian Curriculum and Victorian Curriculum
- Designed for students in years 1-10

Enjoy your week.



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

## Wellbeing News

Making meaningful connections with your children doesn't have to be a time consuming thing. Sometimes you don't even have to prepare things in advance - you can have "mini-connections" throughout the day whether that be while driving them to school, standing in line at the supermarket or when they are hanging around in the kitchen wondering what's for dinner.

You need to find out what works for you! Dr Matt Sanders, from the Positive Parenting Program, suggests trying to spend small chunks of time with your child - even as small as two minutes at a time - frequently throughout the day.

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Time that is important to your child - when they approach to tell you something, show you something special, ask a question or to involve you in their life.

When these moments take place and you are not busy with something important, try to stop what you are doing and be present with your child for just a brief period of time.

It takes a bit of practice to really tune in but it can be strong in growing positive relationships with your child. This plan of action also works a treat for partners/family/friends and work colleagues as well!

Attached is a link to the SFX [SchoolTV](#) website with a few further ideas on how to achieve positive connections with your child. The Positive Parenting Series shares the four major responsibilities necessary for good parenting from The National Academy of Sciences.



Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

### Sport/Physical Education News

#### Golf Clinics

This week, Tony Collier from Golf Victoria will be conducting golf clinics with all classes in Yr 4 - 6. The clinics will help select the students from SFX for the Ballarat Primary Schools Golf tournament later in the year.

MON JUNE 3rd	9:30am - 10:15am	10:15am - 11:00am	11:45am - 12:30pm	12:30pm - 1:15pm	1:45pm - 2:30pm	2:30pm - 3:15pm
	6PB	6MM	4ML	6ZA	5MM	5CC
TUE JUNE 4th	9:30am - 10:15am	10:15am - 11:00am	11:45am - 12:30pm	12:30pm - 1:15pm	1:45pm - 2:30pm	2:30pm - 3:15pm
	4GH	5JW	4BOK	4ML	6ZA	6MM
WED JUNE 5th	9:30am - 10:15am	10:15am - 11:00am	11:45am - 12:30pm	12:30pm - 1:15pm	1:45pm - 2:30pm	2:30pm - 3:15pm
	5CC	4GH	6PB	5MM	5JW	4BOK

#### Term 2 Calendar:

- 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)

### 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 tremendous 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 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 Hosted by 6MM Theme: Justice

We make fair choices. Justice means being the best person we can be. We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLH	Max Yates and Flossie Bourke	4GH	Lucy Bromley and Mack Smith
FGJ	Harper Gilbertson and Harry Jolly	4ML	Bonnie Giles and Eliza Hanrahan
FTW	Harry McMahon and Nate Quinlan	4BO	Chloe Wilson / Sienna Morton
FMM	Harvey Banwell and Finn Sutcliffe	5CC	Lachlan De Lorenzo and Lyla Harney
1JS	Aurorah Rivett and Oscar Johnson	5MA	Ava Nicholson and James Hocking
1EM	Charlotte Carter and Patrick Lenaghan	5JW	Alexander Ponsonby and Ivy Miles
1MV	Lachie White and Evy Faull	6PB	Sahara Henjak and Archer Spackman
2RR	Winter James and Ollie Geaghan	6ZA	Ivy Bromley & Mila Shillito
2CK	River Fedke and Darcie Richardson	6MM	Beau Hansen and Charlotte Morris
2JS	Ollie Rumble and Ignatius Rush	EE	Hadley Cheeseman and Imogen Curtain (FGJ)
3JE	Freddie Lynch and Maeve Tongs	PA	George Pearce 5JW Amelia Sordello 5JW
3JV	Byron Morton and Maya Skewes	VA	Oakley Smith (2RR)
3DW	Charlotte Porter and Jagger Van Langevelde	PE	
		Tch	Eddie Anderson 3DW Charlotte Porter 3DW
Principal's Award: RAP Team including Ivy Bromley for the way they led us in our RAP launch on Thursday.			



▶ **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

2 June 2024

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

*This is my body. This is my blood.*

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/](http://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 (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weeks)  
10:30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Counting team 5

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:

**Anniversaries:** Eileen White, Thomas B White, Thomas J White

**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

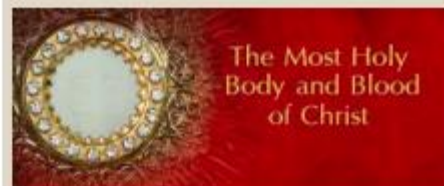
Emily Clarke

## 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.



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## SAVE THE DATE

A group of interested parishioners met at the parish hall last Sunday to share their ideas on how we might acknowledge the parish's historic milestones, including the 150th anniversary of the opening of our current church and 100 years since the bell tower was added. The renovated church was officially opened on 14 December 1924. This year, on Saturday 14 December, mass and a parish picnic will be held to mark the event. Further meetings will be held in coming weeks, which everyone is welcome to attend. Date to be advised.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
<b>Social Evening and Dinner</b>	
6:00 PM, Thursday 6 June, Robin Hood Hotel	
<b>Baptism Preparation</b>	
10:00 AM or 5:30 PM, 6 June, Cathedral Hall	
<b>Caring Group</b>	
2:00 PM, Friday 7 June, Parish Hall	

## 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	\$1,168
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$170.20

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

## ST ALIPIUS ROSTER

The roster for liturgy ministries for June and July has been emailed to people. Printed copies are available in the sacristy. Thank you to all who have generously volunteered to help.

## SOCIAL EVENING AND DINNER

You are invited to a social evening and dinner at the Robin Hood Hotel at 6:00 PM on Thursday 6 June to spend time with one another and our new priests Fathers Justin and Matt. Contact the parish office to RSVP by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AS THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONFUSION OVER THIS.

## JOHNNY'S SPECIAL LETTER

Those parishioners who go to Buninyong masses will be very familiar with the face of Johnny Greenfield. Johnny has been serving on the altar at Buninyong for a couple of years now and last weekend received the Eucharist for the first time.



While Johnny was one of several children who gathered with their families to receive the sacrament, he was the only one wearing a medal that had been blessed by Pope Francis. This medal was sent to Johnny in response to a letter that he had written and sent to Pope Francis late last year. Johnny is a great boy, and we look forward to him being able to share in the Eucharist with the community now, each time he goes to Mass. Johnny, thank you for the amazing support you give our priests each week when you serve at Mass.



## BAPTISMS

**Penny Taylor Miller**  
Child of Matt and Genna Miller

**Sienna Joy, Evelyn Grace, and Amber Louise Lang**  
Children of Christopher and Haley Lang

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

Pope Francis

## LAUDATO SI'

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 **"Use Cloth Bags."**

Did you know that plastic bags can take hundreds of years to break down? They can also be deadly for our wildlife. Take an earth-friendly reusable bag with you everywhere you go.

## PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice, and pastoral care. More information and application forms are available at <http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship>. The closing date for applications is 31 July.

## PRAYING WITH THE POPE

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

Pope's intention for June – **For those fleeing their own countries:** Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries. Lord, hear us.

## CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet in the parish hall at 2:00 PM on Friday 7 June. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a small plate to share.

## FIRST EUCHARIST

The parish welcomes children receiving the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. The children will be joined by their families who have spent the past few weeks helping them prepare. We are grateful for the work that parish schools have done in supporting the students in their preparation and for staff joining us at mass.

## MAY 2024 MASS COUNTS ACROSS THE THREE PARISHES OF OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

Over the four Sundays of May, the attendance of those at Masses are counted. This occurs throughout all churches of the Diocese of Ballarat and includes those attending Lay led Sunday Assemblies of the Word and Holy Communion. Thank you to those who counted attendances each Sunday.

During May, Confirmation was celebrated at Ballan and First Eucharist celebrated at Ballarat East on the last Sunday. Baptisms were celebrated at 10.30am Masses at Ballarat East and Buninyong, as well as on one Sunday at Ballan and Gordon respectively. Springbank had a much larger number in attendance at their monthly Vigil Mass which was on the weekend of Mother's Day. All of these factors impacted on the numbers of people attending the Masses in our Churches during May, making it difficult to gauge what the 'average' numbers are, but the following are the for the month of May.

Ballarat East	150	<b>6.00pm</b> Vigil Mass celebrated weekly
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	73	<b>9.00am</b> Mass celebrated 1 <sup>st</sup> &
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	130	<b>10.30am</b> Mass celebrated 2 <sup>nd</sup> &
Ballan	109	<b>10.30am</b> Mass celebrated weekly
Bungaree	30	<b>8.45am</b> Mass celebrated on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
Buninyong	57	<b>9.00am</b> Mass celebrated on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
	81	<b>10.30am</b> Mass celebrated on the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
Clarks Hill	49	<b>6.30pm</b> Vigil Mass on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Dunnstown	43	<b>6.30pm</b> Vigil Mass on the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
Springbank	71	<b>6.30pm</b> Vigil Mass on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday

# Body and Blood of Christ

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ: Mark 14:12–16, 22–26

The Gospel for today reminds us that we are in a "covenant" relationship with our God. We renew that covenant in every celebration of the Eucharist.

The Israelites of old sealed their covenant with God in animal sacrifice, a practice we may wish to critique, and in the celebration of a meal (Exodus 24:1-12).

The blood of the slain animal was sprinkled on the altar and on the people. The people knew that blood signified life: if blood spilled out then life spilled out. The altar signified God. The sprinkling of the blood denoted their shared life with God. Israel was called to be holy as God is holy.

The symbolism of the Jewish covenant ritual informs today's Gospel story of Jesus' final Passover meal with his disciples. Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread broken and shared becomes his body broken and "given" for them. The sharing of the cup of wine becomes their sharing in the life of Jesus "to be poured out for many". Bread and wine in this context have taken on a new meaning.

While all analogies fall short, we might begin to understand this mystery by considering the Eureka flag. The flag

is constructed of fabric and thread. Because of its associations with the Eureka rebellion and what Eureka stands for in Australian history and folklore, it carries the story that informs its creation as well as all the goodness of its fabric and thread. It has acquired multiple levels of meaning.

Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread and wine of the Eucharist have likewise come to signify something entirely new along with all the goodness of their materiality. They are Life for us, the shared life of the Risen Christ. We are called to bring that life to others, to give life for the sake of the many.

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### *Bread and wine in this context have taken on a new meaning*

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Reading the passage in the context of Mark's gospel provides some insight into how we might do this.

The eleven preceding verses recount stories of contrasting responses to Jesus as he faces his final days: temple authorities plot to destroy him; an unnamed woman "breaks" an



alabaster jar and "pours" the healing perfume on his head, thus anointing his body "for burial" by means of a "eucharistic" action; Jesus declares that what she has done will be told "in remembrance of her"; a close friend seeks to betray him.

Betrayal and rejection are ever-present possibilities even in Eucharistic communities. We are all too aware of this as we endeavour to address the consequences of child sexual abuse.

We need to learn from the other possibility presented to us in this context, namely that of pouring out the healing perfume of compassion and love.

Our "pouring out" at this time might include sharing our resources with those who struggle to put food on their tables.

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

##### THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

EXODUS 24:3–8

HEBREWS 9:11–15

MARK 14:12–16, 22–26

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

##### TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GENESIS 3:9–15

2 CORINTHIANS 4:13–5:1

MARK 3:20–35



**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](http://yballarat.org.au)

