



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Tuesday 11th June 2024
Term 2 Week 9

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 12th June

9.00am Structured Literacy
Parent Information Session
in Gym

Last day for Book Club
Issue 4 Orders

Friday 14th June

2.40pm Assembly led by
4ML

Wednesday 19th June

5.00pm Structured Literacy
Parent Information Session
in Gym

Friday 21st June

2.40pm Assembly led by
3JW

Friday 28th June

12.40pm Assembly led by
FMM
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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

One thing we know well about in Ballarat is the arrival of each new season. The cooler weather this week certainly reminds us that winter is here and it's time to prepare for some wet and cold days ahead.

At school we will always try to find time each day for the children to run around and play outdoors. Of course, this may not always be the case but whenever possible we will try to find some precious moments in the day when we can head outdoors and enjoy some fresh air. Our winter uniform allows for the inclusion of a school beanie and coat to help keep the chills away and jumpers, tights and long trousers will all assist to keep us a bit warmer in the cold months ahead. Our educational friends in the northern hemisphere tell us that there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing. I'm not sure I totally agree but I do accept their point!

Let's make the most of the cool winter months ahead. Without them we wouldn't enjoy the full gift of the seasons. After all, that's what God's gift of creation is all about. Rug up everyone and keep warm. Stay home if unwell and know that we are all experiencing this beautiful Ballarat winter together.



God bless,



Mark Hogbin

King's Birthday Public Holiday



We hope that everyone had an enjoyable long weekend with the celebration of the King's Birthday public holiday yesterday. Full steam ahead now until the end of term!

Friday 30th August
Fathers/Special Friends Day
Liturgy

Friday 6th September
2.40pm Assembly led by
4BO

Friday 13th September
2.40pm Assembly led by
3DW

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

Friday 11th October
Start of Term/Mercy Day
Mass

Friday 18th October
2.40pm Assembly led by 2JS

Friday 25th October
2.40pm Assembly led by
1MV

Friday 1st November
2.40pm Assembly led by
5JW

Monday 4th November
Student Free Day

Tuesday 5th November
Melbourne Cup Holiday

Friday 8th November
2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Friday 15th November
2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Wed 20th & Thurs 21st Nov
Year 5 Camp

Cover-Up Clothing

It's time to prepare for wet weather on the top oval. As always, we will try to keep the oval open as long as we can for the children to play but this will mean children wearing cover up clothes in the coming weeks. Prepare now children, pack your gear ready for the changeable weather.

Traffic around our school

It is vitally important that all adults observe the safety rules when approaching our school at drop off and pick up times. Parents are reminded of the need to be patient and to move with the flow of the traffic along Fortune Street by proceeding up to and around the tree (marked with a white cross) which is on the left-hand side of the road at the Golf Course end of the school. Drivers cannot legally cross the double lines which extend from the bus parking area at the front of the school to the end of the barrier fence that is located opposite the school. Doing so risks the safety of other children and drivers. At pick up and drop off times most traffic on Fortune Street is directly connected to our school community so it is very important that we look out for each other and model safe practices at all times.

End of Term – Start of Term

Classes will cease for second term on Friday 28 June at 2.20pm. Classes will resume for third term on Wednesday 17 July. We wish everyone a very happy semester break.

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 9, 2024 Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home. Again such a large crowd gathered that Jesus and his disciples had no time to eat. When his family heard about it, they set out to take charge of him, because people were saying, "He's gone mad!"

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside the house and sent in a message, asking for him. A crowd was sitting round Jesus, and they said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, and they want you."

Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" He looked at the people sitting round him and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does what God wants him to do is my brother, my sister, my mother."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection: In today's gospel, some people challenge Jesus about his ministry. Jesus compares the people around him to his own family. Jesus says that whoever does what God wants them to do is a part of his family. We are all brothers and sisters with Christ.

When we see that there are people who need help across the world, this gospel reminds us that they are family too- that means we should do our best to listen to them and to help them in difficult times. We can care for others, even if they live far away, just the same as if they were members of our own family, as if they are our brothers and sisters.

Our Challenge: How will you show that you care for your brothers and sisters around the world this week?



Sacrament of First Eucharist:

This week we pray for many of our Year Four Students who are receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist over the following two weekends.

As a part of their Religious Education lessons, the children have been invited to think about hospitality and how Catholic Christians celebrate at Mass. When we receive Communion, we believe that we receive the person of Jesus into our very beings. We become one with him, and we become one with each other. As a

community, we become 'the body of Christ'.

Our Parish Priests, Fr Justin and Fr Matt, will be coming to visit the classes this week and have a chat with the children. We look forward to celebrating this special time with them and their families.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News

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 all those who are interested to learn more about the Literacy process we are using here at St Francis Xavier. All welcome 9:00-10:00am. School gym. Please see the letter on page 4 with more information about this session.

Seesaw

Week of June 2 - June 9 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



248
New Items



190
Likes



62
Comments

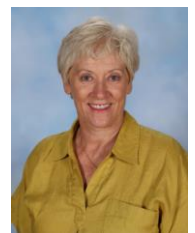


235
Family Visits

Seesaw

Please keep an eye out for posts made by your child this week. As the term progresses pieces of work which the children are proud to display have and will be posted.

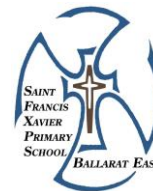
Enjoy your week.



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

St. Francis Xavier Primary School

Ballarat East



In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

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 (DOBCEL) 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. These sessions will take place in our school Gymnasium. There are two session times for you to choose from. The presentation will be the same at both sessions.

- **Wednesday, 12 June at 9:00am**
- **Wednesday, 19 June at 5:00pm**

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**

Division Netball

Good luck to our 5 teams that will be representing SFX at this Friday's Eureka Division Netball tournament at Selkirk Stadium. We know that you will try your best, play as a team and have heaps of fun! We look forward to hearing how you go.

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.

Golf Clinics

Thank you to all of the students and staff for their efforts in last week's golf clinics. Tony was extremely impressed with the students' (and even some staff) ability to learn quickly and consistently hit a good ball. Tony will soon forward to me a list of the students he believes will be capable of playing in a Primary School golf tournament later in the year.

Term 2 Calendar:

- 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 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 fantastic week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

First Aid News

Anaphylaxis Awareness:

St Francis Xavier Primary School is concerned about the safety and well-being of all of our students. Many of you will know someone who is affected by anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Our school does its best to be an allergy aware school. Staff have had training in severe allergy management and we have implemented lots of strategies to help keep students at risk of anaphylaxis as safe as we can. We have 2 students who live with the risk of anaphylaxis to nuts. Whilst plans are in place to care for these students we ask that you help us educate your child on the importance of not sharing food with others, washing hands after eating and calling out to an adult if they think their friend with allergies is sick.

With increased awareness and understanding of anaphylaxis, we will be able to help protect those around us.

As the only way to manage a food allergy is avoidance, the school has implemented many strategies to help prevent a severe allergic reaction. We can never totally eliminate the risk of an anaphylaxis but we can all do things that will help lessen the risk. Please consider the child with food allergy when packing your child's lunch or when sending in food for any occasion, including school excursions. Foods that 'May contain traces of nuts' are fine for the non-allergic students to consume at school as long as they do not share food.

Please help us to support our students with allergies and promote responsibility for each other's safety.



Andrea Grant, **First Aid 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

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 7th June 2024 Hosted by 5MM Theme: Hospitality

We welcome and include others. Hospitality means welcoming other people to a home, business or school. We show hospitality because Jesus teaches us to include everyone and show them they are welcome.

FLH	Ada Mason and Leo Answer	4GH	Lucy Elliot and Gabe Dunne
FGJ	Ava Kelishadi and Arpan Shrestha	4ML	Henry Turnbull and Milla Richardson
FTW	Scottie Toohey and Lachie Skewes	4BO	Nellie Cheeseman / Miah Cooper
FMM	Sophia Samii and Thomas Whatmough	5CC	Harry Hatt and Evie Staley
1JS	Isla Easton and Khloe Neild	5MA	Charlie Kersley and Mila Knowles
1EM	Remy Hansen and Zephyr Swanson	5JW	Cruize Van Langervelde and Nick Green
1MV	Polly O'Loughlin and Elizabeth Kelly	6PB	Cooper Daly and Charlotte Quarrell
2RR	Tom Maher and Cooper Robberts	6ZA	Adelle Marson and Orion Morton
2CK	Nicolas Taylor and Bryn Glab	6MM	Mabel Reus and Lilly Rice
2JS	Ryder Buntsma and Milla Nicholson	EE	Campbell Delahunty and Jessica Youl (6ZA)
3JE	Grade 3 at the Werribee Zoo	PA	
3JV		VA	Greyson Broadbent and Hazel Martin (1MV)
3DW		PE	Maeve Tongs and Abbey Williams
		Tch	Sophie Keating and Monty Harrison (6MM)
Principal's Award:			



▶ **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

9 June 2024

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
With the Lord there is mercy

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday 5:30 PM,
Wednesday - Saturday 9:30 AM,
Saturday Vigil 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 6

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:

John Richards Snr., Rita Shannon, Daniel Simmons

Anniversaries: Shelia McCartin, Peter McDonald

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.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal



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.

FINANCES AND PROPERTY

The Parish Finance Council updated parishioners on the parish's financial position, including options for the future use of our parish land and buildings and the insurance of our churches and other buildings at community meetings. These are important issues affecting the future of our parish, so if you have not had a chance to attend one of the earlier meetings, there is another one at 10:00 AM on Friday 14 June in the St Alipius Parish Hall, after the 9:30 AM mass.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finance and Property Update Meetings
10:00 AM, Friday 14 June, St Alipius Hall

WEEKDAY MASSES

With Fr Matt attending the Evangelise: A Synodal Way conference in Sydney and Fr Justin facilitating the first of the regional formation gatherings in Mildura and Robinvale in preparation for the November Ballarat Diocesan Assembly on Leadership and Governance in a Synodal Church, weekday masses have changed this week. See the panel on the front page for details.

PLANNING GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,332
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$611.20

EOFY AND PLANNED GIVING

Thank you to everyone who contributed financially to our parish this financial year. Everyone is invited to join our planning giving program for the new financial year. Contributions can be made via envelopes or direct debit, EFTPOS machine located at the back of the church or you can visit the parish office to donate cash. Our parish office liaises with the Finance Officer who manages planned giving programs across Ballarat. If you don't receive a response to queries in a reasonable time, please don't hesitate to prompt us with a reminder.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Preparation for confirmation begins early in Term 3. If you know anyone who wishes to have their child confirmed, refer them to the parish office or website.

SOCIAL EVENING AND DINNER

Thank you to everyone who attended the parish social evening and dinner at the Robin Hood Hotel on Thursday evening with Fr Justin and Fr Matt.



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Fr Gary Jones has retired as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hampden (Mortlake and Terang) and from 1 July, he will join the ranks of the senior clergy, residing in Ballarat. Fr Neville Stanislaus has been appointed Parish Administrator of Hampden Parish, in addition to his responsibilities as Parish Priest of Camperdown and Timboon. Fr Jim McKay has been appointed Visiting Priest for the Hampden Parish, while Fr Abraham Thomas MST will move from being Assistant Priest in the Southwest Coast Parish (Warmambool etc) to Assistant Priest in the Cathedral Parish. Deacon Xuan Cay Trinh, who will conclude his studies at Corpus Christi Seminary at the end of June, has been appointed to the Sunraysia Parish until 3 November. He will then make final preparations for his ordination to the priesthood, scheduled for Saturday, 23 November at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

FORMATION SESSIONS

In November 15th – 16th this year, a Diocesan Assembly will bring together at Federation University Mt Helen, clergy, two parish delegates from each parish, school leaders, Diocesan entities and Catholic organisations to consider synodal leadership and governance in our Diocesan community.

To prepare for the Assembly, formation sessions with a focus on leadership and governance will be held around the diocese, facilitated by Fr Justin Driscoll.

These formation opportunities are for clergy, parish leadership teams/councils, school leaders, and Catholic organisations in the Diocese (St V de P etc.).

Parishioners interested in leadership and governance for a synodal Church are also welcome to attend

Two formation sessions will be held in our region, one at Ss Peter and Paul's Buninyong on Sunday August 4th commencing with 10:30 AM Mass and concluding by 4:00 PM and another at OLHC Wendouree, Tuesday August 13th 5.00m – 8.30pm. To register please contact jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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.

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.

BAPTISMS

Murphy Kate Tunbridge
Child Zachary and Hannah Tunbridge

Jamie Louise and Arthur Leo Nightingall
Children Joshua and Natalie Nightingall

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

Pope Francis

ONLINE STUDY PROGRAM

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This US\$50 online study and formation program for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through the Diocese of Ballarat's partner, Dayton University. Cycle five begins on 15 July. There are 41 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you. Registrations are open now. Scan or click the QR code for more information, ph. 5337 7121, or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au.



CTC 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/7894212345?pwd=UtrTooE9Jlw8qcYx2wpwAdz1hMjF4P%20#registration>

In October, CTC 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.

Whoever Does the Will of God

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 3:20–35

Name-calling is an age-old device used to discredit enemies. Politicians are adept at finding labels with which to discredit their opponents. Sometimes the labels stick and often have the effect of destroying good people.

In today's gospel, Jesus is subjected to the worst of all imaginable taunts or labels: he is said to be possessed by Beelzebub, the prince of demons. The story belongs within a trajectory of growing hostility towards him from the authorities.

Mark has presented Jesus as the Christ or Messiah, as God's Son who is authorised to usher in God's empire of reconciliation and peace. Jesus is the "stronger one" (1:7) who will destroy the powers of evil. He invites others to join him in his mission of healing, of proclaiming God's reign and of driving out demons.

Those on the edge of Palestinian society flock to him for healing. The religious authorities, on the other hand, find themselves challenged, even threatened, by Jesus' growing popularity and his perceived challenge to their strict interpretation of aspects of the Mosaic Law.

Such practices as dining with those considered to be "sinners" and permitting his hungry disciples to

pluck grain on the Sabbath, for instance, are met with hostile responses from the religious authorities.

For Jesus, always the faithful Jew, the Law was established for humans, not humans for the Law and he is not afraid to say so.

Early in his ministry, opposition has built to a point that traditional enemies, the Pharisees and the Herodians, join forces to find a way of destroying him.

Mark often places a story within a story

The surprise is that members of Jesus' biological family now get involved in the attempts to put a halt to his mission, even if their motives differ from those of the Jerusalem "scribes" who bring the charge of demon possession.

One factor to consider is that the family's honour is at stake. Another factor is the family's concern that Jesus and his disciples were failing to take care of themselves. The demands were such that "they could not even eat".

Even if well-motivated, they want "to seize him" because they consider him



to be "out of his mind." Jesus' biological family thus falls into the trap of taking responsibility for him instead of supporting him to pursue his dream.

Mark often places a story within a story. In this instance, the story within is the challenge from the scribes and of Jesus' powerful counterchallenge.

The outer frame consists of the efforts of Jesus' biological family to save their honour by saving him from a crazy lifestyle and by his redefining of his "family" as those "who do the will of God".

This complex story invites us to refrain from labelling those who threaten our status or authority. They may just happen to be agents of God's transforming grace for us and for our world.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
GENESIS 3:9–15
2 CORINTHIANS 4:13–5:1
MARK 3:20–35

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



**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

