



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 12th August 2024

Term 3 Week 5

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
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Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 15th Jul – Fri 20th Sep

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
2.30pm Chat and snack in
the Undercover area
2.45pm Liturgy in Family
Groups
6.30pm Trivia Night in Gym

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 27th & Thurs 28th Nov

Please note corrected dates
Year 5 Camp

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Do you ever feel like time is passing by very quickly? It might seem like we are just past the middle mark of the school year and yet with our school leadership team, we are well and truly into planning for 2025!

You may have noticed that we have commenced our advertising campaign for staff for the new school year. I'm sure that you would be well aware that Australia is facing a severe shortage of teachers across the country at the moment, and it's not expected that this will change in the next few years. The numbers of students choosing teaching as a career has been in severe decline now for the past 4 years so it's important that we continue to support our teachers in schools today. Teaching is such a positive career for so many of us, and it is always a privilege to spend precious time working with the children in our schools. If you know of someone who might want to consider teaching as a future career, applaud them and encourage them to give it a go. As a vocation guided by the Holy Spirit, they will be choosing such a rewarding profession. One like no other!

I am so often reminded of the great teachers that we have at Saint Francis Xavier school. Their desire to educate faithfully, and in faith is a precious gift to the children in their care. As we begin to think about the future for our great school, you might like to send up a prayer or two that the right people will be drawn to want to join our team in 2025 and beyond.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



A Mid-Winter Prayer

Lord, In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold, and wind can pierce, remind us of the warmth of your love. In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines. Remind us that the joy of Spring is but a short time away. Amen.



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Rest In Peace Mrs. Brandenburg



We remember a great friend to Catholic education this week as we pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Maureen Brandenburg, mother of Ms. Jane Clark. Maureen entered eternal life last week and we keep all members of the family in our prayers.

Foundation Interviews 2025

Staff are busy conducting interviews with our Foundation 2025 students at the moment. This is a very exciting time for the class of '25 as they come to learn a little more about school life and what it has to offer.

Promotional Video

As part of the 150th celebrations for our Diocese, DOBCEL has produced a promotional video about our great school. Take a moment to have a look and see what you think. We think it's terrific! <https://youtu.be/E9E69Yam5eA>

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday August 11, 2024 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: John 6:41-51 The people started grumbling because Jesus had said he was the bread that had come down from heaven. They were asking each other, "Isn't he Jesus, the son of Joseph? Don't we know his father and mother? How can he say that he has come down from heaven?"

Jesus told them: Stop grumbling! No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me makes them want to come. But if they do come, I will raise them to life on the last day. One of the prophets wrote, "God will teach all of them." And so everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him will come to me. The only one who has seen the Father is the one who has come from him. No one else has ever seen the Father. I tell you for certain that everyone who has faith in me has eternal life.

I am the bread that gives life! Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, and later they died. But the bread from heaven has come down, so that no one who eats it will ever die. I am that bread from heaven! Everyone who eats it will live forever. My flesh is the life-giving bread I give to the people of this world. (*Gospel passage taken from CEV*)

Our Challenge: How can we live by Jesus's example and his teaching?



Arrival of the Message Stick

To mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Ballarat Diocese, five Message Sticks were gifted to carry the message to:

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12).

In Aboriginal culture, Message Sticks were passed between different clans and language groups to establish information and transmit messages. They were often used to invite neighbouring groups to corroborees, initiation ceremonies, right of entry to country and invitation to religious rituals.

At our assembly this morning, we celebrated the arrival of a Message Stick that is travelling across our Diocese in honour of 150 years. These Message Sticks are being carried from school to school to remind us of the interconnectedness of all our school communities - from the Murray to the Sea. We will display this Message Stick in our front office, together with an explanation of the symbols depicted in its art.

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PLEASE JOIN US ON FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH TO CELEBRATE FATHER'S AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

2:30PM GATHER IN THE UNDERCOVER FOR A
CHAT AND SNACK

2:45PM LITURGY (IN FAMILY GROUPS)



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Wellbeing News

Standard 3: Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

A purple banner with a halftone pattern. On the left, the words "EVERYONE BELONGS" are written in white, bold, sans-serif font, with "EVERYONE" on a yellow speech bubble and "BELONGS" on a yellow speech bubble below it. On the right, the text "Bullying No Way National week of action" is written in white, with "Bullying No Way" in a larger font. Below this, "12-16 August 2024" is written in white on a yellow rectangular background.

**EVERYONE
BELONGS**

**Bullying No Way
National week of action**
12-16 August 2024

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.

This week at St Francis Xavier we are acknowledging 'Bullying No Way' week. This year's theme is 'Everyone Belongs'. Bullying No Way Week is an opportunity to promote the importance of peer, school, parent and community connections - where every child feels safe, supported and respected.

Positive school climates that value diversity and inclusion can foster a sense of belonging and provide a protective factor against negative peer relationships and reduce bullying.

Teachers play an important role in supporting students' sense of belonging. Prioritising high-quality and respectful teacher-student relationships leads to supportive and caring classrooms where everyone is respected and treated fairly. When teachers create a positive learning environment, it helps students feel like they belong and reduces the occurrence of negative behaviours such as bullying.

I have another podcast recommendation for you all - 'Bullying and Belonging' from the Department of Education and Associate Professor and Educational and Developmental Psychologist at Monash University Dr Kelly-Ann Allen. Dr Allen discusses the importance of belonging in schools and how it can help to prevent bullying. This podcast is produced on behalf of Bullying No Way: National week of action - an initiative of the Australian Schools Anti-Bullying Collective.

If you feel as though as a family you need to respond to bullying here are a few tips:

Schools can be much more effective when parents report bullying and support their efforts to deal with it.

If your child reports that bullying is occurring at school, or the bullying involves students from the school outside of school, you should let the school know the situation.

Working together with the school is the best way to help your child resolve bullying issues.

Schools will work with you to resolve the situation and will also work with the other student's parents. Due to privacy law, they will not be able to share information about any other students involved.



Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

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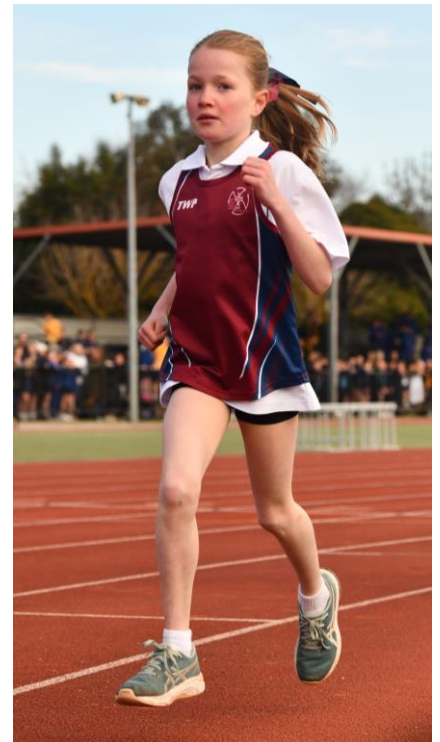
Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics

Early Spring weather greeted our SFX Athletics team at last week's Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Track & Field event at Llanberris.

All of the students gave their all in their events and produced some fantastic results. Well done to all of the students for their efforts and the way they supported their peers throughout the day.

Congratulations to all of those that have qualified for the Division Athletics later this term.

A big thank you to Mr Down, Mrs Downey and all of the families that came along to support.



Eureka Division Basketball

Congratulations to the students that were recently selected to represent SFX at the upcoming Division Basketball tournament. We will be represented by 5 teams and it promises to be a fantastic basketball event.

Term 3 Calendar:

- 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 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Term 4:

- Week 1 - Monday Oct 7th - Friday Oct 11th - Swimming Program Yr 1 & 2
- Week 1 - Friday Oct 11th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths- Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 3 - Friday Oct 25th - 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 4 - Friday Nov 1st - Junior Sports Day @ Russell Square (All students from F - Yr 2)
- Week 6 - Friday Nov 15th - Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 v St Alipius

SFX Football Jumpers, Singlets & Netball dresses/bibs

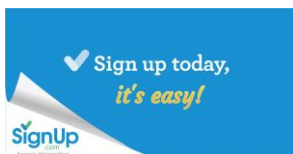
If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to Mr Down, Mr Carroll or drop into the office.

Have a fantastic week.

Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**



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](https://www.signup.com)

11th August 2024
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
‘Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.’

St Alipius parish

▶ **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/ballarat-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius
 Tue 5:30 PM,
 Wed - Fri 9:30 AM

Feast of the Assumption – See Notice
 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:
 Jimmy McKee, Dorothy Snell, Neil Quinlan, Helen Sawkins

Anniversaries: Lawrence McCartin

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez Shelley Pawang, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest
 Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest
 Fr Matthew Restall

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.

Community
Remember Revitalise
Hope

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1288
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$1313

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish and Eureka Anniversary Planning Meeting
Sunday August 11th at 3pm, Parish Hall

Parish Finance Council Meeting
Thursday August 22nd at 7.30 am, Presbytery

Liturgy Team Meeting
Thursday August 22nd at 5.30 pm, Presbytery

Trivia Night
6:30PM for 7PM start, 30 August, Parish Hall

BISHOP PAUL VISITING

As part of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, Bishop Paul is visiting each of the 29 parishes of the Diocese. He will celebrate the Masses in our Parish on the weekend of September 14th – 15th with 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Alipius and 9.00am Sunday Mass at Ballarat East and 10.30am Mass at Buninyong. How might we recognise this visit of Bishop Paul to our Parish? Please forward your suggestions to the Parish Office in the coming weeks.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

This coming week we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary.

Mass times in our Ministry District will be as follows:

Wednesday August 14th (Vigil Mass)
5.30pm Dunnstown

Thursday August 15th
9.00am Bungaree
9.30am Ballarat East
10.30am Ballan
11.00am Mercy Place
5.30pm Ballarat East

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH

Leadership and Governance for a Synodal Church

Thank you to all who attended the formation gathering at Buninyong in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly. Members of our Parish Council, Finance Council and Liturgy Team were joined by parishioners from Bungaree and the Cathedral parishes, together with members of Diocesan Commissions, Councils and Boards as well as Sisters of Mercy. Thank you to the Buninyong community for hosting this gathering for the Diocese.

In preparation for the Ballarat Diocesan Assembly (November 15th - 18th), these formation gatherings are being held to inform and explore the focus of the Diocesan Assembly. Each of the 29 parishes of the Diocese will be invited to nominate two delegates to attend the Assembly that will be held at Federation University, Mt Clear.

Pope Francis is providing leadership for a synodal Church and the Plenary Council of the Australian Church has recognised that the practice of synodality requires greater transparency in decision making, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised, giving witness to the equal dignity of women and men. The Plenary Council has affirmed a culture of synodality for parishes and dioceses, where healthy and fruitful relationships between clergy and laity "recognise different but complementary charisms and opportunities for co-responsibility", and desire "consultative and collaborative approaches to governance at all levels in the Church." The emphasis on listening and discernment for a synodal Church reveals how the People of God may be more centred on Christ, build healthy and respectful relationships amongst ourselves, and be effective missionary disciples in the Spirit.

Members of Parish Leadership Teams, together with all interested parishioners are invited to register to attend the formation gathering to be held on Tuesday August 13th from 5.00pm at OLHC Church Gillies St Wendouree. Please register your attendance with Jane Collins in the Pastoral Ministry Office, jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAFETRAC MODULE

This Thursday, August 15th we are conducting a group session for any volunteers from the parish who need to complete their Safetrac Module. This session will be held in the hall starting at 4 pm. If you have not been able to complete your module to date, we would ask that you make yourself available for this session if you possibly can. Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults must be a priority in our parish.

BAPTISMS

Hudson Dan Ruyg
Child of Danielle Ruyg

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

Pope Francis

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

As we enter the final month of Winter we would like to acknowledge the wonderful support we have received from both the parish and school communities for our current appeal.

We recently received a donation of 4 hand made quilts which we are raffling with all proceeds going to our Winter Appeal. Tickets- \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3 will be available in the foyer. Winners will be announced Saturday 31st.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Issue 2 for 2024 of Our Diocesan Community is available now in church foyers. Don't miss your copy. Sit down with a cuppa and the ODC magazine and find out what's happening in the diocese. This edition is also available to view online.

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ODC-July-2024-1.pdf>

ACU BIG SING FOR A BIG CAUSE - AUGUST 25, 2024

The Australian Catholic University, in partnership with St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne) and St Patrick's College (Ballarat) is hosting "Big Sing for a Big Cause", which will see singers, choirs and instrumentalists combine for a special performance, raising funds for those affected by homelessness. The concerts will be in Ballarat and Melbourne, performing Street Requiem, a piece co-composed by Dr Kathleen McGuire, a renowned composer and ACU senior lecturer in Music Education. Donations will be raised for Peplow House (a ministry of CatholicCare Victoria) and ACU's Urgent Financial Hardship Grant. For more information go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/acus-big-sing-for-a-big-cause/>

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR RCIA

Are you someone or do you know someone who... Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. For information please contact Dallas 0412 532 572, Kevin 0421 959 960 or the Parish Office on (03) 5332 6611.

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Have you booked your table for our trivia night? Unfortunately our phones have not 'run hot' with people booking tables for this night. We need a minimum of 8 tables, so please let the office know if you would like to attend. If you can't get enough people together for a time, individual bookings are most welcome. It will be held on August 30th, doors open from 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM start. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles. What a great way to end winter and welcome the spring! A fun night is assured.

ANNIVERSARY PREPARATION

Come along to our next meeting to discuss preparation for the anniversaries occurring in our parish. It will be held on this Sunday, August 11th in St. Alipius hall at 3pm. In December 2024 the 170th anniversary of Eureka and the 150th of the opening of the current St Alipius Church will be acknowledged. As a parish we will recognise these anniversaries on Saturday December 14th with the 6.00pm Vigil Mass followed by a byo picnic in the Church grounds. We thank the many parishioners who have already provided photos and stories, but there are many more out there. Do you have photos, stories or both which might be of interest to fellow parishioners? If so remember that we are looking to collect these as we plan an event to recognise 150 years of our church. Whether from Ballarat East, Buninyong or Clarendon we are keen to gather as many stories and photos as we can to share with those who attend this function, but we cannot do it without your help.

Stop Grumbling and Listen

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus was a Jew, as was John, the author of the gospel. It may seem strange, therefore, that John has the "Jews" complaining about Jesus. It is indeed strange and it has caused many a reader to wonder. John seems to use the designation "Jew" as a code word for the opponents of Jesus. These opponents are almost exclusively Jewish leaders rather than the ordinary people who followed Jesus. The designation does not include all the Jewish leaders of course: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea stand out as leaders who came to believe in Jesus as the Christ or Messiah and to take risks on account of their faith. The complaint of the "Jews" relates to Jesus' claim, "I am the bread that came down from heaven". Jesus shares the world view or cosmology of his contemporaries: God is in the heavens above, so that anything or anyone coming from God in that world view comes *down from heaven*. The problem for his adversaries is that Jesus is one of them: they know his father Joseph and his forebears, so how can he be making such a claim? They make the mistake of thinking that this is all there is to know about his origins. "Stop grumbling" is Jesus' response to them. He proceeds to tell them that there are dimensions of his being of which they know nothing. And yet, they need to know, as do we. It is God who draws us to the teaching and to the way of Jesus. Like the opponents of Jesus, we need to listen and to learn, to be taught by God. We need bread in order to live and we also need the bread of God's teaching.

Jesus makes a future promise: the bread he offers is different from the bread the Israelites ate in the desert, in that those who eat of it will live forever. Furthermore, the bread that he will give for the life of the world is his flesh. This leads to further misunderstanding and the opportunity for Jesus to teach at another level. The eucharistic overtones in today's reading are subtle but nonetheless present, as they were in the feeding story.

John is writing some seventy years after the death of

Jesus for communities that gathered every week for the breaking of the bread-in remembrance of him and of all that he enacted. Like the early Christians, we reflect on the meaning of eucharist. We recognise and honour the materiality of the bread that Jesus shares with all living creatures. At the same time, we are invited to reflect on the symbolic or metaphorical resonances of both bread and flesh in the context of the claims of the Johannine Jesus. The question for us then becomes: "How do we live into this extraordinary mystery as we face the demands of our endangered planet and the challenge of dealing with the dislocating effects of war and global inequity?"

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
KINGS 19:4-8
EPHESIANS 4:30 - 5:2
JOHN 6:41-51

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
PROVERBS 9: 1-6
EPHESIANS 5:15-20
JOHN 6: 51-58

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Ballarat will host a special lunch on Sunday, September 15th, at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, catered by Mr. Jones Dining. The goal of this unique lunch event is to raise funds to create more matches for the 160 young people on our waiting list in need of mentors.

This unique event will feature delicious Asian cuisine at the Oddie Room of the Art Gallery, prepared by acclaimed chef Damien Jones and his team from Mr. Jones Dining, a prestigious one-hat restaurant in Ballarat with a decade of experience.

Local musicians will provide entertainment.

Shannen Mennen, a Wadawarrung Traditional Owner, will give a welcome to country and discuss mentoring in her culture.

Discover the significance of mentoring for young people and mentors in our program.

Chef Damien will also share how mentoring has impacted his career.

Tickets are priced at \$95 per person or \$180 per couple – see links below – we look forward to seeing you there!



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL LUNCH

- Amazing Asian Cuisine
- Live Music
- Guest Speakers
- Mentor & Mentee stories
- Art Gallery dining experience

📍 Oddie Room, Art gallery
Ballarat

📅 15th September @12:30hrs

🎫 To buy tickets, scan QR code

[\\$95 per person](#)

[\\$180 per couple](#)



Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia (BBBS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to offering extended mentorship to at-risk youth in need of assistance. By fostering one-on-one mentoring relationships, we aim to alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation among young individuals.

Our mentoring program emphasizes long-term engagement. Both the volunteer and the young person agree to meet for an hour every week, for at least 12 months. Numerous matches extend well beyond this initial commitment, some lasting for years or even a lifetime.

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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

