



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Term 4 Week 1

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### Term 4 (11 weeks)

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

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

9.30am Mercy Day Mass  
at St Alipius Church

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

2.40pm Assembly led by 2JS

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

Free Dress Day – gold coin  
donations for Mercy Works

2.40pm Assembly led by  
1MV

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

Junior Sports Day at Russell  
Square for all Foundation-  
Year 2 students

2.40pm Assembly led by  
5JW

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

Pupil Free Day

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

Melbourne Cup Holiday  
Pupil Free Day

#### 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 27<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Nov

Year 5 Camp

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Free Dress Day – gold coin  
donations for St Vincent de  
Paul, Ballarat East

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Last 2024 day for students

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Welcome to the fourth and final term for the school year! It was great to welcome our students and families back to school this morning and to hear the buzz of excitement around the school. Let's look out for each other this term and enjoy learning and being together at St. Francis Xavier Primary School!



### PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF A NEW TERM



Almighty God, We give you our school.

We give you all the teachers and staff who work here.

We give you all the children who learn here.

We pray our school will continue to be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love.

A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Term Dates

Our classes commenced for fourth term this morning and we will continue for the next eleven weeks. The last day of school for students will be Wednesday 18th December.

### Mercy Mass

Mercy Week is celebrated from September 24th and honours our history and connection with Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy. As a Mercy school, these links are critical and influence all that we do, particularly through our school values of Compassion, Justice, Excellence, Hospitality and Respect. You are invited to join us to celebrate Mercy Week with the beginning of the term Mass at St. Alipius Church, Friday October 11th at 9.30am. All are welcome.

### Foundation 2025 Transition Mornings begin

Our first Transition morning for 2025 Foundation students will occur on Friday 18th October between 9.30 -11.00am (Group A) and between 11.30 – 1.00pm (Group B). This is an important and exciting time for our newest students and we look forward to meeting them for their sessions. It brings once again new life to our school as we prepare for 2025.

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## New Playground



After so much planning and fundraising, we are delighted to announce that our new playground has been installed over the holiday break. This playground has replaced the existing structure. Our Parents and Friends Committee has been outstanding in their fundraising efforts and we are very grateful for their tireless energy and work.



## Summer School Uniform

With the warmer weather ahead (we can hope!), full summer uniform is required for Term Four. There will be a three week transition period at the beginning of the term to allow for Ballarat's fluctuating weather, with the expectation that the Summer uniform will be worn consistently from Week Four. A description of the Summer uniform can be found on our school website and purchases can be made from Crockers.

Please be mindful that our uniform policy also asks that students observe safety regulations regarding jewellery at all times. As we are a Sunsmart school it is a requirement that we all wear hats when we are outside. Your help with our continued high standard of uniform requirements and expectations will be greatly appreciated.

## Car Park – Traffic Movement

We wish to remind everyone at the start of this new term that the management of traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day is always a concern. We are fortunate that there is very little non-school traffic in the mix at these times. If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained. We remind drivers to pull off to the left around the trees where the buses travel and U-turn to return down Fortune Street rather than cross directly across the traffic. (This is illegal!).

Our staff car park is not to be used as a pathway to either drop your children at school or pick them up. Car spaces are limited and the onsite car park is for staff cars only. Many thanks for your assistance with these matters.

## Class Groupings 2025

Over the next few weeks teachers will be working on formulating class groupings for 2025. In doing this, academic, social and emotional considerations will be taken into account to inform decisions. We are fortunate at St. Francis Xavier to have our teachers plan learning activities that often allow our children to mix across the year group where they are working alongside.

Next year all our classes will be straight classes. Prior to teachers working on the construction of 2025 class groups, all children will be asked to nominate 4 children who they know they can work well with and would like to be considered to be in the same class in 2025.

If you would like any requests regarding your child to be considered, please email the office at [office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au) **NO later than Monday 14th October.** While all correspondence will be considered, the final decision will be made by the classroom teachers in consultation with Leadership.

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**Congratulations** to Gemma and Tim on their Wedding Day.

We wish them love, health and happiness as they begin their married life together.

**Zooper Doopers** will be returning on **Fridays**, second break for 50c starting from week 2.



Enjoy your week.



Jane Clark,  
Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement



Jayne Mohr  
Deputy Principal/Learning Diversity

### Religious Education News

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 6th, 2024    Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

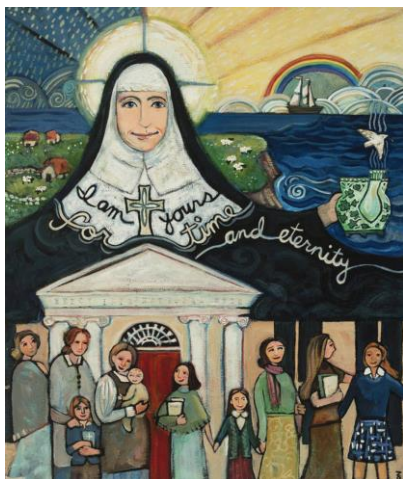
**Gospel:** Mark 10:2-16 Some people brought their children to Jesus so he could bless them by placing his hands on them. But his disciples told the people to stop bothering him. When Jesus saw this, he became angry and said, "Let the children come to me! Don't try to stop them. People who are like these little children belong to the kingdom of God. I promise you that you cannot get into God's kingdom, unless you accept it the way a child does." Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them by placing his hands on them. *(Gospel passage taken from CEV)*

**Gospel reflection:** People were bringing their children to Jesus for his blessing, but the disciples tried to stop them. Perhaps they thought the children would bother Jesus, that he would find them too loud or lively: or maybe the disciples were worried that Jesus was tired or hungry and that it was time for him to rest.

Jesus is upset and tells the disciples to let the children come to him. He says that they have a special way of looking at the world and of understanding things, which adults can learn from. Jesus welcomed and blessed the children who came to see him. He loves us all. No matter where in the world we live. Whether we are old or young, big or small, rich or poor.

In today's gospel, Jesus welcomes the children and shows the disciples how important they are. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus thinks all children are important and that he wanted to listen to them?

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### Invitation to Term Four Mercy Mass

A warm invitation is extended to all our families, friends and parish members who would like to join us in celebrating our start of Term Four Whole School Mercy Mass.

Please know you do not have to be Catholic or a regular churchgoer to attend these celebrations - everyone is always welcome here at St Francis Xavier!

Time: 9.30am

Date: Friday October 11, 2024

Venue: St Alipius Church (Victoria St Ballarat)



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

### Sport/Physical Education News

Welcome back after a well deserved  $\frac{3}{4}$  time break, as we prepare for a big final quarter! There are still plenty of exciting events coming up this term that we are looking forward to.

#### Regional Athletics

We wish the following students all the very best as they participate in this Friday's Greater Western Regional Athletics: *Nellie Cheeseman, Pippa Dalton, Jed Hynes, Mitch Kane, Sam Norris, Jackson Roberts, Amelia Sordello, Archer Spackman and Alexis Toohey.*

#### After School - Sporting Schools

Please refer to the PAM notification for all of the information. Confirming that both programs are limited to 25 places each and those that will be participating will be notified shortly.

#### 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 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 great week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**



▶ **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

6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

‘What God has joined together, no one must divide.’

# 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**  
Tue 5:30 PM  
Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place –  
parishioners welcome  
Thurs & Fri 9:30 AM  
Sat 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM Vigil  
Sun 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 2

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:**  
Shelley Pawang (Fr Jorge's niece)

**Anniversaries:** Mary Cooper

**Unwell:** Socorro De Chavez,

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**  
TBA

**Child Safety Officer**  
Emily Clarke  
Principal – St. Alipius School  
Phone: 5331 1816

## 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.



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

## MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

After the great success and fun that was had at last year's Melbourne Cup Luncheon, we have decided to hold the event again. You are invited to join us for a luncheon to celebrate the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday 5 November from 11 AM in St Alipius Hall. Tickets are \$25 per person. Lunch of chicken, salad and dessert will be supplied. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be supplied. Please confirm numbers with the parish office by 31 October. Prizes for the best male and female fascinators. Sweeps will be available. If anyone can bring a salad or a dessert, please contact the parish office.

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$741
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$178.40

If you have any queries about your Planned Giving, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office and we would be very happy to help out where we can.

## WORLD MISSION MONTH



Catholic Mission invites us to celebrate World Mission Month: "Together, we have the power to create change

and build a more just world for people everywhere. By supporting missionaries in their work, we can create life-changing opportunities for countless children, families, and communities worldwide. Join us in making a difference for our sisters and brothers." Pope Francis has recently published his messages for World Mission Month and World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated on October 20. Read both of these messages at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth>

## BAPTISMS

Isabelle Mae Carey  
Child of Dominic and Katrina Carey

*"I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*

## RCIA FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

In November, we will be holding an information meeting for families who have children who wish to join our RCIA program for Children of Catechetical Age. We already have five families who have expressed interest in this program, but if you are away of anyone who may have an older child or children who haven't been initiated into the church, please ask them to contact the parish office.

## COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Do you find yourself with an hour or two to spare every couple of weeks? If so have you given any thought to taking communion to those who cannot, for whatever reason, gather with us at masses. This is a rewarding role which brings great comfort to many. If this is something you think you might have some time for, please contact the parish office for more information.

## MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Our annual Remembrance Mass, celebrating the lives of those who have passed away in the last 12 months will be at 6:00 PM on Saturday 2 November at St Alipius. These people will be remembered at all masses that weekend. If you have lost a loved one in the past twelve months, but they weren't buried from our parish, please contact the parish office to have them remembered at this mass. A bbq will follow the 6:00 PM mass at St. Alipius and a cuppa will follow the 10:30 AM mass at Buninyong. Please spread the word.

## POSITION VACANT - ARCHIVIST



The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat requires an appropriately skilled individual to manage its extensive archives collection and take carriage of the historical engagement program across the diocese, which includes liaising with the Professional Standards team and other diocesan leadership to identify and appropriately secure historical records and artifacts throughout the diocese. There will be a requirement to travel regionally from time to time to engage with venues and artifacts of significance within the diocese and promote the significance of the collection broadly. Scan or click the QR code for more information.

## PARISH ANNIVERSARY – DEC 14<sup>TH</sup>

We hope that by now you have marked December 14<sup>th</sup> as an important date in your diary. The anniversary committee have been busy making plans for this special day and are able to share some of the details with you. On the day we hope that many will be able to gather to take time viewing the displays which have been prepared. These displays will take help you to remember the many groups and people who have been part of the history of the parish. There will also be interviews with parishioners who have taken time to share their memories of their time at St. Alipius. Mass will be celebrated at the usual time of 6pm with a liturgy and will then be followed by a picnic in the grounds of the church/presbytery. During this time people are invited to bring a picnic tea or take advantage of the sausage sizzle which will be happening in the grounds. More information will be available in coming weeks. A big thank you to the many parishioners who have been meeting and put time in to ensure that this occasion is a memorable one. If you know of people who are no longer in the parish, but would be keen to attend, please don't hesitate to share the information with them.

## SCHOOL'S BACK

Term 4 begins on Monday. We hope that staff and students are ready for the final term of this year. Take care around school crossings!

## THANK YOU, FRs. KEVIN & GARY

Next weekend we welcome Fr. Justin back from his pilgrimage to Ireland. In his absence we have been lucky to welcome Frs. Kevin Maloney and Gary Jones to say weekend masses for us. We thank both for their willingness to visit our parish in Fr. Justin's absence.

## VIT REGISTRATION

Teachers who participate in various roles in our parish are reminded that VIT registrations should have been renewed at the end of September. Please provide a copy of your updated registration for the coming 12 months to the parish office as soon as possible.

## ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

### MASS: CAY TRINH

Deacon Cay Trinh will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.30am. All welcome to attend. A light lunch will follow in the Hall. For those not able to attend, the Mass will be livestreamed. People of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to form the choir for this Mass (further details to come).

Cay will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 5.00pm. All welcome to attend. A light supper will follow in the Hall.

## ONLINE LEARNING

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 low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. Cycle 7 begins October 21. There are 40 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. Scan the QR code for more information or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdjia.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

# “A Call for Inclusivity”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Taliban's recent decision to enact draconian laws in relation to Afghani women's presence in the community, their attire and even their right to speak in public has foregrounded the global issue of gender inclusivity. Even in countries where the law permits equal voice and equal access to positions of leadership, there is no country or religion on earth that can claim gender equity in practice. Since the creation of patriarchy in the Bronze Age, some 3000 years ago, lack of gender inclusivity has posed a challenge, particularly for those who find themselves excluded.

The “test” question about divorce that the Pharisees put to Jesus is very strange in a first century Jewish context, as is the reference to women divorcing their husbands. While there is no evidence that anyone in Jewish circles questioned the legality of divorce, there is plenty of evidence for lively debate concerning the grounds on which a Jewish man could divorce his wife: adultery; inferior cooking; even diminished beauty! There were various schools of thought. Jewish law, unlike Roman law, however, did not permit women to initiate divorce proceedings on any grounds at all. From the perspective of the Markan Jesus, Moses only *permitted* divorce as a concession to “hardness of heart”: it was not so from the beginning. The ideal, he insists, is expressed in the Garden Story of Genesis, the story of “one flesh”, of partnership, of equality and mutuality, of enduring commitment in marriage.

The Hebrew word *'ezer* which is translated as “helper” in the first reading from Genesis is used in the Psalms of God's relationship to Israel. It does not denote inferiority of women to men as is sometimes suggested. A better translation might be “companion”.

Human limitation is just as much a reality now as it was in the ancient world. We strive for the ideal but fall far short of it in so many ways. When this happens in marriage, the consequences can be more far-reaching than in other aspects of life. The parties involved often become the “little ones” whose lives are shattered and disoriented. The embrace of the community is needed in a particular way for everyone affected by divorce, especially the children. When parents part company, the best interests and needs of the children are sometimes forgotten. Too often, those who have experienced the trauma of divorce feel alienated from the worshipping community, and this at a time when they most need support to face a different future from the one they had envisaged.

The story about marital commitment leads immediately into a story about Jesus taking the children in his arms and blessing them, despite the disciples' attempts to send them away. Children are never to be excluded from the inner circles of love, compassion and care. We might hear today's gospel as a call to be inclusive in all our relationships and to listen to the children's cries for a sustainable and life-giving future.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Genesis 2:18-24  
Hebrews 2:9-11  
Mark 10:2-12

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Wisdom 7:7-11  
Hebrews 4:12-13  
Mark 10:17-27





**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)

