



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 21st October 2024
Term 4 Week 3

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
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Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 7th Oct – Fri 20th Dec

Thursday 24th October

Last day for Book Club
Issue 7 orders

School Disco in gym
Gold coin entry.

4.15-5pm Foundation/Yr 1
5.00-5.45pm Year 2 & Year 3
5.45-6.30pm Year 4 & Year 5
6.30-7.30pm Year 6

Friday 25th October

Free Dress Day – gold coin
donations for Mercy Works

2.40pm Assembly led by
1MV

Tuesday 29th October

5 & 6pm Live Music
Showcase in Year 2/3
building. Gold coin entry.

Wednesday 30th October

5 & 6pm Live Music
Showcase in Year 2/3
building. Gold coin entry.

Thursday 31st October

6pm Live Music Showcase
in Year 2/3 building. Gold
coin entry.

Friday 1st November

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

Monday 4th November

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 5th November

Melbourne Cup Holiday
Pupil Free Day

Thursday 7th November

3.30-6.00pm Art Exhibition
in our Gym. Gold coin entry.

Friday 15th November

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Friday 22nd November

2.40pm Assembly led by 5JW

Free *Wonka* movie night on
school oval.

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Our school has certainly been busy over the past few weeks. It has been delightful to see our newest members of the school community coming along to the Transition mornings for Foundation classes of 2025. The children are learning a little about what they can expect next year, and mums and dads are learning a lot about how to drop off their children knowing that they will be cared for in their absence. There is so much yet to learn and over the next few weeks we will continue to learn together.

We had approximately 20 school Principals visit our school last Friday. It was terrific to be able to welcome them to Saint Francis Xavier and to speak about our curriculum developments over recent years. Some of the Principals know our school very well and all were pleased to see how our beautiful school looks at this time of year. I assured them that this was due to the dedication of staff and volunteers who give their time to ensure that our school is looking at its best always. For some of our visitors, the sense of space was the cause of great envy!

We had a film crew at school this week. Our commitment to teaching Auslan as a language choice in our school is something that we are all very proud of and this week our staff and students were filmed as part of a resource bank for other schools to draw on. Auslan is becoming a very popular language choice in many schools now so we were delighted to be asked if we could assist in this way. With our language coach Chantelle assisting us, we can confidently say that our students are growing in their knowledge every day.

I did say that school life is busy!

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



Educator Appreciation Week

This week we are celebrating all the great people who work in our school to assist our students with their education. From our Teachers to our Learning Support Officers, Administration staff and Maintenance teams. We say thank you! Our children learn in an environment where the Mercy values of respect, justice, compassion, hospitality and excellence are practiced every day and we are proud to be able to call Saint Francis Xavier our workplace of choice. To all of our staff, we say "Happy Educator Appreciation Week!"

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.

Wed 27th & Thurs 28th Nov
Year 5 Camp

Friday 29th November
Free Dress Day – gold coin
donations for St Vincent de
Paul, Ballarat East

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Thursday 12th December
Year 6 Graduation

Monday 16th December
Year 3 Camp

Tuesday 17th December
5pm Community Christmas
Carols at school

Wednesday 18th December
Last 2024 day for students

News from the Parents & Friends Committee

- ✓ Our new adventure playground is up and running! We would like to thank the parents (especially Zake Raine for his machinery) who gave so generously of their time to ensure that it was installed safely for the children. You are champions!
- ✓ Hot Chocolates are now finished for the year. Thank you to Robyn and Lisa for coordinating this fundraiser for us. Thanks also to the team who turned up each week to help us out.
- ✓ We are now receiving donations for our end of year raffle. Please assist if you can! Contact Steph Nunn on 0466 096 488 or email stephanienunn@outlook.com.au for more information.
- ✓ Don't forget our super FREE MOVIE NIGHT at school on Friday 22 November. We will gather to watch *Wonka* on the school oval. See you there! BYO food and chair and settle in for a fun outdoor cinema night.
- ✓ Community Christmas Carols will be celebrated on Tuesday 17 December at school from 5.00pm. We will have Carboni's pre-order pizzas/platter boxes available as well as hot dogs, paella, ice-creams, brownies, slushies, popcorn, fairy floss and lollies available for sale on the night or feel free to pack your own picnic! Photo booth and face painting.
- ✓ Don't forget our school Disco will be held on Thursday evening in the gym. The children are looking forward to a great evening of dancing fun. See you there!

Thursday 24th October Disco

Foundation & Year 1: (4:15 -5:00)

Year 2 & Year 3: (5:00 - 5:45)

Year 4 & Year 5 (5:45 - 6.30)

Year 6: (6:30 - 7:30)

- Gold coin entry!
- Lollies, popcorn, slushies and fairy floss available to purchase.
- Volunteers will be needed on the night.
- Please note entry is via the top gate, kids will dance then eat and drink when they finish. (No food/drink is allowed in the gym)



Our **LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE EVENINGS** are just around the corner! Children who participate in extracurricular music lessons with Hattie, Chris and Lauren will share their learning on Oct 29, 30 and 31. With 96 children sharing their learning across three nights, our showcase evenings are designed to be an informal opportunity where we celebrate the learning of every child. Entry is via gold coin donation (to offset costs) and everyone is welcome!

LIVE MUSIC

SHOWCASE

HATTIE'S	CHRIS'	LAUREN'S
STUDENTS	STUDENTS	STUDENTS
TUES OCT 29	WED OCT 30	TUES OCT 31
5PM & 6PM	5PM & 6PM	6PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR 2 / 3 BUILDING

GOLD COIN DONATION ENTRY
(to offset costs)

COME ALONG TO OUR ST FRANCIS XAVIER ART EXHIBITION!

On Thursday November 7th from 3.30pm to 6pm, families and special friends are invited along to our St Francis Xavier gym to see the wonderful artwork that our artists have created during their Visual Arts classes in 2024. We can't wait to celebrate our amazing artists with you!





Bushfire Newsletter and website article: Schools in Category 3 and Category 4 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register

This article has been developed for St Francis Xavier to publish in their newsletter or on the school website. Please feel free to edit the content as required. You can also repurpose this content to assist in communications to your school community. This information has been developed to answer frequently asked questions regarding the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) Schools and your school's closure on a Catastrophic fire danger day in your fire weather district.

Newsletter Item:

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, St Francis Xavier Primary School undertakes a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.



Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.

Our school will close on any day forecast as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Central fire weather district.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and subsequent related public safety messaging are confirmed.

Due to uncertainties in the BOM forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by an email or hard copy letter and SMS. Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day where possible.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking PAM for communications and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

Families are encouraged to action their [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Frequently Asked Questions

Who issues fire danger forecasts?

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 19th, 2024 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "there is something we want you to do for us." "What is it?" Jesus asked them. They answered, "When you sit on your throne in your glorious Kingdom, we want you to let us sit with you, one at your right and one at your left."

When the other ten disciples heard about it, they became angry with James and John. So Jesus called them all together to him and said, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. This, however, is not the way it is among you. If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest; and if one of you wants to be first, he must be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people. (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

The other disciples start to get cross, because they felt that James and John were showing off and thought they were the best and most important friends.

Can you think of a time when you got angry because someone else was showing off about how important they are? Perhaps someone was showing off that they were the best footballer or that they had better shoes or toys than you? Can you remember what Jesus said? Jesus said that the greatest friend was not the one who went around showing off, but that the greatest friend must be humble and helping others in all that they do.

Our Challenge: Can you think of ways you can help people at home and at school this coming week? What will you do this week to help others around the world?



Free Dress Day- This Friday October 25!

What a busy and exciting start to Term Four we have had!

This Friday is a Free Dress Day and we ask each child to please bring a gold coin donation. This week the money collected will be donated to support MercyWorks.

What is MercyWorks?



MercyWorks
SISTERS OF MERCY IN AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*Mercy -
Walking Together.
Changing Lives.*

MercyWorks is a not-for-profit charity organisation supporting long term development projects in Australia and the South-East Asia Pacific region, including Papua New Guinea, The Philippines and Timor-Leste. They work with some of the most challenged and vulnerable people and communities towards dignity and self reliance. MercyWorks run world-class programs that engage in partnership with challenged communities to enjoy the right to basic resources, such as education, healthcare and social services

From providing education support to refugee and Indigenous students in Australia, to providing agricultural training in remote communities in Papua New Guinea, to reducing the rates of malnutrition in Timor-Leste, to walking with young women and girls who have experienced human trafficking in the Philippines, MercyWorks help improve the lives of vulnerable people.

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Why do we ask the students to share what they have?

St Francis Xavier Primary School is a Catholic school and a Mercy school and this means that we teach Catholic Christian values to our students. These values are inspired by the behaviour of Jesus, who healed the sick, taught people, helped those in need and cared for all people no matter their nationality or religion. These are also the values that Catherine McAuley followed when she began the Sisters of Mercy in the 1800s.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Class teachers will once again be following our assessment schedule and will begin this week with Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT testing). PAT testing helps all students make ongoing learning progress. Teachers use the assessment data to identify learning needs, target teaching and monitor growth.

Years 1-2 will complete PAT - Reading 5th

Years 3-6 will complete PAT - Reading 5th, PAT Grammar and Punctuation and PAT Spelling

Years 1-6 will complete SA Spelling week 5

These assessments add to teachers'/childrens' knowledge and add more data for our upcoming Semester 2 reports.

Keep an eye out for real time learning from your children on Seesaw. Many thanks to the families who not only visit their child's Seesaw posts but also acknowledge that they have seen the post. A short comment can add so much affirmation to the child and it also lets the teacher know that you have visited the site.

Keep up the great work with this as it is just another form of building connections between home and school.



Week of October 13 - October 20 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



56

New Student Posts



16

Comments

Enjoy your week,



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

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Division Golf Tournament

This Friday we look forward to the Division Golf Tournament just up the road at Mt Xavier Golf Club. Following the Golf Clinics last Term, Tony selected a strong group of students to participate in this event. We wish the following students all the best:

Bertie S, Macklin S, Sam N, Paddy D, Jackson R, Emily B, Xavier M, Levi C, James B, Hannah F, Rhys B, Alexander P, Nic G, Jed H, Evie S, Zara T, Billy C, Harry H, Ed L, Cooper M, Angus B, Will M, Mila K, Charlie K, Lachlan P, Stella R, Archer S, Harriet LG, Oscar T, Norgan M, Harper L, Pippa D, Laine A, Mila S, Olivia K, Orion M, Sophia SL, Beau H, Jack E, Monty H & Lottie R

Junior Sports Day

A Special event on our calendar is the Junior Sports Day for students in Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2. This day is an opportunity for the students to put into practice many of the skills that they have learnt and developed throughout the year in Physical Education classes in a fun and enjoyable way. Please refer to the PAM notification for more information.

After School - Sporting Schools Program

Monday - Hockey - Oct 21/28, Nov 11/18/25 Dec 2 (3:30pm-4:30pm)

Mollie Arnts, Teddy Bannan, Meredith, James & Laura Bodnar, Lilly Bye, Alfie Heywood, Harriet Howard, Charlie & Oscar Johnson, Harry Jolly, Sahesi Kariyawasam, Harriet Le Grand, Lucinda Leonard, Tom Maher, Oscar Martin, Flynn & Hudson McKay, Rahui Munokoa, Charlie & Hudson Ryan, Harvey & Isabelle Slater, Nicolas Taylor & Nevon Thuse

Thursday - Basketball - Oct 31, Nov 7/14/21/28 Dec 5 (3:30pm-4:30pm)

Huxson & Zarli Backman, Harley Bye, Hazel & Lachlan De Lorenzo, Daulat Gill, Jasper & Scarlett Govan, Thomas & Will Green, Beau, Malo & Remy Hansen, Sam Hill, Charlie & Oscar Kersley, Albie Kirby, Reuben Molloy, Thiago Motta Crespo, Willow Prato, Cooper, Hughey, Austin & Jackson Roberts & Lawrence Wilson

Term 4:

- 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 @ Alfredton Reserve (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 4 - Friday Nov 1st - Junior Sports Day @ Russell Square (All students from F - Yr 2 + Yr 6 Sports Captains)
- 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

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 18th October Hosted by 2JS Theme: Excellence.

We show our personal best.

Excellence means being the best person we can be.

We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLH	Patrick Olechnowicz & Sadie Porter	4GH	Sadie Buntsma and Henry Flynn
FGJ	Ava Kelishadi & Arpan Shrestha	4ML	Eliza Hanrahan and Noah Rice
FTW	Scottie Toohey & Parker Davis	4BO	Paddy Dwyer and Sienna Morton
FMM	Tex Olszewski & Will Nicholls	5CC	Murphy Noonan and Marli Ward
1JS	Indi Nestor & Aurorah Rivett	5MA	Noah Chibnall and Elly Kane
1EM	Hudson McKay and Remy Hansen	5JW	Riley Ponsonby and Claudia Cochrane
1MV	Birdie Toohey and Harriet Walshe	6PB	Eden Howard and Archer Spackman
2RR	Winter James and Oakley Smith	6ZA	Orion Morton and Sofia St Louis
2CK	Edward Giblett and Nicolas Taylor	6MM	Laura Bodnar and Xavier Uljanic
2JS	Edie Giles and Ivy Dorning	EE	Margot Castles & Nicholas Hyland
3JE	Bertie Stanley and Myah Rivett	PA	
3JV	Jameson Campbell and Willow Prato	VA	Noah Rice and Sutton Answer
3DW	Eddie Anderson and Ella Wilson	PE	Bridie Millington and Henry Flynn
		Tch	Lois Cummins and Sophie White



▶ **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

20th October 2024

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'The Son of Man came to give his life as ransom for all'

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place –
parishioners welcome

Fri 9:30 AM

Sat 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 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 4

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: Mary Millar, John Nihill, Graeme Spittle, Brian William McKenzie and Maureen Alison Campbell

Anniversaries: Fr Denis Dennehy

Unwell: Kevin Cummins, 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
Jackie Wigglesworth

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.



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	\$1023
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$633.20

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.

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 cuppa 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.

UPCOMING DATES

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
October 31st @ 6.30 pm - Presbytery

Remembrance Mass
November 2nd @ 6pm – St. Alipius Church

Melbourne Cup Luncheon
November 5th @ 11 am – Parish Hall

Anniversary Mass & Picnic
December 14th @ 6pm – Church and Grounds

A DAY OF SORROW AND PROMISE

Until each victim is acknowledged and until every child is safe, we will never rest in our expression of sorrow and concern.

These words of Pope Francis provide direction for our parish as we acknowledge in our long history the impact of child sexual abuse on survivors, families, friends and all in or community. Fr Hans Zollner SJ a Safeguarding expert has said that "there is an awareness of the necessity to acknowledge what harm has been done to people around about what types of crimes and sins have been committed by clergy, by religious and by lay people in the church." He said, "people lose trust" in the church not only "because of the abuse itself," but also "because of the inability, the resistance and the negligence," or "even worse," he said — "the cover up that has happened."

In commencing our 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Ballarat East outside the Church in Victoria St we seek to stand solidarity with survivors and all who have been impacted. We join with the Catholic Religious Australia in this **National Day of Sorrow and Promise**, one voice in prayer for victims and survivors of sexual abuse and in a united gesture of recommitment to the safeguarding reforms of the Catholic Church.

We encourage environments that empower children and adults at risk to speak up and to be heard. We recognise the role of families and community in safeguarding children and adults at risk and welcome their input on how to improve the way we relate to them. We seek to building a culture of care, accountability and transparency upheld in our policies and processes. We are actively committed to building prevention and safeguarding practices into everyday practice and implementing governance reforms throughout our Church.

We act appropriately with children and adults at risk with whom we come into contact, including maintaining boundaries and always exercising acceptable standards of behaviour. Clergy, staff, volunteers and contractors are aware of their legislative responsibilities and our own complaints and safeguarding policies. Any concerns that are identified or brought forward in any way are acted on appropriately, sensitively and in a timely manner.

OFFICE HOURS



Please note that for the coming three weeks, the office will only be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please ensure that anything for the bulletin is submitted by 11am on Thursday.

TODAY IS MISSION SUNDAY

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 is celebrated today. Read both of these messages at

<https://www.catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth>

Focus for this week: You are invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. Lack of access and social stigma mean that some of the most vulnerable people are not getting the support they require. The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require.

During World Mission Sunday, we are called to "invite others to the banquet", and we invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/see-our-work-in-action/mongolia>, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.

VOLUNTEER AT MERCY PLACE

Mercy Place is welcoming new volunteers to our team. Join us for an informative session on Monday 21st, October from 10am – 11.30am where you can enjoy some morning tea while discovering how you can contribute to your community.

60 Corbett Street, Ballarat East.

For more information, phone Olivia on 5327 1888

BAPTISMS

Leo Fox & Lottie Wren Boyd
Children of Joel & Samantha

Sienna Juliet Birthisel
Child of Dylan & Rachel

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

THE SYNOD IS FAR FROM OVER

As the Synod on Synodality in Rome continues until October 27th and as preparations for the November 15 – 16 Ballarat Diocesan assembly on Leadership and Governance for a missionary and synodal Church gather momentum, [Colleen Gibson writes](#).

As we seek to embrace the synodal way, we must recognize that synodality is anything but static. Freedom and flexibility are par for the synodal course. Listening hearts must be open to change; they must allow themselves to be transformed by the Spirit, to ebb and flow as prayerful dialogue directs the course. Our part as people of faith is to be attentive to the Spirit's stirrings — not only in our own hearts and lives, but in the life of the larger community and in the life of the church.

This may or may not mean that everything I think should happen will. In fact, by the nature of the communal discernment at the heart of synodality, we know that it won't. Instead, we must allow ourselves to let go of what is "ours" individually for the communal need and desire of the larger body.

Does this mean that everything will be sorted out by the time the second session of the synod on synodality concludes Oct. 27? Of course not.

Likely, Oct. 27th will leave us with more questions than answers. Some will be disappointed in what was once seen as a movement of great hope and promise... With a synodal spirit, we must hold all these feelings. We must offer our needs and desires, anxieties and anticipations, heartbreaks and hopes to God. And we must hold one another, resting assured that the synodal way is not one of tectonic shifts but of step-by-step journeying together toward communal change.

With this in mind, we need to resolve ourselves to see that Oct. 27 is not an end, but a step on the synodal way. We have come this far together; dialogues have been opened, and with them, hearts and minds have been, too. Women and men, lay people and clerics, young and old from around the world have stood side by side as delegates. This is monumental.

Our job now is to ensure that the work begun in this synodal moment is not confined to a select group or a specific space. With patience and practice, we must continue these conversations. We must listen attentively and affectionately to one another. We must welcome the Spirit in our midst and reform our structures to allow every voice to be heard. We must continue to practice the skills of synodality and the discipline of synodal listening. Only then will we feel the freedom that the Spirit brings, embracing the transformative power of the Gospel and discovering what it truly means to be the synodal church we're being called to be, both now and forever.

“No Place for Dominating Others”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



In the kin-dom of God movement established by Jesus of Nazareth, there is no place for domination or for any exercise of power over others. In today's gospel story, this is a lesson that James and John, the sons of Zebedee, clearly need to learn. They seem to think that the structures of power operating in the Roman world are going to be replicated when Jesus conquers the forces of opposition and comes into his "glory". The two brothers, James and John, put in a bid for shared deputy leadership positions. They seem to be blind and deaf to what Jesus has been trying to tell them throughout their journey from Caesarea Philippi to Jerusalem. They seek his patronage without reference to the rest of the leadership group who, incidentally, are not well pleased with their presumptuous companions.

James and John do not yet realise that Jesus' way is not the way of status or entitlement and that their call as disciples and as leaders of the emerging movement has nothing to do with privilege.

They need to understand that it has more to do with enduring the suffering associated with commitment to one's mission and with setting others free to be their best selves. To demonstrate this, Jesus offers them an unpalatable alternative: to be "slave of all". He sustains the slavery metaphor and goes on to summarise his own mission with an image that comes out of the world of his time: "not to be served but to serve and give life as a ransom for many". A ransom was the payment made to free someone from slavery.

"We might turn our attention to those in our world who are literally enslaved."

To substitute oneself for a slave was to give one's life as a ransom for that slave. Reading the gospel from beginning to end helps us to understand the ultimate self-giving of Jesus in death as the climax of a lifetime's outpouring of love, a love that draws forth loving and liberating action in others.

There are multiple ways of enslaving others, of dominating and of trying to control them in order to achieve one's own personal or corporate ends, good or bad. The request of James and John reminds us that we can all lose sight of the liberating vision of the gospel and get caught up in destructive power struggles. As 21st century disciples, we hear the words of the Markan Jesus, "It is not to happen with you". We might turn our attention to those in our world who are literally enslaved. We might join with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious against the Trafficking in Humans) and with others working to obtain freedom and justice for those trapped into sexual and other forms of slavery in our own cities, a situation that was exacerbated by the recent pandemic. We might hear today's gospel as a call to serve the cause of freedom and justice by joining the struggle against this tragic phenomenon.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
29th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Isaiah 53:10-11
Hebrews 4:14-16
Mark 10:35-45

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
30th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Jeremiah 31:7-9
Hebrews 5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52



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