St Francis Xavier Primary School



Monday 25th November 2024 Term 4 Week 8 P.O. Box 2027 Ballarat East VIC 3354 Phone: 5331 6311

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 7th Oct - Fri 20th Dec

Wed 27th, Thurs 28th & Fri 29th Nov Year 5 Camp

Thursday 28th November Last order day for Book Club Issue 8

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

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Friday 6th December End of Year School Mass

Thursday 12th December

Yr 1 Excursion Creative Play & Arts Centre & Ballarat Ninja

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Have you noticed how social media and its influence on children has hit the spotlight in recent weeks? It would seem that legislative changes may make it unlawful for children under 16 years of age to access various social media platforms.

As someone who has been around education long enough to remember the first computers arriving in our schools, I can certainly say that I have seen the good and the bad of technology and its impact on young children over many years. Regardless of whether new legislation comes into practice or not, it might be timely to open discussion about online practices with your children at home. Do you know what your child's online platform looks like? Have you ever accessed your right as a parent to look at your child's browsing history? Do you have sound practices around technology times? Does your child have access to technology in an open common area, or do they access their technology only in their bedroom away from the family? So many questions!

If the proposed new legislation comes into being, we will all be called to act on it according to the law. Now might be a good time to have some crucial conversations at home in the safety of the family where all views can be heard. When it comes to social media, I'm sure that everyone has an opinion even me!



God bless,

aff

Mark Hogbin



Thank you!



We say a huge thank you to our Parents & Friends committee who organised such a special event for us on Friday evening. The outdoor movie night was planned as a special acknowledgement of the time, energy and money that so many families have contributed over the year to ensure that our school thrives beyond the classrooms. We all had a great evening under the stars, and we say thank you to our P&F for organising this event for us.

School Fees 2024

It's time to finalise school fees for the 2024 school year. If you need to make final payments, Kerrie in our school office would love to hear from you. Please feel free to make contact at any time if you require further information or assistance in any way.

Classes 2025

We are in the final stages of setting class groupings for 2025. You may recall earlier in the term when we asked for any relevant parent input into class groupings and that time has now passed. The children have listed their preferences for class groups for next year and of course, our teachers have used their professional judgement to allocate groups based on academic ability, social interaction and inclusiveness among many things. On Tuesday 3 December we will have our traditional 'Going Up Day' when the children will be allocated their class for next year. This is when they will meet their new teacher and see who they will be working with in 2025. Parents will be notified of your child's class via notification on PAM as part of this process. While most children are excited to learn who their classmates and their teacher will be, some may sometimes feel anxious or worried. If this is the case for you or your child, please remember that change is part of life, and it is normal that children will experience different children in their class over time along with different teachers and different teaching styles. Focus on the possibilities ahead as we prepare for new encounters and adventures in a new school year. How exciting!

Community Carols

Don't forget to keep Tuesday 17th December free for our Community Christmas Carols event. This is a little tradition that we like to observe as we enter the final weeks before Christmas. Feel free to bring along a picnic or purchase from one of our food stalls at the event. The festivities commence at 5.00pm and will conclude around 7.00pm. See you there!



Parents & Friends Movie Night

We had a terrific evening under the stars last Friday as we gathered together to enjoy a special screening of Wonka! It was a relaxed night of family entertainment, and we thank our dedicated P&F committee for making this event happen. Well done team!







Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 24th, 2024 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Year B) Gospel: John 18:33-37

Pilate went back into the palace and called Jesus. "Are you the King of the Jews?" he asked him. Jesus answered, "Does this question come from you or have others told you about me?"

Pilate replied, "Do you think I am a Jew? It was your own people and the chief priests who handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom does not belong to this world; if my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. No, my kingdom does not belong here!" So Pilate asked him, "Are you a king, then?"

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this one purpose, to speak about the truth. Whoever belongs to the truth listens to me." (Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection:

Pilate asks Jesus if he is king of the Jews and Jesus answers that his kingdom is not of this world. Jesus' kingdom isn't on earth. Jesus doesn't wear a crown or have lots of riches. He doesn't live in a palace with lots of servants. Jesus was born in a stable and mostly lived a normal life in a carpenter's family.

Jesus shows us that you do not have to be rich or powerful to be important. He shows us that what is more important is how you treat others-what we do and say is much more important than whether we are rich or poor, or where we come from.

He shows us how to welcome strangers and to be kind to people that others don't like. He shows us how to stand up for what is right and to love one another.

Jesus says that all those who are on the side of truth will listen to him. Sometimes it is easy to listen and sometimes it is hard. We might not want to hear what the person is saying to us and so we do not listen properly. This week, let's try really hard to listen carefully to everyone. Most importantly, let's try really hard to listen to Jesus, a very different kind of king, and to the truth that God loves us all.

Our Challenge: How will you show that you are listening to Jesus this week?

<u>DON'T FORGET!</u>



COOL DRINKS and CRUNCHY TREATS For \$2 Monday 25th- Thursday 28th



All proceeds to our local St Vincent de Paul Group



OUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE SPREADS Please bring your honey, jam, nutella, vegemite, peanut butter to place in the box in the office.

Thank you for your generosity! By working together we will make this Christmas Season a little brighter for those in need!



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Wellbeing News

Child Safety Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

Everyone gets angry sometimes, but handling a child who verbally fights, won't listen and opposes their classmates is tough work! It can be alluring to lose your temper and fight fire with fire, but that commonly escalates the situation and then we have two (or more) intense class members!

We can't just get rid of anger, as anyone who's quietly asked a furious child to "calm down" can affirm. When kids are really getting under your skin, rather than getting furious, be understanding. You need to link before you fix it. Children don't wake up in the morning and consider, 'How can I make life unpleasant for the adults in my life?' They might be having a difficult time. Work out what requirements aren't being met and help meet them.

In the attached SchoolTV link, there is some information about the podcast Flusterclux and the episode focus of 'When Anxiety Shows Up as Anger'. Here is a quick overview of what to expect if you click 'listen': Anxiety, anger and even aggression can hang out together. Remember, it's FIGHT or flight and when we combine poor emotional management and a desire to avoid, behaviour escalates. But even though we understand it, it's not a pattern to accept. In this episode we talk about how to recognise and help stop anxiety. By clicking the above link, it will take you to the SchoolTV website where you can listen to the podcast!

Sending cheers your way,

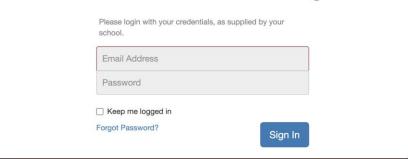


Gemma Johnson, Wellbeing Leader

Assessment & Reporting - Term Four



Parent Access Module Login



We are pleased to inform you that your child's End of Year School Report will be available for download from the Parent Access Module (PAM) site on **Monday, 16th December**. These reports provide a comprehensive overview of your child's achievements throughout Semester Two.

Each report is carefully prepared by your child's class teacher, reviewed by a year-level team member, and further checked by the Leadership Team to ensure accuracy and clarity. I would like to commend our teachers for their dedication, professionalism, and the personalised comments they have included.

We encourage you to take the time to read the report thoroughly and discuss the feedback with your child. Most importantly, take this opportunity to celebrate your child's efforts and successes throughout the 2024 school year.

Enjoy your week,



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement



Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 22nd November Hosted by 5JW Theme: Justice We make fair choices. Justice means being the best person we can be. We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLH	No awards for Foundation this week as we are on an excursion!	4GH	Sienna Block and Mollie Arnts
FGJ		4ML	Bonnie Giles and Leiv Crowe
FTW		4BO	Lily Davison and Cleo Roney
FMM		5CC	Beatrice Heywood and Alfie Sosinski
1JS	Ruby Plover & Jasper Rolfe & Zoe Cooper	5MA	Zach Cooper & Will McGregor
1EM	Alfie Waldron and Sam White	5JW	Maeve Waldron & Ava Vallance
1MV	Lachie White & Lance Humphries	6PB	Flynn Boyd and Noah Sheehan
2RR	Freddie Brown, Hazel De Lorenzo and Wilson Quinlan	6ZA	Isla-Rose Block & Campbell Delahunty
2CK	Scarlett Govan, Freddy Dreher & Bryn Glab	6MM	Hugh Farrell and Lilly Rice
2JS	Sophie Crumpton and Thiago Motta Crespo	EE	
3JE	Hamish Nicholls and Tara Lloyd	PA	
3JV	Patrick Ludbrook and Maddison Little	VA	Oskar Olszewski and Sophie Crumpton (2JS)
3DW	Sophie Olechnowicz and Harper Phelan	PE	Edie Waldron and Harrison Madigan
		Tch	

Principal's Award: Maya Skewes for always looking out for others and ensuring that everyone is treated fairly.



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.orq.au www.ballarat.catholic.orq.au/parish/ballarat-east/

24th November 2024 Solemnity of Christ the King

"The Lord is King, he is robed in majesty."



MASS TIMES

St Alipius
Tues (No Mass)
Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place
(All welcome)
Thurs & Fri 9:30 am
Fri 10.30 am Funeral Prayers
(Buninyong)

Sat 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

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: Robert Page, George Edmiston, Imelda Hewitt, Sue Ayres, Paul Bound

Anniversaries: Tracey
Howard

Unwell: Kathy Towns, 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 Gleeson

Finance Officer Jackie Wrigglesworth

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.



PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$734
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$393.60

Counting Team this week: No. 7

UPCOMING DATES

Preparation of Nativity Scene November 28th @ 5pm – Church Grounds

> PPC Meeting November 28th @ 6.30 pm

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

Following consultation with the Bungaree and Gordon Parish Leadership Teams and the Ballarat East Parish Liturgy Team, the schedule for 2024 will be:

Christmas Eve (Tuesday December 24th)

- 4.00pm Mercy Place Ballarat East
- 5.30pm Ballan
- 6.00pm Ballarat East
- 6.30pm Clarkes Hill
- 7.00pm Gordon
- 7.30pm Buninyong
- 9.00pm Ballarat East

Christmas Day (Wednesday December 25th)

- 9.00am Ballarat East
- 9.00am Dunnstown

Each of the three parishes will have one less Christmas Mass than 2023. There will not be a Christmas Mass in either Bungaree or Springbank. The Gordon Parish Leadership Team have decided that the Gordon and Springbank communities will alternate hosting both Christmas and Easter Sunday Masses each year. The above schedule is reliant on the generosity of Frs Kevin Maloney and Wally Tudor assisting Frs Justin and Matt.

LITURGY ROSTER

Preparation has started to organise the liturgy roster for December and January. Please let the office know of any dates you are not available.

Y.C.W. CRICKET CLUB

The Y.C.W. Cricket Club are gathering for lunch at the Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 1st December, 2024. All former players, families and supporters are welcome to attend. For further details please contact Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

◆Christmas Appeal◆

The Ballarat East Conference of SVdP invites you to support our Christmas Appeal. Each year the appeal plays a vital role in raising funds, enabling the continuation of support to those in need.

Between January to October this year SVdP conferences in Ballarat provided assistance to the value \$495,883.00 to local families.

Parishioners are encouraged to help continue the Society's good work of 'helping those most in need'.

Please do so by donating

- Via envelopes found on pews, please place completed envelopes on collection plate
- 2. Online vinnies.org.au
- 3. By phone 13 18 12

Donations greater than \$2 are Tax deductible

◆Christmas Raffle◆

A Christmas raffle will be held with tickets being sold for \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. Ticket sales will commence after Masses this weekend, with winners being announced at the Anniversary Picnic on December 14th. PRIZES - first drawn parishioner chooses from three prizes:

BIKE for 6 - 8 year old

HAMPER - including fruit cake, meat voucher and other goodies

DOLLS - porcelain dolls

◆Piety stall - cards and calendars◆

The stall will be open after Masses commencing 23rd November for sale of:-

SVdP Christmas Cards \$5 for St Columban's Calendar \$10

\$5 for pack of 5

BAPTISMS

Hayley Jane Perkins Child of Jacob and Laura

'You are precious in my sight and I love you' Isaiah 43:4

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

A formal report on the Assembly held at Federation University Mt Helen last weekend on Leadership and Governance for a Missionary Synodal Church will be released in the coming weeks. In the meantime, our newsletters for the coming weeks will include reflections from parishioners in attendance as either delegates or facilitators.

Rosemary Canavan (Ballan) reflects on her role as a table facilitator:

Being one table in a room of tables built the atmosphere of knowing that focused on our table, the energy and enthusiasm, discernment, passion and impatience was multiplied across the room.

Led by Karon Donnellan RSM I felt encouraged to facilitate well and the check in meetings with us as a group strengthened us through the journey. In the table group I felt accepted and trusted. All were committed to the process and very respectful of each other. It is such a privilege to listen to each of the delegates and keep the process on track, holding back others from jumping in to respond, gently but firmly holding to the conversation in the Spirit. It was a sacred time, embraced in prayer with such openness and hope and the honesty of concerns and frustrations.

I am so energised by what was raised in the sessions at our table and across the room. I would so like for us to practice this synodal conversation in the Spirit in our parishes for the power of deeply listening to each other builds bonds of relationship and empowers us in our mission.

This was just a beginning, a beautiful unfurling of the breath and energy of the Holy Spirit so beautifully imaged as "wild goose" by Karon Donnellan RSM and Justin Driscoll PP in input. So much is to be further discerned from all the hopes and dreams and proposals from the Assembly. What a wonderful river of hope running through the diocese.

Rachel Allan (Ballarat East) Delegate

I went to the Diocesan Assembly with the hope of finding a space for renewal—a chance to open outwards, to reimagine our faith for today. I carried with me a concern that we might fall into the temptation of looking back. There's comfort in the familiar, in what we know, and sometimes it's easy to cling to what's past rather than looking forward. I wondered if we'd turn inward, focused more on preserving what we've always done, rather than opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities ahead. What I found, however, was something much more hopeful and spirit filled than I had anticipated. The assembly was a living, breathing moment of grace. It wasn't about retreating to what was comfortable; it was about reimagining, discerning, and flourishing. The energy in the room was palpable, and the themes that

emerged—hospitality, inclusivity, and courage—spoke to the heart of what it means to be a Church in the world today. The desire to be open to transformation was evident, and it felt like a collective readiness to accept the challenge of change, much like the challenges Jesus presented to the people of His time.

PARISH ANNIVERSARIES

All are welcome to gather at St Alipius Church for 6.00pm Mass on Saturday evening December 14th 2024. Following the Mass please stay in the Church grounds for a byo picnic tea or a delicious sausage (free from our BBQ). Hot and cold drinks will be available. Photographic displays from across the years are being collated as well as stories of 'people of St Alipius' being recorded.

For more information, please contact the Ballarat East Parish office on 5332 6611

<u>ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.orq.au</u>. For catering purposes, please RSVP no later than December 7th.

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS



Making a Scene at Christmas will be held in the Bridge Mall from Wednesday December 4th until Friday December 20th, 2024.

Making a Scene at Christmas is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries. You can see and smell real

frankincense and myrrh, see coins minted around the time the census was

called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica) and nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Entry is a gold coin donation. Every one welcome.

OLHC WENDOUREE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482A Gillies Street North, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0491 029217.

Thank you to all the very wonderful volunteers for all their work in making the Christmas Day lunch at OLHC so special over all the years it has been held. We welcome all those who would like to be with us as a guest or a volunteer on the day, and we are especially looking for a few fit people who might commit to two hours of their time between 2.00pm – 4.00pm to clean up/pack up. To volunteer, please phone 0467 683504.

To Rule as God Rules and not as Rome Ruled

Reflection on the Gospel-Solemnity of Christ the King, Year B

(John 18:33-37)

Veronica Lawson RSM

he liturgical year always ends with the celebration of Christ's reign. The gospel reading for this year is from John's gospel where the notion of God's kindom or reign or empire is mentioned only twice in contrast with its frequent appearance in the other gospels, especially Matthew. For readers in countries where democratic rule is valued and promoted, the whole notion of kingship or monarchy poses some difficulty. It is important to put the exchange between Jesus and Pilate into the political context of Roman occupied Judaea of the first century.

Rome was the dominant global force at that time. It had the economic and military strength to maintain its power over the whole Mediterranean world. When Jesus tells Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world, he is not pitting planet Earth or the cosmos over against a purely spiritual world. He is referring rather to the world and values of the Roman Empire and the destructive values that are sometimes espoused by his followers. Jesus' way of being in the world stands in stark contrast with the expansionist and frequently destructive ways of Roman rule. The term "world" is used in two different senses in John's gospel. It is used both literally and metaphorically. On the one hand, it is the world that came into being through the Word (1:10), the beautiful cosmos or world that "God so loved" (3:16). On the other hand, it is a "world" that rejected the light (1:10-11), a sinful world in need of God's saving power (3:17).

Jesus does not claim the sort of over-bearing political, military or economic power that Pilate exercises on behalf of the Roman emperor. His authority has nothing to do with power over or domination of others. It is grounded in truth (1:17) or, in other words, in the revelation of God. Jesus is "the way, the



truth and the life" (14:6) and his mission is to testify to the truth. The path to freedom and life lies in acceptance of the truth (8:32): "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Truth is not a given: it must be sought in prayerful dialogue, in listening to earth's distress and in openness to the Spirit of God.

To celebrate this feast is to move in the direction of peaceful solutions to the conflicts in our world and away from the paths of violence, domination and imperial expansionism. It is to seek the truth in dialogue and to respond to the plight of those who suffer the pain of hunger, of persecution and of loss. It is to rule as God rules and not as Rome ruled. It is to look again at how we inhabit our world and to change our ways for the sake of truth and life, the present and future life of our beleaguered planet.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS Solemnity of Christ the King

Daniel 7:13-14 Revelation 1:5-8 John 18:33-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36





Western Bulldogs AFL Community Camp in Ballarat

On Tuesday 10th December we have a wonderful opportunity for junior participants (5-12 years of age) to attend a **'Come & Play' Super Clinic** at City Oval, Ballarat from 4pm to 5pm.

Western Bulldogs players will be in attendance which includes an autograph signing session.

4pm-5pm Tuesday 10th December 2024

Ballarat 'Come & Play' Super Clinic at the City Oval, 1431 Mair Street, Lake Wendouree

Registration is **FREE**, but you'll have to be quick - places are strictly limited for children aged 5-12 years.

To register your child's attendance, go to

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=KcwQ3vzW3UmcLuCZF1cVBTfQjjHw2IZAq5fMB-qF0sVUNDFDM1F0VkZIUTFV0VRETVZTQjRLSERFNS4u&route=shorturl

It would be great to see as many young budding footballers attend as possible, it should be great FUN!



CAVE HILL CREEK SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

We're thrilled to announce that registrations for Summer Camp 2025 are now open! Your child may be familiar with our school programs, but the adventure and excitement does not stop there. Our Cave Hill Creek Summer Camp program offers more than twelve exciting activities – including archery, raft building and we've added a thrilling new vertical challenge.

Summer Camp is the perfect opportunity to kick those post school camp blues by bringing along a friend or sibling and exploring everything Cave Hill Creek has to offer!

Our program, designed for children aged 8-14, is filled with activities they already love, plus some exciting new additions!

Camp Dates for 2025:

Camp #31: Monday, January 6 – Friday, January 10
 Camp #32: Monday, January 13 – Friday, January 17
 Camp #33: Monday, January 20 – Friday, January 24

Pricing:

Single child: \$1,0992nd sibling: \$8793rd+ sibling: \$769

We're also introducing a new program for teens aged 14-15! Our **Summer Camp-Out** program offers an exciting opportunity for teens to challenge themselves with new adventures like hiking, exploring, and expanding their outdoor skills.

Summer Camp-Out Dates:

- Monday, January 13 Friday, January 17, 2025 (Spots are filling fast!)
- Pricing: \$1,549 per participant

We'd love to see your students return to Cave Hill Creek for another thrilling adventure. To reserve a spot, go to https://www.cavehillcreek.com.au/group-camps/summer-holiday-camp/







