St Francis Xavier Primary School





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

Tuesday 17th December Year 3 Camp

5pm for 5.30pm start Community Christmas Carols at school

Wednesday 18th December Last 2024 day for students

Wednesday 29th January First 2025 day for students

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Welcome to our last newsletter for the 2024 school year. Over the past four terms we have worked hard to educate and build a community at Saint Francis Xavier school, and we are certainly feeling very proud of our efforts. We hope that you are too!

On your behalf, I would like to say a big thank you to our staff who work so hard to meet the needs of all children. Their dedication to teaching and supporting all students is evident in their daily interactions across our school. So, to our office staff, support staff, maintenance crew, and teachers, we say Thank you!

I would also like to thank our parents for your ongoing support. Your desire to see your children learning and growing in a supportive Catholic community is what we work together to achieve. So, to you we say Thank you!

Lastly, to our students. You are the reason why our school exists. For you we come to school each day and with you we build our learning community. You have worked hard this year, and you have earned your holidays. Thank you!

I wish all members of our school community a very happy Christmas. May the blessings of the infant Jesus be with you at this special time. May your time together be blessed and may your summer holidays be full of fun and adventure.

Happy Christmas!

Mark Hogbin











Community Carols

Please come along and join in the fun of our Community Carols on Tuesday 17 December from 5pm for a 5.30pm start. We will gather on the oval and you are welcome to bring along a picnic rug, food etc. to enjoy a family evening together. Our Parents & Friends committee has organised for some food vans to be available if you would like to purchase items on the night. See you there!

Farewell Staff of 2024

 We say farewell to Mrs. Emma Egan at the end of this school year. Emma has been a much-valued teacher in our school and most recently, our Literacy Leader and member of the school leadership team. We wish Emma all the very best as she takes a year away from us to work with teachers across the diocese of Sandhurst. How lucky they are to have such a talented educator to join their team.



- We say a fond farewell to Ms. Georgia Hudson and Miki Vranesic at the end of this school year.
 Georgia and Miki are planning to explore the world in 2025. While we will miss their presence in our school.
 We hope that they can enjoy every moment of their travels and return with many exciting stories to tell.
- We say farewell to Mr. Jesse Walsh this week. Jesse has enjoyed a year of teaching in Year 3 this year. We wish you well Jesse for the next chapter!
- We say farewell to Mrs. Julia Walker this year. Julia joined us to teach the 2024 Year 5 class. All the best for next year Julia!
- We say farewell to Mr. Tom Willmott this week. Tom has been in the Foundation team this year and is heading off to teach at St. Patrick's primary school in Gordon. All the best for 2025 Tom!
- We say farewell to Ms. Bec Warr this week. Bec has been a co-teacher in Year 3 this year. We wish you all the best for 2025 Bec as you head off to Saint Patrick's College.
- We say farewell to Mrs. Michelle Jans this week. Michelle has been a much-valued member of our Learning Support team this year. Best of luck with the next chapter Michelle as you celebrate the birth of one grandchild and await the birth of more grandchildren!

Congratulations Mrs. Toohey

We offer our congratulations to Ms. Jess Van Gaans who became Mrs. Toohey last week. We wish Jess and Dan all the very best as they commence married life together.





Congratulations Caitlin and Pat

We offer our congratulations to Caitlin and Pat on the arrival of Charlie, who was born yesterday.





Parents & Friends News

We would like to thank our Parents & Friends committee who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds and build community. So many things have been achieved this year by our volunteers and we are very proud of them. Thank you to our committee who keep working for our school. We appreciate your efforts very much! We also acknowledge the dedication of Stephanie Nunn who has led the team for the past two years. An amazing effort! Thanks Steph!

Year 3 Day Camp

Due to extreme weather, our planned day camp at Log Cabin lodge was postponed today. This will now occur tomorrow and children will return to school by the end of the school day for Community Carols. Enjoy the day tomorrow children!

End of Term – Start of Term

Classes cease for the 2024 school year on Wednesday 18 December at 3.15pm. Our new school year commences on Wednesday 29 January 2025. Happy holidays!

Bushfire at Risk Register

Hello Families,

As you would be aware, St Francis Xavier Primary School is on the BARR (Bushfire at Risk Register).

Schools listed on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Recently we were directed to send you information regarding the school closing on days that were determined as an Extreme fire danger rating day. Please note that this is not the case, our school will remain open on days of Extreme FDR. There may be times when additional circumstances might require our school to make a decision regarding community safety and school operations.

Thank you for your understanding and apologies for any confusion this communication may have caused.

Kind regards,

Mark Hogbin Principal

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday December 15th, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

The people asked [John the Baptist], "What are we to do, then?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it."

Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what are we to do?"

"Don't collect more than is legal," he told them.

Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us? What are we to do?"

He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay." People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection: The people ask John the Baptist what they should be doing to prepare for the coming of Christ. John says that everyone needs to share what they have. We all need food, water, and somewhere safe to live. Some of us in this country and in countries around the world struggle to get enough food, to get clean water to drink, to go to school, to get medicine or to have a safe place to live.

We also all need people to share our worries with, and who are willing to share their time with us to help us. We all need people who love us and care for us.

Are you always good at sharing?

Our Challenge: What could you do this week to share and spread some joy in our world? How could you share joy with someone who is lonely, poor or who needs some help (either locally or around the world?



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Curriculum News

Seesaw Posts: Keep an eye out for our final Seesaw posts for the year! Last week was a busy one, with plenty of updates added to your child's journal. We encourage you to take some time to browse through these posts and celebrate all the wonderful moments and achievements from 2024.

Week of December 8 - December 15 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East







Parent Access Module Login

school.	10.0
Email Address	
Password	
Keep me logged in	
Forgot Password?	Sign

Semester Two Reports: We are pleased to let you know that your child's End of Year School Report will be ready to download from the Parent Access Module (PAM) site today at 4:00pm. These reports provide a detailed summary of your child's achievements during Semester Two.

Each report has been thoughtfully prepared by your child's teacher, carefully reviewed by a year-level team member, and checked by the Leadership Team to ensure it is accurate and easy to understand. We are incredibly proud of the effort and care our teachers have put into creating personalised and meaningful feedback for each student.

We encourage you to take some time to read through the report and discuss it with your child. This is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work, progress, and achievements throughout the 2024 school year.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2025.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement

Sport/Physical Education News

2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 1:

- Week 4 Tuesday Feb 18th SFX Athletics Day @ Llanberris (ALL Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 students)
- Week 4 Friday Feb 21st District Swimming @ (venue TBC) (nominated students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)

Term 2:

- Week 3 Wed May 7th Division AFL @ venue TBC (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 4 Mon May 12th Division Cross Country @ Fed Uni (selected students from Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

- Week 6 Wednesday May 28th Division Soccer @ Morshead Park, Redan venue TBC (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 Friday June 6th Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)

Term 3:

- Week 4 Friday Aug 15th Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 5 Friday Aug 22nd Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 Thursday Sep 11th Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths Yr 4, 5 & 6)

Term 4:

- Week 1 Friday Oct 10th Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 4 Friday Oct 31st SFX Junior Sports Day (all students in F-2)
- Week 5 Wednesday Nov 5th Eureka Division Cricket (selected students from Yr 5/6)

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

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-east/

15th December 2024 3rd Sunday of Advent

Tam coming to do your will."



MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tues 1.00pm & 5:30 pm
Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place
(All welcome)
Thurs 11.30am (Emmaus School Mass)

hurs 11.30am (Emmaus School Mass Anointing Mass 2:00 pm Fri 10:30 am Funeral Mass for Kath Richmond 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

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: Peter McLachlan, Neville McDermott, Kath Richmond

Anniversaries: Anna Ridsdale

Unwell: Pam Hill, Kathy Towns, Socorro De Chavez, 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	\$979
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$270

Counting Team this week: No. 3

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

Christmas Eve

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

12 Midnight St Patrick's Cathedral

Christmas Day

9.00am Ballarat East

9.00am Dunnstown

10:30am St Patrick's Cathedral

The above schedule is reliant on the generosity of Frs Kevin Maloney and Wally Tudor assisting Frs Justin and Matt.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

◆Summer Appeal◆

The Ballarat East Conference of SVdP invites you to support our Christmas Appeal.

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

◆Piety stall - cards and calendars◆

The stall will be open after Masses leading up to

Christmas for the sale of:-

SVdP Christmas Cards \$5 for pack of 5

St Columban's Calendar \$10

ANNIVERSARIES – A TIME TO REMEMBER, REVITALISE, HOPE

Throughout 2024 the Diocese of Ballarat has acknowledged its 150th anniversary and recognised the strengths and weaknesses of our history. We celebrate the achievements, and we ask pardon for our failure to live our Christian life to the full. We remember those who have gone before us, who laid the foundations of our parishes and school communities, our social services and health care.

This weekend the Parish of St Alipius Ballarat East and Buninyong gathers at a time of significant anniversaries, 170 years since the Eureka rebellion that involved many of the pioneer Catholics, the 150th anniversary of the blessing and opening of the current St Alipius Church. Bishop Michael O'Connor, in his very first public occasion as the Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Ballarat, blessed and opened the Church. 2024 is also the 10th anniversary of the blessing and opening of Ss Peter and Paul Church Buninyong. We welcome Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, the 8th Bishop of Ballarat to our Parish to lead us at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Ballarat East. During his time as Bishop of Ballarat, the Buninyong Church remains the only Church that Bishop Paul has blessed and opened.

We welcome all who have gathered to acknowledge these significant anniversaries including those who are visiting us, former priests including Fr Adrian McInerney, and most of all the parishioners of the Parish of Ballarat East and Buninyong.

Thank you to those who have gathered to prepare our parish for the events associated with these anniversaries that have included the 6pm Vigil Mass on October 19th at which the impact of child sexual abuse was formally acknowledged as we stood outside in Victoria St looking into St Alipius. The Year 6 students from St Alipius, St Francis Xavier and Emmaus, together with some from Damascus College gathered for Mass on Wednesday December 4th in acknowledgement of our parish heritage.

Thank you to those who have prepared displays, arranged the picnic event and the anniversary Mass. May these anniversaries be a time to remember, revitalise and hope.

BAPTISMS

Frédéric Wayne Claude David Detragiache Child of Dorian and Gemma Detragiache

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

MORE FROM THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

This week both Chairs of the respective Parish Leadership Teams, Damian Ryan (Bungaree) and Sue Daly (Gordon), offer their reflections on the Assembly.

Sue Daly (Springbank, Gordon Parish), Delegate In the lead up to the Assembly my preparation included participation in a formation session convened at Our Lady Help of Christians in Wendouree, and attendance at 2 zoom meetings with the table group that I had been assigned to. Key reflections from my involvement with the Assembly include:

Change is upon us – in considering our future we have a choice:

- to be passive recipients of traditional patriarchal decision-making processes of the church OR
- we can respond to the invitation from Bishop Paul to engage, contribute and establish a culture change characterised by co-responsibility, participative governance and a shared sense of 'servant leadership'.

A practical outcome discussed at the table I participated in was the formation of a Diocesan Council of Lay Leadership, established as in integral component of the Diocesan leadership and governance ecosystem. This Council could provide:

- a support network for lay leaders from each of the parishes across the Diocese
- an opportunity to learn from one-another as we individually tackle the challenges of the future
- an integrated and collaborative approach to addressing emerging challenges
- · a space for formation sessions in lay leadership
- sharing of resources between parishes and ministry districts
- a focal point for sharing of key personnel across parishes and ministry districts
- input to role expectations of priests with a focus on their spiritual and sacramental priorities, while contributing to a shift away from administrative functions

What would success look like? To my mind - if we make solid progress in transforming leadership and governance in our Diocese over the next 5 years we could establish a reputation across Australia as a flourishing space for faith development and spiritual growth.

Damian Ryan (Bungaree Parish), Delegate
Bishop Paul convened the Diocesan Assembly where
representatives of Clergy, Catholic organisations and
Parishes gathered to contemplate leadership and
governance and the future direction of Catholicism in our
Diocese.

Delegates, in clusters of around 8 people, were challenged to listen intently to each other and to be aware that the Holy Spirit is working amongst us – sometimes as the gentle and peaceful dove and at other times as the bustling wild goose. Change is not always smooth – at times it is challenging and confronting but with a confidence that Catholicism will continue to flourish albeit differently. Future practices and direction are to be determined in the spirit of synodality – that is, journeying together as the People of God – it is a way of listening to each individual to understand how God might be speaking to us.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASSES

St Alipius School Ballarat East will celebrate their end of school year Mass on Tuesday December 17th at 1.00pm in St Alipius Church.

Emmaus, Mt Clear will celebrate their end of school year Mass on Thursday December 19th at 11.30am in St Alipius Church as well as staff Mass celebrated on Friday December 20th at Ss Peter and Paul Church Buninyong at 2.00pm.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

This coming week brings another school year to an end. We congratulate all students and staff for their contributions throughout 2024 and wish them a safe and restful holiday.

A special congratulations to all who have completed their VCE this year. We hope that your hard work has been well rewarded and pray that your futures see your dreams fulfilled.

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS

Have you found the time to visit the Bridge Mall to view 'Making a Scene at Christmas'? If not, you have one week left to discover the nativity through the eyes of people across the world. Take a moment or two to call in and chat to Fiona about this amazing collection of Nativity Scenes and the engaging stories behind them. You won't be sorry you did! Entry by gold coin donation.

CHRISTMAS GIVINGg

This year we hope to provide gifts to Mercy Place residents at Christmas time. If you are in a position to do so, please take a tag from the tree at the back of the church near the Vinnies stall. Blue tags (male) and pink tags (female). For all other colors please buy a generic gift as the staff are unsure of numbers from week to week. If you could bring your gift back with the tag on it by next weekend, it would be greatly appreciated.

A Reflective Time of Expectation and Hope

Reflection on the Gospel by Veronica Lawson RSM 3rd Sunday of Advent (Luke 3:10-18)



he third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a midterm break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer a penitential period, but rather a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy. This invitation is explicit in the first two readings and implicit in the gospel.

There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John the Baptiser is asked, "What must we do?" In line with Luke's emphasis on the universality of God's saving power, the responses are directed to "all the people". Those with even minimal food (something to eat) and clothing (two tunics) are told to share. Tax agents, caught up in a system notoriously open to abuse, are to be honest. Soldiers are given three directives that provide some insight into the negative way the military was perceived: no extortion, no blackmail, and no complaints about wages. The third directive probably derives from the fact that soldiers were better off financially than most others. It is in no sense a prohibition on demands for just wages. In Luke's depiction of John, there is no critique of the harsh Roman taxation system or of the presence of the Roman army. Here as elsewhere. Luke seems to be seeking acceptance for the Christ movement within the Roman Empire by

demonstrating that it is no threat to the occupation and its values.

Luke's John situates himself in relation to Jesus, the anointed agent of God's liberation. John describes the one to come in much more fiery terms than the Lukan Jesus turns out to be. His description is more like a self-portrait, especially in light of the fact that John addresses the crowds who flock to him as a "brood of vipers" or "children of snakes" (Luke 3:7). In contrast with John's water-baptism "for the forgiveness of sins", Jesus will "baptise" with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire, as we well know in this dry land of ours, is a challenging symbol, both friend and foe. In the first-century *Manual of Discipline* from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action.

John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We know our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by doing what we must: sharing our goods, treating others with dignity, justice and forgiveness as well as responding to the cry of the earth. The question "What then must we do?" is one that we might ask ourselves each day in the face of a changing world order.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Zephaniah 3:14-18 Philippians 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 4th Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Micah 5:1-4 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-44

BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL?

The School Rewards Program is a great fundraising opportunity, with \$5 from every pair of shoes purchased being donated back to your school. This applies to the whole family across our fantastic range of school, sports, work and casual.

ASK ONE OF OUR FRIENDLY STAFF IN STORE FOR MORE DETAILS

SHOP YOUR WAY

MYFIT













Experience MyFit3D designed to accurately measure your foot size, width, arch and gait. Teamed with our expert analysis by our Fit Technicians, we guarantee to find your kids the perfect fitting shoe that will take the impact of their everyday activities. We are so confident that we event have a 30 day FIT guarantee'- new or worn.











ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

2025 SHOE GUIDE



Ballarat 88 Bridge Mall, Ballarat, VIC 3350 03 5333 4110



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Athlete's Foot has worked with ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL to provide high quality footwear which meets our school uniform policy. We welcome The Athlete's Foot as an ongoing sponsor for our school through their school rewards program.

Mark Hogbin

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

APPROVED SCHOOL SHOES













was: \$149⁹⁸







Clarks
HARRISON

208 OFF

Clarks, Roc & Harrison 20% OFF discount pricing valid from 31/12/2024 - 20/02/2025. School styles

Price displayed is RRP

APPROVED SCHOOL SHOES



APEX

Junior \$12999

Senior \$14999



SCHOLAR

Junior \$13999

Senior \$15999



ADIVA 2

Junior \$13999

\$159⁹⁹



ADELA

Junior

\$11999



ACADEMY

Junior \$119⁹⁹ ascent ascent

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\$149⁹⁹

