

St Francis Xavier Primary School



Newsletter

Wednesday 29th January 2025
Term 1 Week 1

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 1 (10 weeks)

Tue 28th Jan – Fri 4th Apr

Friday 31st January

No Casual Clothes Day
No Assembly

Friday 7th February

9.30am Beginning of Year
School Mass in the Gym

Friday 14th February

No Assembly

Friday 21st February

No Assembly

Monday 24th February

School photo day

Friday 28th February

2.40pm Assembly led by 6PB

Friday 7th March

2.40pm Assembly led by 5CC

Monday 10th March

Labour Day Public Holiday
Student Free Day

Friday 14th March

2.40pm Assembly led by 4KB

Friday 21st March

2.40pm Assembly led by 3JT

Friday 28th March

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Friday 4th April

12.40pm Assembly led by 1JS

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 21st Apr – Fri 4th Jul

Monday 21st April

Easter Monday Public
Holiday
Student free day

Tuesday 22nd April

Student free day

Wednesday 23rd April

Student free day

Thursday 24th April

Student free day

Friday 25th April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Student free day

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Welcome to school and welcome to the new school year! Our first day was action packed as our newest students found their way to classrooms and those more familiar caught up with old friends. The sense of excitement and high energy was terrific to witness, and all staff have enjoyed making and renewing connections.

Some of you may be aware that we always commence the school year with a special Mass for educators at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. This was held yesterday and well over four hundred people attended. It is always a very special event because it helps us to focus on the students in our care as we pray for sustenance in the year ahead.

At the Mass Bishop Paul spoke about this year being declared as the year of hope. In a world where things move quickly and we are so often called to be responsive to so much, we were challenged to take up the call to be people of hope in our future, our professions and our lives. The gospels tell us that hope will sustain us, and peace will thrive in a world where hope is permitted to flourish.

I hope that we can have a great year. I hope that 2025 brings many blessings our way and that our children will continue to thrive in a school community where they are valued for who they are. I wish you a very happy 2025 and may your hopes become your reality.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin.



A Prayer for the New School Year

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You place before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year offers.

Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.

May we be the instruments of Your peace in our school, our community and our world.

Amen!

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Friday 2nd May

Term 2 Mass

Friday 9th May

Mothers' /Special Friends'
Day Liturgy

Friday 16th May

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Friday 23rd May

2.40pm Assembly led by
5SMC

Friday 30th May

2.40pm Assembly led by
4ML

Friday 6th June

2.40pm Assembly led by
3DGS

Monday 9th June

King's Birthday Public
Holiday

Student free day

Wed 11th – Fri 13th June

Year 6 Urban Camp

Friday 13th June

2.40pm Assembly led by 2TS

Friday 20th June

2.40pm Assembly led by
1EM

Friday 27th June

2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

Friday 4th July

No Assembly

Term 3 (9 weeks)

Mon 21st Jul – Fri 19th Sep

Friday 25th July

Start of Term Mass

Friday 1st August

2.40pm Assembly led by FLP

Friday 8th August

2.40pm Assembly led by
1GT

Friday 15th August

2.40pm Assembly led by
2MH

Mon 18th – Fri 22nd Aug

Book Week

Friday 22nd August

2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL

Friday 29th August

2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS

Friday 5th September

Fathers' Day/Special
Friends' Liturgy

Friday 12th September

2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP



Welcome to our new staff

We welcome the following new staff to our school this year and wish you all the very best as you settle into life at Saint Francis Xavier school:

Mrs. Liz Posthlewate and Ms. Tamara Wilson (Foundation), Mrs. Teresa Skrypko (Year 2), Mrs. Leonie Leviston and Mrs. Brigid Ginnane- Smith (Yr. 3), Mr. Kai Barclay (Yr. 4), Mr. Glen Strange and Mrs. Nicki McGannon (Yr.5), Mr. Jack O'Brien and Ms. Mikaela Monson (Learning Support Officers). We also welcome Mrs. Majella Lewis (junior music classes) and Mrs. Hayley Quinlan (Year 3) who will be working in our school for first term.

School Traffic

- When turning at the top of Fortune Street - please go to the 2nd group of trees, opposite the golf club (marked with a LARGE X).
- Please go up to the cross in a single line and cross to come back down Fortune Street.
- As a pedestrian, only ever cross Fortune Street at the School Crossing.
- Please observe all 'No Standing,' 'No U-Turns,' 'One Way' and 'Bus Zone' signs.
- Please use the designated areas for parking and follow the rules.

School Uniform Expectations

It is appropriate that at the start of the new school year we ensure that all children adhere to the school uniform policy. Please note that the following excerpt is taken from the parent handbook, and it applies to all students in our school:

SCHOOL HATS

School hats are a compulsory item of our school uniform for students during term 1 and term 4 and must be worn during all recesses and outdoor activities.

JEWELLERY

The only jewellery permitted at school is a wristwatch and one pair of gold or silver plain studs or sleepers for pierced ear lobes.

HAIR

Long hair is to be tied back. A plain maroon or navy hair tie, scrunchie or ribbon may be worn with winter, summer and sports uniform. Hair should always be neat and tidy. Shaving the head is not permitted. Unnatural hair colouring is not permitted.

Technology

Student devices are provided by the school for student use. Mobile phones and smart watches are to be handed to the classroom teacher at the commencement of the day and will be securely stored until the end of the school day. Parent communication with students throughout the day should be kept to a minimum and made through the school office, not directly to the student.

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Friday 19th September
12.40pm Assembly led by
FBOK

Term 4 (11 weeks)
Mon 6th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Friday 10th October
Start of Term/Mercy Day
Mass

Friday 17th October
2.40pm Assembly led by
FTW

Friday 24th October
2.40pm Assembly led by
6MM

Friday 31st October
Junior Sports Day (F-2)

Monday 3rd November
Student free day

Tuesday 4th November
Melbourne Cup Public
Holiday
Student free day

Friday 7th November
No Assembly

Friday 14th November
No Assembly

Friday 21st November
No Assembly

Mon 24th – Wed 26th Nov
Year 5 Camp

Thursday 18th December
Final 2025 day for students

Fill the forest with love for Sam

As we approach the first anniversary of the disappearance of our friend Mrs. Samantha Murphy, members of our community may be wondering what we could do to mark this tragic event. Ms. Katrina Guerin has planned the following event to mark the occasion and if you would like to participate, you are most welcome to do so. If you would like more information, Mrs. Leah Hanrahan is happy to help out at school. While this is not a school planned event, all members of our community are warmly invited to participate.

Please walk/run in Woovookarung Park on Sunday February 2nd.

We will meet at the scenic lookout (Cnr of Bakers and Boundary Road) at 8am to remember our friend with a few minutes of silence.

All welcome, please spread the word around to any Ballarat friends/searchers that might like to join us.

*No need to rsvp and please no vehicles.
Katrina*



Congratulations Mr. Willmott

Mr. Tom Willmott celebrated his wedding over the recent school break. Tom and Tegan had a great day with family and friends as they came together to mark the wonderful occasion. We wish Tom and Tegan all the very best for a future filled with happiness. Congratulations Tom and Tegan!



Religious Education News



Beginning of Year School Mass Friday February 7 9:30am in the Gym

A warm invitation is extended to all our families, friends and parish members who would like to join us in celebrating our beginning of the Year School Mass.

We have a beautiful tradition at St Francis Xavier whereby our Year Six children accompany our new Foundation children into Mass and lead a special blessing as a welcome to our school community. (At the End of Year Mass our Foundation children reciprocate and lead the blessing as our Year Six children go forward to high school).

We also look forward to welcoming our Parish Priest, Father Justin, to our school.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Welcome to 2025! I hope your break was filled with happiness, family time, and some well-deserved rest.

At St. Francis Xavier, our Pedagogical Understandings focus on:

- **Explicit Direct Instruction**
- **Moving knowledge from short-term to long-term memory**
- **Positive teacher-student relationships**

We promote:

- **Strong Relationships**
- **High Expectations & Excellent Classroom Practice**
- **Positive Classroom Tone**
- **Quality Feedback**
- **Supportive Learning Environments**
- **Excellent Presentation**

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We are off to a busy start! Here's what your child and teacher will be focusing on in the coming weeks.

Key Dates

Foundation: Testing Wednesdays

- **Wednesday, 5th February** (Week 2) Testing
- **Wednesday, 12th February** (Week 3): Testing/ *Tell Me About Your Child* Meetings
- **Wednesday, 19th February** (Week 4) Testing
- **Wednesday, 26th February** (Week 5) Testing

Years 1-6:

- Beginning of Year (BOY) Literacy Testing (DIBELS)
- Origo Stepping Stones Pre-Testing (Modules 1-3)

Support Programs:

Jayne Mohr will conduct assessments to help identify students who will be suitable for intervention programs within the next few weeks. Program Support meetings will commence in Week 3 and Jayne will make contact with families to make a suitable time for these to take place.



This year, we are holding *Year Ahead Meetings (Yrs 1-6)* instead of *Getting to Know Your Child* sessions. These will run in weeks 3 and 4. **More information to follow.** Please keep these dates free as these meetings will provide you with information about the expectations of the year and provide a time for you to have a meet and greet with your child's teacher.

Week 3 Year Ahead Meetings: Yrs 2, 5, 6 (5-6pm) & Foundation: Tell me about your child meetings

Week 4 Year Ahead Meetings: Yrs 1, 3, 4 (5-6pm)

Enjoy your week.



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

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 @ Eureka Outdoor Pool (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



Faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

Ministry District Newsletter

Priests Frs Justin Driscoll & Matt Restall

Ballarat East Parish
Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson
03 5332 8611
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00PM

Bungaree and Gordon Parishes
Aileen Toohey
0492 903 409
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults

26th January 2025
3rd Sunday of the Year (C)

WE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Louise Lang, John Steenhuis, Bev Naus, Mick Daly, Merrilyn Ross

ANNIVERSARIES

Francis Murphy, Peter Tung, Eileen Kent

UNWELL

Ray Broach, Pat Burvill, Karem Chiparra, Elaine Conlan, Socorro De Chavez, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons, Owen Widdison

BAPTISMS

Harriet Mae & Frederick August Nicht – children of Sebastian and Georgia

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS/PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ballarat East Parish: Rose Consignano, Teresa Fletcher, Judith Glaubitz, Martin McGettigan, Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart.

Bungaree Parish: Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree)
Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Mahar & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).

Gordon Parish: Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN OUR PARISHES

Saints Flexible Learning (Bakery Hill & Bungaree), St Brigid's Ballan, St Alipius' Ballarat East, St Francis Xavier Ballarat East, St Mary's Clarkes Hill, St Patrick's Gordon, Damascus College Mt Clear & Dunnstown, Emmaus Mt Clear.

MASS TIMES

Saturday 1st February
6:00pm – Ballarat East
6:30pm – Clarkes Hill

Sunday 2nd February
9:00am - Buninyong
9:00am – Gordon
10:30am – Ballan
10.30am - Ballarat East

Tuesday
5:30pm – Ballarat East

Wednesday
11:00am – Mercy Place

Thursday
9:30am – Ballarat East

Friday
9:30am – Ballarat East

Saturday
No Mass – Ballarat East

CHURCHES

St Brigid's
98 Inglis Street, Ballan

St Alipius'
84 Victoria St, Ballarat East

St Michael's
186 Bungaree-Wallace Rd,
Bungaree

Ss Peter and Paul's
701 Fiske St, Buninyong

St Peter's
1120 Ballarat-Daylesford
Rd, Clarkes Hill

St Brendan's
1 Ti Tree Rd, Dunnstown

St Patrick's
1558 Old Melbourne Rd,
Gordon

St Michael's
738 Springbank Rd,
Springbank

THANK YOU

The Ballarat East Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society is most grateful for the generosity demonstrated by the local school communities and parishioners to the Christmas appeal. This coupled with the support for our raffle has resulted in an excellent outcome. Raffle winners are:

First prize was won by Liz and Bernie Brisbane.

Second prize to Catherine McKenzie.

Third prize to Maureen Mason.

The money raised will help those most in need across Ballarat. Once again the true meaning of Christmas had been demonstrated by our parish. They were also delighted with the response to their card and calendar sales - a few calendars are still available.

WORLD INTERFAITH NETWORK

The Ballarat Interfaith Network invites you to join their Flag Raising Event in celebration of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week on Monday, February 3, 2025 from 11.00am – 12.30pm at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street, Ballarat. The Welcome will be provided by Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves. After the raising of the unique Ballarat Interfaith Network flag, we will adjourn into the church for a keynote address from Dean Berger, Deer Park Stake President, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, short student speeches from senior leaders of Damascus, Loreto, Phoenix P-12, and St Patrick's Colleges, prayer for peace offered by representatives of many faiths, and a children's choir from Emmaus PS. Refreshments will be provided.

SS. PETER & PAUL'S SOCIAL NIGHT

Ss. Peter & Paul's are hosting a Casserole/ Salad Night on Friday February 28th 2025 at 6.00pm at St Peter & Paul's Church Hall in Buninyong. \$15 covers all wine beer and soft drink. Any profit to parish funds. Please bring a casserole or salad to share. All welcome.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

Each Saturday in March and April Fr Matt will be guiding a Lenten and Easter reflection group at St Alipius between 10:15 am and 11am. If you are interested in being part of this group, please register with him by emailing:

matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.edu.au

Reflection book will be available for \$10.

PRAYING WITH THE POPE

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – www.thepopevideo.org.

Prayer for January – For the right to an education: *Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.*

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving

prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world. Pope Francis has written a prayer for the Jubilee Year. Prayers cards will be provided to parishes and schools.

A hymn has also been written for the Jubilee Year and can be accessed from the diocesan website or the Jubilee Year website

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

The National Centre for Evangelisation have prepared resources, highlighting special aspects of Church life. These resources can be accessed from the diocesan website.

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgv-sacraments/iubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

There are a number of Young Adult activities occurring around Ballarat at this time. If interested in being a part of something, email Fr Matt for a chat about possibilities and to be kept in the loop via text. matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

YOUNG FAMILY GROUP

Families across Ballarat are currently meeting monthly during the week for a social afternoon sport activities for the kids and food are provided. The next gathering will be mid-February. To be kept informed via email, please register your interest by emailing matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEATIFICATION

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop's beatification with a free commemorative prayer book, "Flourish with Mary's Heart", written by the Sisters of St Joseph. The book is available at <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/for-churches/prayer-book>

BACK TO SCHOOL

This week we welcome staff and students back to school after their Christmas break, hoping that they are well rested and looking forward to a new year. Best wishes to all who are beginning at new schools for the 2025 school year. Staff from all schools will gather at St. Patrick's Cathedral next Tuesday at 8.45 am where Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass to begin the school year.

AGED CARE PASTORAL CARE

St. Alipius Parish are looking for volunteers to visit residents and bring Holy Communion to Aged Care Facilities within the parish. If this is something you might be able to help with on a fortnightly or monthly basis, please contact Fr Matt to chat about logistics. matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Dates for the 2025 Sacramental Program are now available on the Parish Website. If you know of someone who has a child seeking to prepare for Sacraments in 2025, please refer them to our website. Information will go to schools in the coming week. For further details please call the parish office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Baptism Preparation Session
February 6th 10 am or 5.30 pm
Mary Glowrey Hall

Caring Group Gathering
February 7th 2 pm – Parish Hall

RCIA for Children
February 13th 4 pm - St. Alipius

Parish Finance Council Meeting
February 13th 7.30 am - Presbytery

Liturgy Meeting
February 13th - Presbytery

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
February 20th – Presbytery

Casserole Night
February 28th 6 pm – Ss. Peter & Paul's,
Buninyong

PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA DAY

Blessed be God, for this ancient and beautiful land - a land of despair and hope, a land of wealth and abundant harvests, a land of fire, drought and flood.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice. Amen.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests	\$274.30
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds, maintenance etc.	\$1172.35

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

Counting team this week: No. 5

Release for the Shattered as a Gospel Imperative

Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

-Veronica M. Lawson

The liturgy for today juxtaposes the introductory verses of Luke's gospel and a passage from the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry that encapsulates and sets the tone for the whole gospel. If we had no other part of Luke's gospel than these twelve verses, we would know a great deal about the gospel and the program it proposes.

From the first four verses, we know that Luke is not an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus but is endeavouring to provide an orderly account on the basis of reliable eyewitness accounts handed down to the community by "servants" or ministers of the word. We learn that Luke's is one of many gospels. We also learn that this gospel is carefully researched and addressed to a person of influence called Theophilus, a name that means "lover of God" or "beloved of God". We might guess that Theophilus is Luke's patron, someone who provides the necessary funds to produce this work. He is possibly the early equivalent of an RCIA candidate, one seeking to become a full member of the worshipping community. We know from the grammatical construction that the author is male. And most importantly, we know that Luke sets out to place on a firm foundation the teaching that Theophilus has received about Jesus. The word translated as "truth" (*asphaleia*) in our lectionary can also mean "certainty" or "assurance". Our English word "asphalt" is derived from the Greek *asphaleia*. Luke wants the gospel message to be well grounded.

When we turn to Luke 4:14-21, we find a dramatic scene set in the Nazareth synagogue.

This programmatic scene sets the tone for the whole gospel.

Luke's gospel story is about the release that comes from the gracious and expansive love of God mediated through God's anointed and Spirit-filled prophet. Every significant event in Luke is powered by the Spirit of God. This event is no exception. The Spirit-filled Jesus searches out and proclaims a passage from the prophet Isaiah, a combination of Isaiah 61:1-2 and 58:9. He then points to his own mission as a fulfilment of the Isaian prophecy. Jesus thus presents himself as the Spirit-filled anointed one of God who brings good news to the destitute or homeless poor, release to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. The Greek word translated as "oppressed" literally means "shattered". It evokes images of asylum seekers in the limbo of uncertainty and the hundreds of thousands displaced by war or persecution. It evokes the pain of the Earth itself and the more-than-human inhabitants of our planet suffering the effects of the climate crisis and ecological destruction. If the gospel message is to be well-grounded in our times, the "destitute" and "shattered" of our Earth community, the destitute of the human community and the endangered plant and animal species of the planet, must find the "release" of which the gospel speaks.



THIS WEEK'S READINGS 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40