

# St Francis Xavier Primary School



## Newsletter

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025  
Term 1 Week 2

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

Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 1 (10 weeks)

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Apr

#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Beginning of Year  
School Mass in the Gym

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb No Assembly

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February  
Athletics Day at Llanberris  
All Years 3-6 students

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
No Assembly

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
School photo day

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
2.40pm Assembly led by 6PB

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
2.40pm Assembly led by 5CC

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
Labour Day Public Holiday  
Student Free Day

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
Student Free Day

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
2.40pm Assembly led by 4KB

Last day for Book Club  
Issue 1 orders

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
2.40pm Assembly led by 3JT

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
Student Led Conferences  
3.30-7.00pm

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
Student Led Conferences  
3.30-7.00pm

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
12.40pm Assembly led by 1JS

### Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Apr – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Jul

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Easter Monday Public  
Holiday  
Student free day

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

Our new school year began last Wednesday, and since then, our school has been filled with energy and excitement. It's wonderful to see all our students looking fantastic in their summer uniforms, and I'm sure many parents were amazed at how much their children have grown over the break.

At Saint Francis Xavier Primary School, we take great pride in our appearance. Learning about appropriate attire—including hair, shoes, and accessories—is an essential life skill that we instil from an early age. Our school uniform also serves as a great equalizer. In a world where brands often carry significant influence, we want our students to understand that a person's worth isn't defined by the labels they wear. The only labels that should matter are the ones with our names on them!

As a father who has guided my own three children through school, I understand that uniform expectations can sometimes be challenging. However, I've learned that the earlier we establish good habits around wearing the correct uniform, the easier it becomes as part of daily life—something that certainly helps busy parents!

I know our students are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, and I share their enthusiasm. My hope is that as this school year unfolds, you'll experience many moments of joy as we learn, grow, and support one another at Saint Francis Xavier School.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**  
Student free day

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
Student free day

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
Student free day

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
ANZAC Day Public Holiday  
Student free day

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Term 2 Mass

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
Mothers'/Special Friends'  
Day Liturgy

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
5SMC

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
4ML

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
3DGS

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
King's Birthday Public  
Holiday  
Student free day

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup> – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 6 Urban Camp

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 2TS

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
1EM

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FGI

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
No Assembly

**Term 3 (9 weeks)**  
Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Jul – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sep

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
Start of Term Mass

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FLP

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
1GT

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
2MH

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug**  
Book Week

## School Hours

Our school operates during the following hours:

8.15am – School gates open and students are supervised in the undercover area

8.30am – Students may move to the lower oval area to play

8.45am – Classrooms open for the morning

8.56am – Children move to their classrooms while the music plays

9.00am – Classes commence

11.00am – First break

11.30am – Classes resume

1.15pm – Second break

1.42pm - Children move to their classrooms while the music plays

1.45pm – Classes resume

3.15pm – End of day



Please note that children cannot be supervised at school, prior to 8.15am. At 3.15pm children can be collected from the undercover area where they are supervised until 3.30pm. Children who are registered to travel to and from school on buses are reminded to promptly move to the bus area at 3.15pm each day and if your child is not travelling on the bus on any given day, parents are required to notify the office.

## Works completed over the holidays

We have certainly made good use of the summer break to complete some much-needed jobs around school. Over recent weeks we have completed painting and re-carpeting 3 more classrooms, painted and re-carpeted the administration areas and staffroom, updated the library to include a technology space, replenished the sandpit, installed shade sails over the adventure playground, erected the chicken coop, mowed, weeded and generally cleaned up garden spaces and ordered blinds for the west facing classrooms. Jim, our maintenance man, has been very busy! We also thank Rob and Bec for mowing our lawns. We can't wait for our basketball courts to be completed with new retaining walls and fencing to ensure a safe area for our children to play.

## Extreme Weather Conditions



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Like all children in schools across the state, our students will be feeling the heat this week as we experience some very warm weather. We are fortunate that we have a large amount of shade available at our school, but in extreme circumstances we may ask the children to remain in classrooms during break times. This is also a good time to remind your children about the importance of wearing their hat at school and to bring a drink bottle to keep hydrated. As a recognized BARR (Bushfire At Risk Register) school we will close our school on days of catastrophic fire danger ratings.

## Response to Historic Child Abuse

You may be aware that our school has been mentioned in the press regarding the Catholic Church's response to historical cases of child abuse. In the most recent case, the alleged abuse occurred in the 1970's in a building which no longer exists on our school grounds. At Saint Francis Xavier, we continue to work with legal authorities whenever information is requested and we offer our prayerful support to anyone affected by events of the past.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
Fathers' Day/Special  
Friends' Liturgy

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
12.40pm Assembly led by  
FBOK

**Term 4 (11 weeks)**  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**  
Start of Term/Mercy Day  
Mass

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
FTW

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
6MM

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**  
Junior Sports Day  
All Foundation-Year 2  
students

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**  
Student free day

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
Melbourne Cup Public  
Holiday  
Student free day

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
No Assembly

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November**  
No Assembly

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November**  
No Assembly

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Year 5 Camp

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Final 2025 day for students

**Book Club** If you would like to order anything from the Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 catalogue that will be sent home (or go to <https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/>), please order and pay online following the instructions in the catalogue. The last day for orders is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you.



### WANTED – Second Hand St Francis Xavier Primary School Uniforms

If you have any clean second hand uniform items that you would like to donate, please bring them into the school office. Thank you.



### Religious Education News

#### THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday February 2, 2025 The Presentation of the Lord

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40 The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah.

Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God. The child's mother and father were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God"

When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:** Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple, to present him to God.

Even though he was just a baby, Simeon could see just how important Jesus was. He did not judge by what Jesus looked like; or where he had come from- he was filled with faith and they knew in his heart just how special and important he was.

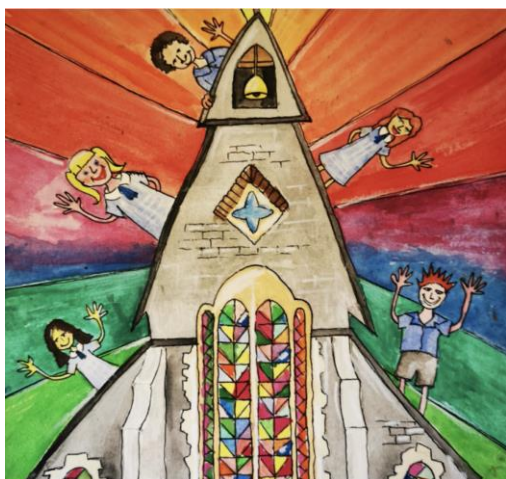
Have you had a time when you have judged someone because of what they look like? Or when you have been judged for what you look like?

The Catholic tradition tells us that each person, no matter who they are, is made in the image of God. This means that we can see something special in each and every person.

**Our Challenge:** How can we be like Simeon this week, and open our eyes to see God in each other? How can we treat others to show that we recognise how important and special all people are?

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*Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*



### **Beginning of Year School Mass 9:30am Friday February 7 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**

## **Wellbeing News**

### **Social and Emotional Learning**

As a part of our Social and Emotional Learning, St Francis Xavier uses *the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships Program (RRRR)*.

RRRR is an evidence-based teaching and learning program used from Foundation to Grade 6. It supports students to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed for respectful relationships, and helps to build respect and equality across the entire school community. Research tells us that providing respectful relationships education at school can lead to positive impacts on students' academic outcomes, their mental health, classroom behaviour and relationships.

The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships resources have 8 topics that teach students about emotional literacy, personal and cultural strengths, resilience, problem-solving, stress-management, help-seeking, gender norms and stereotypes and positive gender relations.

This term we are focussing on Emotional Literacy and Personal and Cultural Strengths. **Emotional Literacy** helps students to learn how to be aware of, understand and use information about their own emotions and the emotions of others. **Personal and Cultural Strengths** helps students to learn how to recognise and understand their own and others' strengths and positive qualities, and how to identify how the values and strengths they learn from their family and culture help them to treat others with respect.

If you have any questions about Respectful Relationships education, you can talk to your child's teacher and visit the Victorian Government's Respectful Relationships page: <https://www.vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships>

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

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## Curriculum News

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**



### Year Ahead Meetings (Years 1-6)

What a great way to start our 2025 school year with our Year Ahead meetings! We would really appreciate your attendance, as this is a fantastic opportunity to welcome you, introduce our teachers, and share important information about the year ahead. You'll gain insight into our routines, expectations, and how we can work together to support your child's learning journey.

Scheduled for Weeks 3 and 4 please keep these dates free. These meetings will cover year expectations, introduce your child's teacher, and give you a chance to share important information about your child.

**Week 3 Year Ahead Meetings: Yrs 2, 5, 6 (5-6pm)**

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

**We will also remind you via Seesaw and our Facebook page.**

We look forward to seeing as many families as possible!

**Foundation families** have received messages about their testing days and tell me about your child chats.



To our Yr 3 & 5 families. NAPLAN 2025 begins Wednesday 12th March.

Enjoy your week.

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



## Sport/Physical Education News

2025 promises to be another big year of Sport at SFX with many exciting opportunities for students to represent both their school and themselves in various sports and activities. Please see below a list of the sports that have been confirmed so far.

**Yr 3 - 6 Athletics Day** Always a very popular event on our calendar is the Yr 3 - 6 Athletics Day to be held at Llanberris Athletics Reserve. Mr Down is busy finalising the day. Please note our 2025 event is on Tuesday Feb 18. For all information please refer to the PAM notification.

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## **Eureka Division Swimming**

This year's Division Swimming meet will be held at BALC on Friday Feb 21. Please see the PAM notification for further information and to express your child/s interest in participating. Please note that it is held in the 50m pool and certain qualifying times must be met.

### **T1 - Sporting Schools (After School sporting opportunity)**

SFX is conducting 2 free after school Sporting Schools programs in Term 4. The programs will be held on 6 x Mondays (AFL) and 6 x Thursdays (Tennis). Please see the PAM notification for more information and to express your interest. Please note that both programs have limited spots available.

## **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 - Division Swimming @ BALC (nominated students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 8 - Friday Mar 21st - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)
- Week 9 - Wednesday Mar 26th - Regional Swimming @ Horsham (qualifiers from Division swimming)
- Week 9 - Thursday Mar 27th - MDASA U9 Primary Schools Swim Sports (nominated students from F - Yr 2)

### **Term 2:**

- Week 3 - Wed May 7th - Division AFL @ Marty Busch, Sebastopol - (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 - Monday May 26th - Regional Cross Country @ Warrnambool (qualifiers from Division XC)
- Week 6 - Wednesday May 28th - Division Soccer @ Ballarat Region Soccer Facility (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 - Friday June 6th - Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 - Friday June 13th - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)

### **Term 3:**

- Week 4 - Friday Aug 15th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 5 - Friday Aug 22nd - Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 6 - Friday Aug 29th - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 - Thursday Sep 11th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths - Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

### **Term 4:**

- Week 1 - Friday Oct 10th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths - Yr 3, 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 @ Alfredton Reserve (selected students from Yr 5/6)

\*TBC - Swimming program and Golf Clinics/tournament

### **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 or Mr Carroll or drop them into the office.

Have a magnificent 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 6611  
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**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

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (C)

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Monday Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Ballan (Opening School Mass & Feast Day)	
Tuesday Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	No Masses		
Wednesday Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Ballan	
Friday Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Francis Xavier School Ballarat East	
	1.00 pm	Ballarat East (Funeral Mass for Sr. Lesley Dickinson)	
Saturday Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> - Vigil		Sunday Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	8:45 am	Bungaree
		9.00 am	Buninyong
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

**THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Sr. Lesley Dickinson RSM, Norah Seary.

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME**

**THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL**

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

### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

**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.

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## WEEKDAY MASSES

This week Fr Matt will be joining a gathering for priests ordained under 5 years from the Dioceses of Ballarat and Sandhurst that will be held in Moama, NSW. The gathering is organised by Clergy Life and Ministry Directors Frs Justin Driscoll and Jake Mudge (Sandhurst). Please note the changes in weekday Masses due to the absence of our priests.

## WORD OF GOD SUNDAY



One of the primary ways in which we honour God's Word in the liturgy is by faithfully listening to the proclamation of the readings and the homily, and by discerning the various ways in which God's Word applies to our lives. An important point to remember here is the Second Vatican Council's insight that Christ's presence is recognised in the actual "proclamation" of the Word, when the Church believes that Christ is present and speaking to those assembled through the words of the Church's minister [Sacrosanctum concilium (1963) art. 7], rather than in the physical book itself.

At Masses across our Ministry District next week, those who proclaim the Word of God will be commissioned once again for their ministry as well as those who compose the Prayers of Intercession. Our parishes are blessed with biblical scholars who offer weekly reflections on the Word of God that are included on our newsletters – we will ask a blessing on them as well. Let us embrace Sunday of the Word of God to help us launch our new year with a deeper and richer encounter with the Risen Lord.

## SS. PETER & PAUL'S SOCIAL NIGHT

Ss. Peter & Paul's are hosting a Casserole/ Salad Night on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

## CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet in the Hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at 2pm. Please bring a plate to share. All welcomed.

## 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](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.edu.au)

Reflection book will be available for \$10.

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the following clergy appointments to take effect May 1<sup>st</sup>

Fr Matt Restall: Assistant Priest in the South West Coast parish (Warrnambool etc)

Fr Bill Lowry: Assistant Priest in Sunraysia, Ouyen and Robinvale parishes

Fr Cay Xuan Trinh: Assistant Priest in Western Border parish (Hamilton etc)

Fr Matthew Thomas: Parish Priest of Ouyen & Robinvale (in addition to Sunraysia)

Fr Shaiju Mathew: Co-Pastor of the parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon. Fr

Shaiju will work with Fr Justin (Co-Pastor & Moderator) across our Ministry District. Fr Shaiju, a Missionary of St Thomas the Apostle from Kerala, India, is currently Administrator of the Parishes of Ouyen and Robinvale.

## CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST BRIGID OF IRELAND



Pause for Peace is an initiative of the [Solas Bhríde](#) Team and the residents of Kildare, Ireland, "to call on people all around the world to stop for a minute's silence at 12.00 noon (local time) on St Brigid's Day, 1st February." The movement aims to awaken and build a spirit of global solidarity in our search for peace – on a day that honours the legacy of St Brigid, Woman of Peace.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Baptism Preparation Session  
February 6<sup>th</sup> 10 am or 5.30 pm  
Mary Glowrey Hall

Caring Group Gathering  
February 7<sup>th</sup> 2 pm – Parish Hall

RCIA for Children  
February 13<sup>th</sup> 4 pm - St. Alipius

Parish Finance Council Meeting  
February 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30 am - Presbytery

Liturgy Meeting  
February 13<sup>th</sup> - Presbytery

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
February 20<sup>th</sup> – Presbytery

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

## 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>

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests: \$1199  
Maintenance of parish buildings: \$ 468

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

Counting team this week: No. 6

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC)

A recent status check for our Working With Children Checks indicates that some parishioners have cards which have expired, while others have new cards which we have yet to witness. It is important that all WWCC are up to date. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible if you are unsure of the status of your Working with Children Check. Thank you.

# Simeon and Anna as Prophets of God's Word

Reflection on the Gospel – Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40)

-Veronica M. Lawson



**T**his year the Feast of the Presentation falls on a Sunday and takes precedence over the celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. This year in Australia, it coincides with Word of God Sunday. We might ask why the Feast of the Presentation is of such importance in the liturgical calendar. Between the story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry, Luke inserts three stories. The first tells of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. The third story has the twelve-year-old Jesus coming with his parents on their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the great feast of Passover and sharing his wisdom with the Temple authorities. The second story, today's reading, has Mary and Joseph presenting their child in the Temple forty days after his birth, in observance of the Law of Moses (as prescribed in Leviticus 12:2-8). This Sunday marks the fortieth day since the celebration of Jesus' birth: it is not a moveable feast. All three stories locate Jesus and his parents firmly within the tradition as law-observant, faithful Jews.

Luke introduces into today's story two faith-filled wisdom figures, first a man, Simeon, and then a woman prophet, Anna. Both witness to the identity and future ministry of the child presented this day in the Temple. Both proclaim the Word of God. Their witness provides a microcosm of the gospel story. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes into the Temple, takes the child in his arms and utters some of the most memorable words in the Christian scriptures.

The child is to be God's saving presence in the world, a light to give revelation to the nations and glory to Israel. There are echoes in this proclamation of Isaiah 49:6 which speaks of God's servant bringing light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. There is also an echo of Isaiah 46:13 where God is said to bring salvation to Jerusalem and glory to Israel. Simeon declares that this child is destined for the rising and the falling of many, that he will experience opposition and that his mother too will know deep sorrow.

Anna, like Simeon, raises her voice in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple, the heart of Israel's religious, political and economic power. While Simeon is given direct prophetic speech, Anna's prophesying is recounted indirectly. While Elizabeth and Mary proclaim prophetic words, Anna is the only woman in Luke's first volume to be named as "prophet". This woman prophet proclaims the good news of salvation in Jesus. The verbal form used indicates that Anna "keeps on speaking" about the child to "all who await the redemption of Jerusalem." The invitation here might be for us to emulate Anna's courage and persistence as we enter the halls of power and seek to move the hearts of religious and political leaders to compassion and justice for all those displaced within the Earth community.

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**  
The Presentation of the Lord  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

# SATURDAY 8th Feb

10am - 3pm | 212 Ripon St Sth, Ballarat Central

## Come & Try Day

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# Foster Care

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*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.*



# Enrolments for 2026

**CLOSE 7 February, 2025**

*Character, Compassion, Community*



# 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Encouraging and recognising the pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life, St Patrick's College is offering scholarships to students entering Years 7, 10 & 11 in 2026 in the following categories:

- ✓ **Academic Excellence**
- ✓ **General Excellence/Leadership**
- ✓ **Performing Arts (Music & Drama)**
- ✓ **Sport**

**APPLY NOW** 

