



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 10th February 2025
Term 1 Week 3

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

Monday 10th February

6.00pm Parents & Friends Meeting in Staff Room for anyone who would like to attend.

Friday 14th Feb

No Assembly

Last day for Book Club
Issue 1 orders

Tuesday 18th February

Athletics Day at Llanberris
All Years 3-6 students

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

Tuesday 11th March

Student Free Day

Friday 14th March

2.40pm Assembly led by 4KB

Friday 21st March

2.40pm Assembly led by 3JT

Wednesday 26th March

Student Led Conferences
3.30-7.00pm

Friday 28th March

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Tuesday 1st April

Student Led Conferences
3.30-7.00pm

Friday 4th April

12.40pm Assembly led by
1JS

Last day of Term 1

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

Our school is buzzing with energy this week as we launch our Year Ahead meetings across all levels. Our dedicated teachers have been thoughtfully preparing for these sessions to ensure they make the most of your time and set a strong foundation for the year ahead.

These meetings mark a shift from previous years, when parent gatherings were held in the gym. Now, you'll have the opportunity to engage in a more focused and meaningful session—learning about the exciting plans for the year, meeting your child's teachers, and introducing yourselves in a welcoming setting. As your child settles into their classroom, you'll undoubtedly hear plenty about their teacher, making this early face-to-face connection even more valuable.

Please note that students are not required to attend these meetings. They will have their moment to shine later in the term when we come together for our student-led conferences, showcasing their learning and achievements.

For our long-standing families familiar with our assessment and reporting practices, this updated approach will further enhance communication and collaboration. For our newest families, we hope this experience highlights the importance of building strong partnerships between home and school as we work together to support your child's education.

We look forward to seeing you there!

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



Start of School Year Mass

Thank you to all parents and friends who were able to attend our start of school year Mass in the gym on Friday. We always like to begin our year with blessings and what better way than by sharing Eucharist together. We say a special thankyou to Fr. Justin who led our Mass for us. Fr. Justin is our Parish Priest and a great friend to our school community.

Parents & Friends Committee



Our Parents & Friends committee will conduct their first meeting for the new school year this evening at 6.00pm. All members of our school community are welcome to attend the meeting, in fact, we would love to see you there! The main focus of the Parents & Friends committee is to raise funds for our school and to help build a sense of community. We look forward to another great year and everyone is always welcome.

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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

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

Bus Travellers

Some of our bus travellers witnessed an unfortunate incident last week while travelling to school. It has been reported to us by the bus company that our students were very responsible and followed all instructions as required. Well done students! We are very proud of you. This is a reminder that we must always be mindful of safety when travelling on public transport and that seat belts and quiet behaviours are most important.

Pastoral Outreach in our Community

Many members of our community are facing difficult times, and even near our school, we see that having a home is not a reality for everyone. When people experience homelessness, they receive support from various service agencies and the City of Ballarat, which work closely with our school to help ensure the wellbeing of our community.

If you are concerned about individuals sleeping rough, you can reach out to a representative from the City of Ballarat for guidance and support. In the meantime, let's continue to look out for one another and keep the most vulnerable members of our community in our thoughts and prayers.

Our staff are currently supporting the Ballarat Soup Bus by collecting donations of essential items. If you would like to contribute, please drop off any of the following at the office, and we will add them to our collection: long-life milk, long-life custard, cup noodles, canned fruit and vegetables, small cans of tuna, canned meals, full-sized shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, soap, and sanitary items.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Together, we can make a difference.

Notifying the School Office of Illness

There are students in our Year Four cohort that, within the last 12 months, have received medical treatment at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. As a result of the treatment these children have received, they are at a high level of risk and infection. One of our students has Cystic Fibrosis, whereby if they catch a virus or bacterial infection, their recovery period is very lengthy. Exposure to simple colds and flus are significant and can have serious implications, including hospitalisation. Children with Cystic Fibrosis are most vulnerable to catching germs from others who are sick. Colds and flus can present serious complications to people with Cystic Fibrosis and can cause permanent damage to their lungs. To minimise the spread of germs and keep everyone healthy, we ask you to keep your child/ren home if they are unwell. Teaching good hygiene such as hand washing is also essential. Please contact the school if have any questions. We appreciate your support and consideration.

Foundation/Prep Enrolment 2026 – Existing Families

Enrolments open for children of existing and new families who start Foundation/Prep in 2026 on Monday 10th February 2025. Parents of existing and new families who have a child to start in 2026 - please complete the 'Enrolment Application Form' form by clicking on the following link to submit your application:

<https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/enrolments-application-form/>

Please note this is an essential step for existing families in ensuring you child is enrolled in Foundation/Prep 2026. Applications close Thursday 22nd May 2025.

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

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 All Foundation-Year 2 students

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

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday February 9, 2025 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret while the people pushed their way up to him to listen to the word of God. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing the nets. Jesus got into one of the boats—it belonged to Simon—and asked him to push off a little from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd. When he finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Push the boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch.” “Master,” Simon answered, “we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets.” They let them down and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus and said, “Go away from me, Lord! I am a sinful man!” He and the others with him were all amazed at the large number of fish they had caught. The same was true of Simon's partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Jesus said to Simon, “Don't be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection: Jesus borrows Simon’s boat so that he can teach the crowds that are around him on the shore. When he has finished speaking he tells Simon Peter to put out his fishing nets into the water. Simon does not think they will catch anything. They haven’t caught anything all night. When they listen to Jesus and put out the nets they catch so many fish, the boat nearly sinks! How do you think Simon, James and John feel when they see this? At the end of the story the disciples decide to follow Jesus and trust in his message. From now on they will spend their time with him, sharing his message with other people and treating all people with love and kindness. Jesus calls us all to follow him too. How do you think we can follow Jesus in our lives and share his message of love and good news for all people? Let’s start by listening to his words and by treating others as we would wish to be treated

Our Challenge: How will you show others that you follow Jesus this week?



Wow! What a fabulous way to start our year! A special thank you to our Parish Priest Fr Justin Driscoll, who celebrated our Start of Year Mass with us last Friday. We began with the Foundation children walking in with their Year Six buddies to the song “I Can Tell That We Are Going To Be Friends”.

We ended our celebration with the Year Sixes leading our special blessing of the Foundation students, as is our tradition as we begin and leave St Francis Xavier. Congratulations to our Year Six Leaders, our fantastic new Foundation children and all our students who participated in our rituals, prayer and songs- their respectful and reverent behaviour was noted by staff and parents alike. In Fr Justin’s Homily he spoke about hope and new beginnings. He told us each person is special and unique and treasured in the eyes of God. Many thanks also to all our family, friends and community members who joined us for our Eucharist- and a special shout-out to Denis, our amazing crossing supervisor, who loves to celebrate our special occasions with us! Everyone is always welcome here at St Francis Xavier!



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

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Wellbeing News

Child Safe Standard 3: Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

What a gorgeous start to the 2025 school year it's been! I hope you and your little darlings are navigating the new routines with ease. Let's begin again and embrace the journey ahead, with grace and excitement!

At St. Francis Xavier, we shake off the old ways and embrace the swift changes of school life making mental health and wellbeing our top hit! We prioritise holistic educational outcomes for all children, ensuring they sparkle and shine.

This term, I've got an all-star squad of Year 6 Wellbeing Leaders by my side, ready to support our children in every way possible! They're like the "Squad Goals" of the school, spreading positivity and lending a helping hand. They are Aria Treacy, Lois Cummins and Edward Lloyd.

Our Student Wellbeing Leaders are going to be our fearless champions, who ensure our children's voices are heard loud and clear! They will be the sparks that ignite change, giving our children a space to express themselves and be a part of the solution to any issues they face.

In Term 1, if you've got any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out. I value partnering with families to create the best outcomes for your child or children, ensuring they're shining bright!

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Curriculum News



Looking forward to seeing families who have children in Years 2, 5 & 6 for their Year Ahead meetings this Wednesday night at 5pm- 6pm.

Year Ahead meetings

PURPOSE:

The purpose behind the Year Ahead Meetings are intended to give Parents/Carers general information about the teacher/s, learning opportunities and the classroom organisation for the year. Year Ahead meetings provide an essential opportunity to build strong relationships at the start of the school year. These meetings foster teamwork among staff and ensure that everyone receives the same important information, helping to establish a shared understanding of goals and expectations. By facilitating connections between the school and home, these meetings also allow Parents/Carers to see where their child will be learning and who will be teaching them. Ultimately, these meetings play a key role in setting the tone for a successful year ahead, with open lines of communication and a unified approach to supporting students.

Following the general session, each class will go back to their room to meet and greet and provide Parents/Carers with a Getting to know your child sheet to complete allowing for more personalised written information for the class teacher.

The meeting should help all families:

- Get a clear idea of what their child/ren are learning and doing in class
- Promote high standards for student work

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- Gain skills to help their children at home
- Get an understanding of what successful learning looks like
- Discuss how to improve student progress

Year 2 will meet in the foyer of the Year 2/3 building

Year 5 will meet in the Library

Year 6 will meet in 6PB classroom

See you Wednesday night.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement

Sport/Physical Education News

Term 1 - Sporting Schools

Thank you for all of those that responded and expressed an interest in your child/ren being involved in a Term 1 Sporting Schools program. The response was extremely positive with many many names but unfortunately not all can participate this Term. Should we receive funding for future Terms, and your child/ren missed out this term, please try again and we will endeavour to give all students the opportunity to participate.

Please see below the list of students that **WILL** be participating in AFL on the following Mondays after school

- February 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 17 & 24

Eddie Anderson, Greyson & Winston Broadbent, Noa Cavanagh, Xavier Foster, Aiden Graham, Paityn Grant, Eddy Heinrich, Laila Jennings, Lachy & Tommy Just, Ava Kelishadi, Harrison Madigan, Noah & Will McGregor, Lenny & Rex Owins, Jed Phelan, Noah Rice Jimmy & Patrick Robinson, Riley Smith, Lawrence Wilson & Connor & Lachie White.

Please see below the list of students that **WILL** be participating in TENNIS on the following Thursday's after school

- Thursday February 13, 20, 27, Mar 6, 13 & 20

Olive Anderson, Imogen Curtain, Parker & Rome Davis, Ivy & Shirley Dorning, Jasper & Scarlett Govan, Eliza Hanrahan, Harriet & Rupert Howard, Ailbe Kirby, Ivy, Lola & Ruby Miles, Ellyse, Harvey & Isabelle Slater, Evangeline Spiers & Chloe & Ella Wilson.

Yr 3 - 6 Athletics Day

Next week (Tues Feb 18) we will be conducting our Yr 3 - 6 Athletics Day to be held at Llanberris Athletics Reserve. Mr Down is busy finalising the day. Please note students to be dropped off and collected from the venue. For all information please refer to the PAM notification.

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)

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- 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 great week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

P&F News

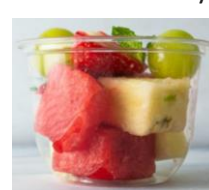
Parents and Friends



P&F meeting tonight 10/02/2025 6pm in the Staff room for anyone who would like to attend.

Hot Lunches Reminder

Hot lunches every Friday, order on Flexi Schools before 10am on a Thursday.





Zoooper Doopers – Fridays at 2nd break \$1



WANTED – Second Hand St Francis Xavier Primary School Uniforms

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



Year 6 Leadership



Green Sports Leaders: *Sophie Beseler, Aila Glab, Amelia Sordello, Hamish Lloyd.*



Yellow Sports Leaders: *Riley Ponsonby, Sidney Porter, Alfie Sosinski, Murphy Noonan, Audrey Lynch, Marli Ward.*



Blue Sports Leaders: *Leni Brown, Henri Gleeson, Cooper Manning, Sophie White, James Hocking.*



Red Sports Leaders: *Jed Hynes, Abbey Dwyer, Evie Tuffen, Will McGregor, Hudson Rowland.*



Visual Arts Leaders: *Rhys Bell, Lachlan DeLorenzo, Lucinda Leonard, Luella Dunstan, Ivy Miles.*



School Captains: *Isla Tongs, Asha Toohey, Zara Thorp, Liam Fulcher, Billy Cheeseman, Angus Burbidge.*



Mercy Leaders: *Mia Hamill, Maddison Murphy, Harriett Locke, Elizabeth Baruwa.*



ICT Leaders: Archie Williams, Christopher Martin, Tom Kierce, Harley Bye (absent), Alex Ponsonby.



Library Leaders: Myles Youl, Zach Cooper, Sierra O'Reilly, Michelle-May Lunn.



PR Leaders: *Ava Nicholson, Evie Staley, Elly Kane, Nic Hyland, Charlie Kersley, Nick Green, Lyla Harney, Beatrice Heywood, Haddie Morley,*



Reconciliation Action Plan (R.A.P.) Leaders: *Mila Knowles, Reuben Molloy, Cruize Van Langevelde, Noah Chibnell.*



Performing Arts Leaders: *Emerson Rolfe, Maeve Waldron, George Pearce, Harry Hatt.*



Wellbeing Leaders: *Aria Treacy, Lois Cummins, Edward Lloyd.*



Auslan Leaders: *Margot Castles, Claudia Cochrane, Isabelle Slater.*



EE Leaders: *Ava Vallance, Bailey McCartin.*

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

4th Sunday of the Year (C)

9th February 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Monday Feb 10th	No Mass		
Tuesday Feb 11th	9.45 am	Gordon - Opening Mass St. Patrick's School	
	12.30 pm	Ballarat East – Opening Mass St. Alipius School	
	5.30 pm	Ballarat East	
Wednesday Feb 12th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Feb 13th	9.30 am	Ballarat East	
	10.30 am	Ballan	
Friday Feb 14th	10.30 am	Funeral Prayers (Peter Kerwan)	
Saturday Feb 8th	9.30 am	Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Feb 15 th - Vigil		Sunday Feb 16th	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Gordon
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

John Brennan, Peter Kerwan

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Brian O'Neill, Tom Shannon

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, Socorro De Chavez, Joan Egan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons, Owen Widdison

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Ballarat East Parish:

Rose Consignado, Terresa 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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WORD OF GOD SUNDAY



The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on February 9th in 2025. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings. At all of our Masses across the Ministry district, those who proclaim the Word of God at Masses (on Sundays and/or weekdays) will be invited to be commissioned for this ministry of proclamation. We also invite those who compose the prayers of intercession for our Masses, together with those who read them to be commissioned. Our parishes are also blessed with biblical scholars who prepare reflections on our Sunday readings, they will be invited to be commissioned.

Some are no doubt familiar with the saying of Vatican II: “the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord’s body ... offering people the bread of life from the one table of the Word of God and the body of Christ (Dei Verbum 21).” In the same vein, St Jerome says: “We are reading the sacred Scriptures. For me, the Gospel is the body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says: ‘whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood’ (Jn 6:53), even though these words can also be understood of the (eucharistic) Mystery, Christ’s body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God’s teaching.”

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.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the following clergy appointments to take effect May 1st

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.

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

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 and in the foyers of each of our churches. 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
RCIA for Children February 13 th 4 pm - St. Alipius
Parish Finance Council Meeting February 13 th 7.30 am - Presbytery
Liturgy Meeting February 13 th 5 pm - Presbytery
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting February 20 th - Presbytery
Casserole Night February 28 th 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/churches/prayer-book>

RCIA FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

On Thursday of this week, we are pleased to be welcoming a number of families who are seeking to have their children prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. These children will come together regular with Fr. Justin and Cathy to learn more about the Catholic faith and our Sacraments of Initiation which they will receive in early May. These families will be introduced in the parish next weekend, please keep them in your prayers.

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.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests: \$954
Maintenance of parish buildings: \$447

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

Counting team this week: No. 7

EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Due to a change made by Google to the sending of emails to Gmail accounts, we have had some difficulty with the sending of our bulletin in recent weeks. If you have not received your emailed copy of the bulletin in the past couple of weeks, please call the office and let us know.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM – ONLINE STUDY

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The next Cycle begins March 10. There are 37 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. Scan the QR code for more information or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

BAPTISMS
Edward Joseph Reid Child of Jack and Hayley
Louie Russell, Elliott Leslie & Charli-Jo Evans Children of Justin & Alice

Bringing the Vulnerable Safely to Share

Reflection on the Gospel – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 5:1-11)

-Veronica M. Lawson



The gospel reading for this Sunday opens with Jesus by the lake shore looking for a little space from the people who are pressing around him to hear “the word of God”. For the gospel writer, the word of Jesus *is* the word of God. The listener/reader has been gradually prepared, in the baptism scene and in the episode in the Nazareth synagogue, to receive this momentous truth. Jesus is the anointed of God who brings God’s word to the destitute. The gospel narrative assumes that the crowd by the lake receives his teaching as God’s word.

Jesus sees two empty boats and gets into the one that belongs to Simon Peter. The implication is that Jesus knows Peter: he feels free to get into Peter’s boat and ask him to move the boat out from the shore. Having gained the distance he needs, Jesus sits down and teaches the crowd from the boat. God’s word thus comes to the people from the potentially regenerative waters of the lake and from the boat that is made of precious earth resources. Simon no doubt has one ear on Jesus’ teaching as he and his despondent business partners clean the nets and pack up ready to go home without any fish. They have fished all night without a single catch.

Evoking the creation story of Genesis where God’s spirit moves over the face of the deep, Jesus invites Simon and his companions to put out into deep water and lower the nets for a catch, even though there is little likelihood of a catch. Simon Peter hesitates, noting that they have laboured without success all night. He nonetheless follows Jesus’ instructions.

The dramatic result of his attending to Jesus’ word brings Simon to his knees: he acknowledges his limitations, his “sinfulness” in gospel terms. Jesus then commissions him to engage fearlessly in a new mission of reaching out beyond his present business enterprise in order to “catch people”. This commission is not to be understood as a recruitment drive for the reign of God movement. As the gospel story unfolds we discover that it is, rather, a mission to bring the vulnerable safely to shore where they can know the compassion and justice and the “hospitality” of God. While Peter and his companions are said to “leave everything” and “follow” Jesus, the subsequent narrative makes it clear that they do not abandon their fishing activities. They simply re-centre their lives on the following of Jesus. In other words, they undertake to live out in their lives the pattern of Jesus’ life amid the ordinary concerns of daily life. The previous chapter of Luke’s gospel has provided glimpses of that pattern: bringing good news to the destitute, release to the shattered, healing to the sick and the broken. In our times, we have begun to realise that the “shattered” needing to be freed include the despoiled Earth, its waters and the endangered species of both land and sea.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-8
Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 17:5-8
Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26

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Event details

Date	Sunday 30 March 2025
Time	10am (walk start at 11am)
Location	Federation University, Mount Helen

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walk.jdrf.org.au



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