St Francis Xavier Primary School



Newsletter

Monday 19th August 2024 Term 3 Week 6 P.O. Box 2027 Ballarat East VIC 3354 Phone: 5331 6311 Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 15th Jul - Fri 20th Sep

Friday 23rd August

Book Week Parade 2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

Friday 30th August

Fathers/Special Friends Day 2.30pm Chat and snack in the Undercover area 2.45pm Liturgy in Family Groups

6.30pm Trivia Night in Gym

Thursday 5th September

Last day for Book Club Issue 6 Orders

Friday 6th September

2.40pm Assembly led by 4BO

Friday 13th September

2.40pm Assembly led by

Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 7th Oct - Fri 20th Dec

Friday 11th October

Start of Term/Mercy Day Mass

Friday 18th October

2.40pm Assembly led by 2JS

Friday 25th October

2.40pm Assembly led by 1MV

Friday 1st November

2.40pm Assembly led by 5JW

Monday 4th November

Student Free Day

Tuesday 5th November Melbourne Cup Holiday

Friday 8th November

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Friday 15th November

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Wed 27th & Thurs 28th Nov

Please note corrected dates
Year 5 Camp

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Do you remember dressing up for Book Week when you were at school? As we celebrate Book Week across the Country this week, I am happy to inform you that Book Week remains alive and well in our schools today.

As the first educators of your children, you all know the importance of reading with your children every day. Regular practice helps develop strong literacy skills as well as an interest in the wider world. One thing that we sometimes forget is the importance of modelling reading to our children. When our children see their parents reading by choice on a regular basis, they can also come to understand the value of reading for pleasure. Escaping into an adventure, enjoying a romance or solving a mystery, reading for pleasure really can't be underrated. Even just ten or fifteen minutes daily can be enough to engender a love of

reading for the rest of our lives. Not a bad habit to develop at all!

As we highlight great literature at school this week, let's take the opportunity to switch off the Television, put away the technology and enjoy the shared experience of jumping into a good story together. Who knows where it might lead?

God bless,

afr





Pick Up & Drop off Times

Please note that our school gates open at 8.15am each morning. Children should not be left unsupervised in front of the school before that time. You can ensure your child's safety by not bringing them to school before 8.15am when the first supervision commences, and the school gates are opened.

Police Presence at School

Some families have been concerned about a police presence at our school last week. While the police were in Fortune Street, they did <u>not</u> attend our school. We might sometimes think of Fortune Street as our own school driveway since it is a no through road, but it is a public road, and the police will monitor this area just as they do all other areas across Ballarat.







We're skipping through the term!

Jump Rope for Heart is well underway and it's great to see so many children out in the playground skipping with smiles on their faces. SFX has already raised \$3491. An amazing effort!

Our Jump Off Day will come around quickly so keep on practicing those tricks! And don't forget to share your online fundraising page with friends and family to raise money for a great cause!

Still need to sign up online? It's easy just follow this link and enter your details at www.jumprope.org.au/parents

P.S. Don't forget to log your skipping hours!

Religious Education News

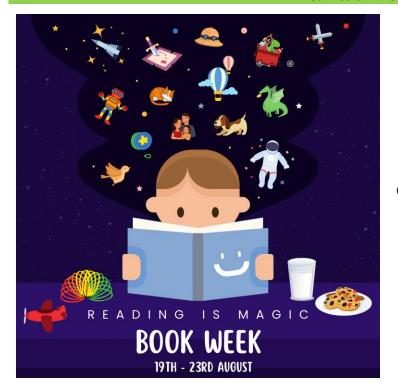
THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday Aug 18, 2024 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Gospel: John 6:51-58 I am that bread from heaven! Everyone who eats it will live forever. My flesh is the life-giving bread I give to the people of this world. They started arguing with each other and asked, "How can he give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus answered: I tell you for certain that you won't live unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man. But if you do eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will have eternal life, and I will raise you to life on the last day. My flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. If you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you are one with me, and I am one with you. The living Father sent me, and I have life because of him. Now everyone who eats my flesh will live because of me. The bread that comes down from heaven isn't like what your ancestors ate. They died, but whoever eats this bread will live forever. (Gospel passage taken from CEV)

Our Challenge: How do we live as a part of a Eucharistic Community?



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

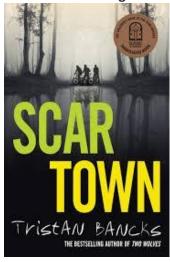
Curriculum News



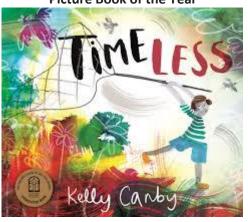
Happy 2024 Book Week

Congratulations to the following books that won this year's CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

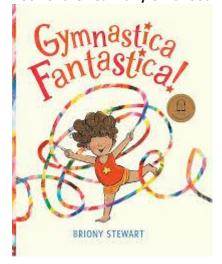
Book of the Year Younger Readers



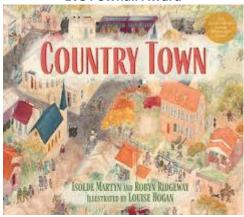
Picture Book of the Year



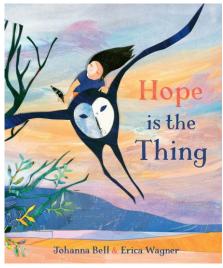
Book of the Year Early Childhood



Eve Pownall Award



CBCA Award for New Illustrator



6 Surprising Facts about Reading that prove it all adds up

- 1. Reading for 6 minutes a day reduces stress by 68%
- 2. When children have a home library, as little as **20 books** of their own, they achieve **3 more years** of schooling than children who don't have any books at home
- 3. Read 20 minutes a day and you'll read 1,800,000 words per year
- 4. Children who read **1,000,000 words** a year are in the top 2% of reading achievement
- 5. Children learn 4,000 to 12,000 words per year through reading
- 6. If you read just **one** book a day to your child, they will have read **1825** books by their 5th birthday- **Every Day Counts. Every book Counts.**

Book Week celebrations here at St Francis Xavier will include:

- Daily reading in the Library by an adult or our wonderful Library Leaders (first break)
- Nightly bedtime reading on our Facebook page
- Dress up day on Friday Theme: <u>Reading is Magic</u> ideas include Wizards, Witches, Fairies, Harry Potter, Unicorns





Happy Book Week to All.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal / Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News

Child Safe Standard 4: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Book Week is one of my most beloved weeks of the year! A whole week committed to enjoying books and celebrating the love of reading.

It's not only the enjoyment of sharing books and stories as well as dressing up as your favourite book character on Friday - to me it always brings back such great memories of dressing up for my own Book Week Parades at primary school and being read to as a little one.

One of my earliest memories is of my beautiful mum reading me and helping me to collect the whole Beatrix Potter 'Peter Rabbit' series. I still cannot help but smile when I think of mischievous Peter as he gets into the garden of Mr McGregor.

In turn, reading books as often as possible is a time of important connection with my two year old nephew and my Foundation class. It is a tradition that we all do together and it has valued meaning for us.

Another fond memory from my primary school years were the 'Wicked' Books by Paul Jennings and Morris Gleitzman. Have a read of the blurb below, it may bring back some amazing memories for you all as well!

Something very weird is happening to Dawn and Rory. And it's not just their new step-family. Slurping slobberers want to suck their bones out. Strange steel sheep want to smash them to pieces. Giant frogs want to crunch them up. Cruel killer creepers want to squeeze the life out of them. Their parents can't help them. Dawn and Rory are on their own. It's wild. It's wacky. It's WICKED!

Sending cheers your way and happy reading!

Gemma Johnson, Wellbeing Leader

Sport/Physical Education News

Eureka Division Basketball Good luck to the students that will represent SFX at this Friday's Division Basketball tournament at Selkirk Stadium. We will be represented by 5 teams and it promises to be a fantastic basketball event.

Good luck Archer This week, Yr 6 student Archer Spackman will be participating in the School Sport Australia National Cross Country Championships in Melbourne where he will represent Victoria. We wish him all the very best and we are very proud of his achievements and efforts.

Good luck to all of the students and staff that will be involved in sporting finals beginning this weekend!

Term 3 Calendar:

- Week 6 Friday Aug 23rd Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 Friday Sep 6th Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 @ St James
- Week 9 Thursday Sep 12th Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths- Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Term 4:

- Week 1 Monday Oct 7th Friday Oct 11th Swimming Program Yr 1 & 2
- Week 1 Friday Oct 11th Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths- Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 3 Friday Oct 25th Golf Tournament @ Mt Xavier Golf Club (selected students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 4 Wednesday Oct 30th Eureka Division Cricket @ TBC (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 4 Friday Nov 1st Junior Sports Day @ Russell Square (All students from F Yr 2)
- Week 6 Friday Nov 15th Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 v St Alipius

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, Mr Carroll or drop into the office.

Have an awesome week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

Parents' & Friends' News



Hot lunches: Each Friday we require a minimum of 5 volunteers to help pack our hot lunches for an hour, 11am to 12noon. Please sign up here if you are free to help.

Hot Lunches signup.com

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 16th August Hosted by FTW Theme: Compassion

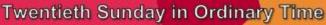
We treat others the way we would like to be treated. Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering. We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

FLH	Leo Answer and Poppy Thomas	4GH	Sienna Block and Evie Answer
FGJ	Arpan Shrestha and Hazel Fedke	4ML	Maddie Purtell and James Bosworth
FTW	Mya Troon and Sophie Morvell	4BO	Nellie Cheeseman and Noah Rice
FMM	Tex Olszewski and Finn Sutcliffe	5CC	Elizabeth Baruwa and Harley Bye
1JS	Isla Easton and Theo McAdam	5MA	Abbey Dwyer and Liam Fulcher
1EM	Zephyr Swanson and Matilda Walshe	5JW	Sierra O'Reilly and Nick Hyland
1MV	Meredith Bodnar & Greyson Broadbent	6РВ	Morgan Morley and Molly Danaher
2RR	Cooper Roberts and Pippa Bourke	6ZA	Olivia Klein and Ivy Bromley
2CK	Jimmy Faull and Darcie Richardson	6MM	Hugh Farrell and Lyla Deturt
2JS	Arlo Troon and Edie Giles	EE	Alex Ponsonby and Bailey McCartin
ЗЈЕ	Edie Young and Ned Kersley	PA	All of the musicians and choir singers for sharing their musical knowledge and skills in the next Villa TV episode!
3JV	Connor White and Ben Walshe	VA	Rome Davis (2RR), Annie Ludbrook (1JS)
3DW	Milla Kingston and Kade Swayn	PE	Evy Faull and Noah McGregor
		Tch	Remy Hansen and Charlotte Carter

Principal's Award: Toby Wilson for caring for other members of his class and being a good friend always. **Nate Quinlan** for the way he cares for all members of our school community. For greeting people each day and for showing great manners.



SS PETER & PAULS 701 FISKEN ST BUNINYONG 3357



"My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink."



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/



MASS TIMES

St Alipius
Tue 5:30 PM
Wed 11:00 AM Mercy Place
Thursday 10:30 AM Ballan
Friday 9:30 AM
Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)
10:30 AM (2rd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th) 10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th) Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 2

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: Bill Jeffrey, Brodie Toohey, Kiara Ghambir (Year 1 St Alipius School), Vin Brandenburg, Lorna Lange

Anniversaries: Nicholas James McGuigan, Jim Dawson

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez Shelley Pawang, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest Fr Matthew Restall

Parish Coordinator Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant Natalie Shannon

Finance Officer
Bernadette Prestwood

Child Safety Officer Emily Clarke

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.

18th August 2024

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	\$769
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$422

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Finance Council Meeting Thursday August 22nd at 7.30 am, Presbytery

Liturgy Team Meeting Thursday August 22nd at 5.30 pm, Presbytery

Trivia Night
6:30PM for 7PM start, 30 August, Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Over the next two weekends, the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be introduced at our Masses. These children have been preparing for the sacrament at home with their families and supported with further learning within their Religious Education classes at school. The children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at evening liturgies during the first week in September. Please make them welcome and keep the children and their families in your prayers during this special time.

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. Cycle 6 begins September 2. There are 40 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. For more information email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

PREPARING FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

During the week many gathered at OLHC Wendouree in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly that will focus on Leadership and Governance in a Synodal Church. Parishioners, priests, Religious, St John of God Healthcarers, staff from Catholic schools, CatholicCare, Diocesan Commissions and Councils gathered from Ararat, Ballarat, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Beaufort, Bungaree, Daylesford, Donald, Gordon, Redan and Wendouree

Our parish of Ballarat East and Buninyong will now be invited to nominate two delegates to send to the Diocesan Assembly that will be held at Federation University on Friday evening November 15th and Saturday November 16th. Prior to the Assembly, delegates from parishes, clergy, religious, Diocesan Commissions, Boards and Councils, Catholic education, CatholicCare, Catholic organizations and agencies within the Diocese will be required to engage in some preparation (some will be online).

Our Parish Pastoral Council will discern the two delegates who will attend the Diocesan Assembly. Parishioners are invited to nominate other parishioners to be considered to be one of the parish delegates. Please forward your nomination to the Parish Office with the name of the person being nominated, qualities that you see in them that make them a suitable parish delegate and include your name as the parishioner nominating them.

Pope Francis is providing leadership for a synodal Church and the Plenary Council of the Australian Church has recognised that the practice of synodality requires greater transparency in decision making, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised, giving witness to the equal dignity of women and men. The Plenary Council has affirmed a culture of synodality for parishes and dioceses, where healthy and fruitful relationships between clergy and laity "recognise different but complementary charisms and opportunities for co-responsibility", and desire "consultative and collaborative approaches to governance at all levels in the Church." The emphasis on listening and discernment for a synodal Church reveals how the People of God may be more centred on Christ, build healthy and respectful relationships amongst ourselves, and be effective missionary disciples in the Spirit.

BAPTISMS

Willow Kylie & Tayte Watson Prato Children of Luke and Kym

> Charlie Willow Farrugia Child of David and Rachael

The church gives faith to your children through Baptism, and you have the task to make it grow. Pope Francis

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

As we enter the final month of Winter we would like to acknowledge the wonderful support we have received from both the parish and school communities for our current appeal.

We recently received a donation of 4 hand made quilts which we are raffling with all proceeds going to our Winter Appeal. Tickets- \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3 will be available in the foyer. Winners will be announced Saturday 31st.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Issue 2 for 2024 of Our Diocesan Community is available now in church foyers. Don't miss your copy. Sit down with a cuppa and the ODC magazine and find out what's happening in the diocese. This edition is also available to view online.

https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2024/07/ODC-July-2024-1.pdf

ACU BIG SING FOR A BIG CAUSE - AUGUST 25, 2024

The Australian Catholic University, in partnership with St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne) and St Patrick's College (Ballarat) is hosting "Big Sing for a Big Cause", which will see singers, choirs and instrumentalists combine for a special performance, raising funds for those affected by homelessness. The concerts will be in Ballarat and Melbourne, performing Street Requiem, a piece cocomposed by Dr Kathleen McGuire, a renowned composer and ACU senior lecturer in Music Education. Donations will be raised for Peplow House (a ministry of CatholicCare Victoria) and ACU's Urgent Financial Hardship Grant. For more information go to https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/acus-big-sing-for-a-big-cause/

POSITION VACANT: PASTORAL CARE AT MERCY PLACE BALLARAT AGED CARE

A permanent part-time position is available at Ballarat Mercy Place Aged Care. Applications are available on the seek link

https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standout&ref=search-

standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3f0a 0309916d6ede9fc496a3. For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email:

BWurlod@mercy.com.au

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Have you booked your table for our trivia night? Our parish trivia night will be held on August 30th, doors open from 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM start. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles. What a great way to end winter and welcome the spring! A fun night is assured with some great prizes and raffles.

ANNIVERSARY PREPARATION

Another great meeting was held last Sunday, in preparation for the acknowledgement of the anniversaries of our parish and the events of Eureka. It's time to save the date now and let people know that we will recognise these anniversaries on Saturday December 14th with the 6.00pm Vigil Mass followed by a b.y.o. picnic in the church grounds. We continue to receive great photos and stories of days gone by and we thank the many parishioners who have provided them, but ask you to keep looking and thinking about what you could contribute to recognise 150 years of our parish. Whether from Ballarat East, Buninyong or Clarendon we are keen to gather as many stories and photos as we can to share with those who attend this function, but we cannot do it without your help. Watch this space for more information over coming weeks.

MERCY PLACE THANKS BISHOP PETER

Since Mercy Place opened in 2018, retired Bishop Peter Connors has celebrated Mass in their Chapel most weeks. Bishop Peter has decided that the time has come for him to 'retire' from this weekly commitment. On Wednesday August 21st 11.00am Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel at Mercy Place with an opportunity to thank Bishop Peter for his ministry at Mercy Place.

The Banquet of Life

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this week's gospel passage, we continue our reflection on John 6. John's gospel was written towards the end of the first century. The Bread of Life discourse probably reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements in the discourse that would seem to be out of place from the lips of Jesus during his lifetime. The hearers of these words have lived and worshipped as followers of Jesus for some decades. They have gathered each week for the breaking of the bread and reflected deeply on the mystery of the Word made flesh, the mystery of life in Christ.

If there were eucharistic overtones subtly present in last week's gospel passage (John 6:41-51), they become quite overt as the Johannine Jesus responds to yet another objection from his opponents in this week's gospel.

Like the Israelites of old in the desert wanderings, these people are more than ready to grumble: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52).

Jesus does not really respond to the question "How....?" Rather, he goes on to tell those who want to hear that "life" for them depends on their eating his flesh and drinking his blood. The Johannine Jesus uses the present as well as the future tense.

It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet along. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation.

The life they experience in eating his flesh and drinking his blood is a present reality for them as well as a promise of on-going life. For the Israelites, life was in the blood: blood poured out of a person or of an animal meant life poured out. Clearly "life" is being used in John 6 for the quality of life the believers have come to experience through their incorporation into and participation in the community of the baptised, the sort of life that is not destroyed by death.

Life in the community unites the believers intimately with the risen Christ as well as with the God of



Israel whom the Johannine Jesus generally consistently refers to as "Father".

The first reading for today reminds us that other metaphors such as Wisdom were available to those of Jewish heritage for imaging the divine.

Wisdom is a female way of imaging the divine. In John's discourse, Jesus becomes Wisdom extending an invitation to the banquet of life. We keep receiving and accepting that invitation. It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet alone. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation. In the strength of the sustenance we receive in this banquet, we are also invited to bring a quality of life to all beings that struggle to exist, the human and the other-than-human. The potential for this is as boundless as the generosity of our God "enfleshed" in Jesus of Nazareth.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PROVERBS 9: 1-6 EPHESIANS 5:15-20 JOHN 6: 51-58 NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

> JOSHUA 24:1-2,15-18 EPHESIANS 5:21-32 JOHN 6:60-69





EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BNUSC is looking for female players for the 2025 BDSA season!

In preparation we would like to enter teams into the Western United Cup to get the teams training and playing together prior to the 2025 season.

We are looking for current BNUSC and new female players of all ages & coaches/team managers to assist.



