



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021  
Term 1 Week 5

PO Box 2027  
Ballarat East VIC 3354  
Phone: 5331 6311  
Fax: 5331 8337

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

### 2021

*In the Land of the Wadawurrung People*

## Key Dates

Dear Parents and Families,

### Term 1

Jan 28 – April 1

### Term 1 Week 5

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
School Open Day #2

**Getting to Know Your Child  
as Person and a Learner  
(Rescheduled) Meeting #1**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**  
Foundation Children at  
Home

**School Open Day #2**  
**Getting to Know Your Child  
as Person and a Learner  
Meeting #2**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**  
Casual Clothes Day

### Term 1 Week 6

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
School Photos  
Year 5 Cyber Safety Parent  
Information Night

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
Reconciliation for Year 4 -  
Parent Information Session  
at St Alipius Hall  
P&F Meeting

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
Reconciliation for Year 4 -  
Parent Information Session  
at St Alipius Hall  
Foundation Children at  
Home

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
School Open Day #3

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**  
SFX Junior School Athletics  
Day (F - Year 2) Russell  
Square Sports Ground North

Last week, **Ash Wednesday**, marked the beginning of Lent. At school we celebrated Ash Wednesday with Class Liturgies on our return to school on Thursday. The children each received a sticker with the symbol of the ashes, instead of marking ashes on our foreheads. The ashes symbolize that we are followers of Christ and the Lenten season is a time for reflection and consideration for how we live out our Christianity.

**Lent** is also a special time when you as parents can share the concepts of giving and forgiving with your children. Consider as a family how you might help others in need. Lent is a time for us to reflect within the warmth of our families about how we live our lives and how we concern ourselves for others.

### A Reflection for Lent

One day, two friends were talking. They both wanted to change the world. "Everyone will know who I am if I become the richest person in the world." said one of them excitedly. "I would have power! I could do anything I wanted. I could buy anything I wanted. Don't you think that would be great?"

The other friend didn't answer. It was not how the world was going to be changed. After thinking about it, the quiet friend finally gave an answer: "The only way to really change the world is to change our hearts. Change begins in the heart."

### School Open Day & School Alive Tours – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

This coming Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February St. Francis Xavier will hold the **FIRST** of our **School Open Morning** from 9.30am – for families enrolling children in Prep for 2022.

This day will allow prospective families to meet with the School Leadership Team and Foundation Teachers and to familiarise themselves with our school programs and facilities.

### School Open Morning & School Alive Tours Dates:

1. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021
2. **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 (new date)**
3. Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021



*Called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition we will enrich thinking, expand horizons and pursue excellence!*

Year 3 -6 Cyber Safety and Chromebook Bootcamp.  
Year 6 CC Assembly

**Term 1 Week 7**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
Labour Day Public Holiday

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 6 Camp – Melbourne Sovereign Hill - Costumed School Program Year 5

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**  
Sovereign Hill - Costumed School Program Year 5

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 5 MM Assembly

**Term 1 Week 8**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 4 PB Assembly  
P & F Mix and Mingle

**Term 1 Week 9**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
SFX Middle-Senior School Athletics Day (Year 3 - 6)  
Llanberris Athletics Reserve

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
Reconciliation for Year 4 students - St Alipius Church

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
Casual Dress Day  
Year 3 BGS Assembly

**Term 1 Week 10**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
Holy Thursday  
Last Day of Term 1

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**  
Good Friday

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April**  
Easter Sunday

**Term 2**  
**April 19 – June 25**

**Term 2 Week 1**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April**  
First Day for Students

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
Whole School Mass

**Term 2 Week 2**

**Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meetings - Rescheduled**

As teachers, we build up expertise in how children learn and how each child operates within our setting. We acknowledge that it is the parent who knows their child best and therefore sharing information between parents and teachers will ultimately foster the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of each child.

**The *Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meetings* are the perfect opportunity for parents to share useful information about their child.**

These meetings provide 5 minutes dedicated 1:1 time for parents and teachers to meet and for you to share your child's strengths, passions, your concerns, and aspirations and anything you think will help your child to be successful.

Attached to today's newsletter is a document outlining some question and prompts for you to complete prior to your *Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting*. This document will need to be handed to your child's classroom teacher at the beginning of your meeting.

These meetings will **ALL** take place in the School Gymnasium. We look forward to seeing you there tomorrow and Wednesday afternoon!

**Casual Clothes Day – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

**This Friday** will be our first casual clothes day for the year. At St. Francis Xavier we use the last Friday of each month for casual dress and invite children to bring along a gold coin as a donation to a specific charity and/or religious community. We try to make the donations relevant and at the same time promote awareness and education.

We will begin our casual clothes day with all donations being directed to Hearing Awareness. World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. It marks the beginning of Hearing Awareness Week in Australia. **Many Thanks for your support.**

**School Photos – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Last week you received your child's personalized photo envelope from MSP Photography. If you wish to purchase photos please ensure your child has the photo envelope on photo day with the correct money or alternatively there will be an option to order photos online. Family Photo envelopes will be available from the Office.

Photo day is **next Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March** and children will be required to be in full summer uniform (not sport uniform).



**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Student Led Conferences -  
Day 1

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Student Led Conferences -  
Day 2

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

Year 2 BW Assembly  
Casual Dress Day

**Term 2 Week 3**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

Bravehearts Incursion

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

Student Led Conferences -  
Day 3

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Mother's Day Liturgy

**Term 2 Week 4**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

NAPLAN Testing - Year 3 & 5

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

NAPLAN Testing - Year 3 & 5

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

NAPLAN Testing - Year 3 & 5

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

Year 1 RC Assembly

**Term 2 Week 5**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Student Free Day

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Foundation EH Assembly

**Term 2 Week 6**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Catholic Education Week  
begins

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

Foundation TW Assembly  
Casual Dress Day

**Term 2 Week 7**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 6 JF Assembly

**Mix n Mingle Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Have you got your tickets yet?  
Tickets are now available via  
Flexischools, get yours ASAP and  
we look forward to seeing you all  
on the night!



**Summer Lunch Menu has started!**

The P&F are excited to bring you our new  
Friday Lunch Menu for Terms 1 and 4 and it's  
started last Friday! Place your order now via  
Flexischools.

All orders must be placed by 10am Thursdays  
mornings.



**SFX Tuition Raffle 2021**

What a great start to the year it would be if  
you won \$1,500 off your school fees. Tickets  
are now available for purchase through the  
link below.

The winner will be drawn at this year's Mix &  
Mingle on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

<https://www.rafflelink.com.au/sfxpstuition2021>

**SFX Easter Egg Raffle 2021**

Our very popular Easter Egg raffle is back  
again in 2021 but this year it is moving on  
line. Tickets are now available for purchase  
through the link below.

Hop to it!

<https://www.rafflelink.com.au/sfxpseaster2021>



**2021 Student Residential Address and Other Information**

The Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection (the Collection) informs  
Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government  
schools is based on need.

The information collected will be used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined  
with data held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate a non-government  
school community's anticipated capacity to contribute to the costs of schooling.

From 2020, a new measure of capacity to contribute, the Direct Measure of Income (DMI), was  
introduced. The DMI is based on the median income of parents or guardians of students at a  
non-government school using data collected through the Collection. More information about  
the DMI can be found at <https://www.education.gov.au/what-direct-measure-income>

**New Arrangements for End of the School Day Pick-Up**

After observing the traffic conditions on Fortune Street over the past 2 weeks and also considering COVID19 Requirements we have decided for the safety of the community to **change the Arrangements for End of the School Day Pick Up.**

**Term 2 Week 8**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 5 LL Assembly

**Term 2 Week 9**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
Queen’s Birthday – Public Holiday

We are currently working with the Ballarat Council, our School Board and Catholic Education Ballarat on a safe solution to our issue.

Please see the table below for changed pick up arrangements that began on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 2 Camp - Log Cabin  
Camp Creswick

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 2 Camp - Log Cabin  
Camp Creswick

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 4 BL Assembly

**Term 2 Week 10**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June**  
Last Day of Term 2  
Year 3 CP Assembly  
Casual Dress Day

**Term 3**  
**July 12– Sept 17**

**Term 3 Week 1**

**Term 3 Week 2**

**Term 3 Week 3**

**Term 3 Week 4**

**Term 3 Week 5**

**Term 3 Week 6**

**Term 3 Week 7**

**Term 3 Week 8**

**Term 3 Week 9**

**Term 3 Week 10**

**Term 4**  
**Oct 4 – Dec 16**

**Term 4 Week 1**

**Term 4 Week 2**

**Term 4 Week 3**

**Term 4 Week 4**

**Term 4 Week 5**

**Term 4 Week 6**

**Term 4 Week 7**

**Term 4 Week 8**

**Term 4 Week 9**

**Term 4 Week 10**

**Term 4 Week 11**

	3:00pm – 3:10pm	3:10:pm – 3:20pm	3:20pm onwards
	Children with Surnames beginning...		
<b>Week 4 to Week 6</b> Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	A - G	H - P	Q - Z
<b>Week 7 to Week 9</b> Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Q - Z	A - G	H - P
<b>Week 10</b> Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	H - P	Q - Z	A - G

**Dismissal / Collections Area**

Year Level	Teacher	Collection Area
Foundation	Shannon Macklin	Side door of the Foundation SM classroom
Foundation	Tom Willmott	Side door of the Foundation TW classroom
Foundation	Emma Hancock	Side door of the Foundation EH classroom
Foundation	Nicki Dalton	Side door of the Foundation ND classroom
Year One	Gemma Johnson	Enter via flag pole entrance
Year One	Rebecca Conroy	Enter via side gate (opposite perma patch). Walk up first set of stairs.
Year One	Matthew Manzl	
Year 2 to 6	Class Teachers	Collect from classroom door

To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to this timetable and to be vigilant when promptly entering and exiting the school site. Teachers will not be available to engage in discussion with parents at drop off or dismissal time and we ask parents to refrain from stopping and engaging in conversation with children and adults while onsite. An opportunity to meet with teachers is available this week with our *Getting to Know Your Child meetings.*

## Bus Transport for 2021

-----  
All other Calendar Dates for 2021 have been updated and can be accessed live on the Skoolbag App or by visiting the School Website.

We encourage parents and families to make use of the Ballarat Bus Service available to St. Francis Xavier children and run by CDC for Public Transport Victoria (PTV)



The Ballarat Bus Service runs 3 bus routes (please see attached) from St. Francis Xavier.

1. City Bus
2. Black Hill Bus
3. Bunninyong Bus

For more information on registering your children for the Bus Service please contact the school office or visit our school website <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/for-parents/bus-information/>

## Occupational Therapist - Brittany Curtain



Please find attached the **First Edition of The OT Times**

Brittany Curtain  
**Occupational Therapist**

## Foundation Enrolment 2022 – Existing Families

Enrolments are open for children of Existing Families who start Prep in 2022.

Parents of Existing Families who have a child to start in 2022 have to complete an online **Expression of Interest Form**. This is a new enrolment requirement consistent in all Ballarat Catholic Schools. It is necessary even if you have already filled out a SFX Enrolment Form and submitted it at the school office.

Please complete the form by this Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (**Extended**), by clicking on the following link to submit a **City of Ballarat Catholic Primary School Expression of Interest Form**:  
<https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the school office, should you require further information.

## Cyber Safety Parent Information Night

Leading Senior Constable Des Hudson OAM Ballarat Police Youth Resource Officer will once again highlight to parents/carers on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the need to be up to date and in touch with what their children are doing with technology and social media.

To register your attendance please click on the Google Form link below by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February:

<https://forms.gle/rjxFYZWwD2XB7Y3K7>



### **Moving Beyond asking “What did you do at School?”**

Ever found yourself asking your child the same bland question about school?

- “So, how was your day?”
- “What did you do at school today? What did you learn?”

If these are your default questions the chances are that you’ll get a one or two word reply along the lines, “Fine!” “Good!” “Okay” “Nothing much.”

These answers don’t really tell you a lot. On the other hand, these types of questions don’t ask a great deal.

### **So how can you move beyond the mundane when you talk with kids about their school days?**

It helps to take conversations and your questions in different directions to get a multi-faceted window into your child’s school life but also an indication of your child’s interests, social skills and welfare.

Here are some examples of question starters that may prompt different responses from kids about their time at school:

1. Tell me what made you laugh today?
2. Who did you play with at recess today?
3. Did you do anything that was brave?
4. If I spoke to your teacher, what would she tell me about you?
5. What did your teacher talk about today?
6. Is there anyone in your class who needs to be in time out?
7. Where’s the best place to hang out/play at school?
8. Tell me one good thing that happened to you today?
9. Who were you nice/kind/friendly to today?
10. Did anyone push your buttons today?
11. What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
12. What’s something you learned with a friend today?
13. What’s your teacher’s most important rule?
14. If today was a musical instrument what would it be? Why?
15. If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

Next time you ask a clichéd and dull question about your child’s day stop yourself before you utter the words. Instead think outside the square and ask questions that may stimulate a response beyond “Fine” or “Nothing.” And remember they may not feel like talking, which is fine too. Like adults, kids need to be in the right mood and the right environment if they are going to share a meaningful conversation about their day.

### **St. Francis Xavier School Finances - Explained**

Understanding the complexities of the funding of a Catholic school is often confusing. In particular, the relationship between Government Grants, school fees and income from fundraising is better understood when explained more fully. **(Please also find attached an explanation sheet).**



Basically, a Catholic school’s income is derived from three sources:

#### **1. Government Grants (both Commonwealth & State):**

These cover such areas as salaries, superannuation, Work Cover, interest on capital debts and Catholic Education Office levies.

## **2. Local Contribution:**

This is made up of school fees, parish contributions, interest and donations, i.e., Parent Club fundraising. It is an expectation of Governments that, in order to qualify for Government funds, school communities must contribute financially to their parish school, and thus ensure that a satisfactory standard is maintained, both in the education of the pupils and also in the administration and maintenance of the school.

## **3. Classroom Income:**

This is made up of: (1) Government Grants (both Commonwealth & State). These grants are used to provide materials used by the children in the classroom.  
(2) Student Fee. These are charged at the beginning of each year.

### **School Fees**

The School is advised by the Catholic Education Office regarding school fee structure and the School Board approves any changes to these fees.



### **Student Fee**

This fee is charged per pupil.

Along with the Government Grants, it meets the costs of running the classrooms for the year. Funds are used for:

- Student Requisites/Stationery & Materials
- Religious Education Resources
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Numeracy Resources
- LOTE
- Intervention Programs
- Integrated Curriculum
- Environmental Education/Kitchen Garden
- Student Wellbeing
- Library/Resource Centre Resources
- Art/Craft
- Music
- Physical Education
- Membership of Sovereign Hill

### **Tuition Fee**

This fee is charged per family.

The Tuition fee is approved each year by the School Board. The fee is used to assist the school in meeting its running costs throughout the year.

### **Capital Fee**

This is charged per family.

The fee is used for capital projects, such as the new building program, as well as funding specific purchasing priorities such as computers, playground equipment and library resources.

### **Building Fund Fee**

This fee is charged per family. The fee is used for the repayment of loans on major capital projects.

### ICT Fee

This is charged per student. The fee is used to support the provision of ICT equipment for students from Foundation to Year 6.

### School Fee Payments

Parents who experience difficulty in repaying their school fees are expected to make an appointment with the principal when the matter will be discussed in total confidence. A number of payment options exist for families, with direct debit and credit card payments proving very popular.

### School Assembly Dates 2021

Due to the Specialist Timetable running from Monday to Thursday our School Assemblies will continue on Fridays in 2021 from 12:40pm to 1:10pm. Due to COVID19 restrictions, parents of just that class presenting the assembly are invited to join us.

Please see list below. This has also been updated on the school calendar for your perusal.

Week	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
1				
2		Year 2 BW 30.04.21	Year 2 AH 23.07.21	Year 3 SB 15.10.21
3		Mother's Day Liturgy	Year 1 MM 30.07.21	
4		Year 1 RC 14.05.21		Year 2 GH 29.10.21
5		Foundation EH 21.05.21	Student Free Day	
6	Year 6 CC 05.03.21	Foundation TW 28.05.21	Foundation SM 20.08.21	Ballarat Show Day
7	Year 5 MM 12.03.21	Year 6 JF 04.06.21	Foundation ND 27.08.21	Year 1 GJ 19.11.21
8	Year 4 PB 19.03.21	Year 5 LL 11.06.21	Father's Day Liturgy	
9	Year 3 BGS 26.03.21	Year 4 BL 18.06.21	Year 5 MA 10.09.21	St Francis Xavier Feast Day
10		Year 3 CP 25.06.21	Year 4 CJ 17.09.21	Foundation (Nativity)
11				

### Family Fee Assistance Scheme

In all Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Primary Schools, tuition fee discounts are available to families eligible for a means tested Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. The scheme offers tuition fee discounts to both Catholic and non-Catholic families, to new and current students. If you are eligible for the above concession card and require further information regarding this scheme, please contact the school office for more information.

### Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

#### Eligibility:

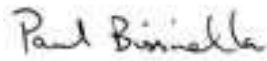
Families holding an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card,



Veterans Affairs Gold Card on the first day of Term 1 or first day of Term 2 or be a temporary foster parent will be eligible to apply.

Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella  
**Principal**

---

**Catherine McAuley**

*Do not fear offending anyone. Speak as your mind directs and always act with more courage when the "mammon of unrighteousness" is in question*

Letter to Mary Ann Doyle July 24,

## Religious Education News



### **Casual Dress Days**

At St Francis Xavier, we have a casual dress day on the last Friday of each month. Each student is invited to donate a gold coin (or more) to support a cause. The causes we support reflect our Catholic heritage as well as causes that are of interest to our school community. This week we will have a casual dress day on 26th February and all money raised will support Hearing Awareness and the Deafness Foundation.

Why do we ask the students to share what they have?

St Francis Xavier Primary School is a Catholic school. Our Vision Statement says we are 'called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition'. This means that we teach Catholic Christian values to our students. These are inspired by the behaviour of Jesus, who healed the sick, helped those in need and cared for all people no matter their nationality or religion.

The teachings of the Catholic Church on social justice issues are grounded in the Bible and the wisdom gathered from experience by the Christian community. Here is a summary of four of the Catholic Social Teachings that are most relevant for our casual day donations.

● Human dignity

All life is sacred, every person has inherent dignity and worth. Human rights and responsibilities are founded in this essential, shared human dignity.

● The common good

People have responsibility for one another in their shared life together, and are called to work for the common good of all. Catholic Christians must advocate for a just society in which all people, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, are able to flourish and meet their needs.

● Solidarity

Humans are social by nature and depend on one another. We seek to stand in unity with each other, particularly those who are powerless or disadvantaged, and recognise each person's rights regardless of our differences.

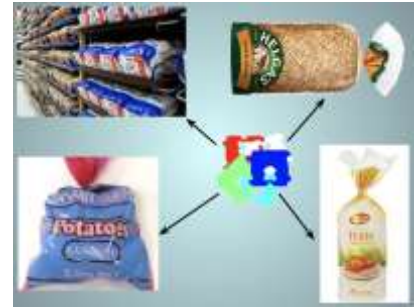
● Preferential option for the poor

The needs of the socially disadvantaged and vulnerable are prioritised.

## Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

Please save any plastic tags and send them along to school. The plastic will be recycled in South Australia and funds raised will be used to purchase wheelchairs for those in need in Sth Africa. Thanks to Olivia Green, in 4BL, who has introduced this initiative as a special activity for Lent. If you are interested in learning more about this, please read <https://ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au/> This activity fits in with our RE curriculum through Social Justice, and the Catholic Social Teaching it covers is Care for our Common Home, as well as the others listed above. Caritas Catholic Social Teaching

Hand the tags in to your child's teacher or send them to 4BL.



## Sacramental News

This year sees a change to the organisation of the sacraments. All the paperwork will be run through the parish, as will the information sessions. The dates for sacraments are listed below.

### Reconciliation:

The enrolment form for Reconciliation has been released and will need to be completed and brought to the information session, along with any money and your child's Baptism certificate. There is also a letter to families from Fr Jorge De Chavez, parish priest of St Alipius, Ballarat East. These have been included with the newsletter and on the Year 4 Seesaw pages. They are also linked to this page.

There will also be one parent/child workshop you will need to attend to complete your child's preparation to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Workshop dates:

1. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm at St Alipius Primary
2. Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm at Emmaus CPS
3. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm at St Francis Xavier

You may attend at any of the venues.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email on [bluckman@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bluckman@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

If you do not live in the parish of St Alipius, please contact your own parish about the sacraments for your child. Due to the Covid restrictions of 2020, St Alipius parish has more than 500 sacraments to administer this year and any help in reducing these numbers would be greatly appreciated.

St Alipius Parish, Ballarat East & Buninyong					
Sacramental Programs 2021					
As parents/ guardians we invite you to enrol your BAPTISED CATHOLIC child into the family based, Parish coordinated and Parish schools supported Sacramental Program for 2021.					
CONFIRMATION		RECONCILIATION		EUCHARIST	
Due to the unusual circumstances of 2020 and the inability to prepare for and celebrate Sacraments with the children in our Parish, a new program has been created for 2021.					
Term One	Term Two	Term Three	Term Four		
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>Confirmation</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>		
Baptised Catholics in Year 4 or older	Children who are baptised Catholic in Year 3 and 4 or older	Those who have been CONFIRMED and have celebrated RECONCILIATION in Year 5	Children who have been CONFIRMED and have celebrated RECONCILIATION earlier this year in Year 4.		
<b>Parent Information Sessions</b> St Alipius Hall 7.00pm TUESDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, or WEDNESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>Parent Information Sessions</b> St Alipius Hall 7.00pm TUESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> April, or WEDNESDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Parent Information Sessions</b> St Alipius Hall 7.00pm TUESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> July, or WEDNESDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Parent Information Sessions</b> St Alipius Hall 7.00pm TUESDAY 12 <sup>th</sup> October, or WEDNESDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> October		
<b>CELEBRATION DATES</b>	<b>CELEBRATION DATES</b>	<b>CELEBRATION DATES</b>	<b>CELEBRATION DATES</b>		
22 <sup>nd</sup> March Emmaus CPS 23 <sup>rd</sup> March St Alipius Primary 25 <sup>th</sup> March St Francis Xavier  All liturgies begin at 6.30pm in St Alipius Church	Confirmation will be celebrated during the first 2 weeks of May on week nights.  Details to be confirmed.	28/29 August 4/5 and 11/12 September  Eucharist will be celebrated during the 6.00pm, 9.00am and 10.30am mass.	Weekends of 6/7, 13/14 and 20/21 November 2021  Eucharist will be celebrated during the 6.00pm, 9.00am and 10.30am mass		

## **Baptism**

*If your child has been baptised since he/she started at St Francis Xavier Primary School, make sure you have informed us and you have sent a copy of the Baptism certificate to the school office. Your child will not be listed as Catholic in our school records and you may miss out on sacrament information. If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611. If you wish to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.*

Bernadette Luckman  
**Religious Education Leader**

## **THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

# **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B**

## **Gospel**

**Mk 1:12-15**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

### **Gospel Reflection**

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

### **Have you thought? Temptation?**

When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph's

*Called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition we will enrich thinking, expand horizons and pursue excellence!*

carpentry business and not respond to God's call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

### **Living the Gospel – Change of heart**

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

### **Historical Context – The Wilderness**

The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the TransJordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.

### **A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:**

Q. Why was it necessary for Jesus to go out into the wilderness before he began his public ministry?

Q. What did Jesus mean when he said, 'The kingdom of God is at hand'?

Q. What times of your life would you describe as 'desert times'?

Q. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus was capable of being tempted?

Q. How can you use Lent as a time to respond to the call to 'Repent and believe the Good News'?

**Greg Sunter** has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

## **Curriculum News**



### **Spelling Mastery**

*Spelling Mastery* commenced last week. *Spelling Mastery* is a research - based program designed to explicitly teach children the strategies they need to become successful, life-long spellers. *Spelling Mastery* supports the children in developing an understanding of the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns. Children are taught in small steps, using sufficient practice, so that they comprehend how spelling works and transfer accurate spelling to their writing.

Children in Years 3-6 will participate in *Spelling Mastery* four times a week, Tuesday through to Friday, from 9:00am to 9:20am. Due to the limited number of lessons that took place last year as a result of COVID, children in Years 4-6 will continue in their 2020 groupings for Semester One. This will provide the children with the opportunity to master the spelling skills at their level of need. Placement tests will be administered prior to the end of Semester One with children reassigned new groupings.

### **Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) Testing**

In Semester Two last year, all Year levels participated in Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) Testing. PAT provides objective, norm-referenced information to teachers about their students' skills and understandings in a range of key areas. Each PAT has its own proficiency scale with descriptors outlining the content and skills students are consolidating at any given point on that scale.

PAT provides quantitative and qualitative data on student performance, making the PAT ideal for understanding students' current strengths and areas for improvement, informing teaching and learning, and monitoring progress over time.

The PAT data has now been analysed, and I am pleased to report the following:

*Called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition we will enrich thinking, expand horizons and pursue excellence!*

- In the area of **Reading**, 81% of children from F-6 are working at or above expected levels
- In the area of **Mathematics**, 83% of children from F-6 are working at or above expected levels
- In the area of **Spelling**, 90% of children from Years 2-6 are working at or above expected levels
- In the area of **Vocabulary**, 87% of children from Years 3-6 are working at or above expected levels

We hope to share your child's assessment results with you throughout the course of the year.

Jayne Bosworth

**Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement**

## Wellbeing News



### Wonderful Week 5 Wellbeing activities

This week we begin our first break activities starting on Wednesday with Collecting/ Trading/Interest groups at first break. Below is an outline of what will be on offer for the children to participate in. All welcome. We provide these unstructured activities to develop social skills, meet children from other classes and provide an alternative to playing in our playground.

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Book Reading with Ms Emma 	Collecting/ Trading/ Interest Group with Mrs Clark 	Teddy Picnic Time with Mrs Meneely 	Meditation Time with Mrs Luckman 
In MXF building FEHA room	In MXF building – gathering space area	Weather depending Lower oval	School Chapel

### Seasons for Growth

Our Seasons for Growth program also begins this week. Christine Meneely will run the Year 6 sessions and Jane Clark will run the Year 5 sessions.

I have attached an article by Dr Justin Coulson Seven ways to be a positive influence on children and young people. I hope you find the article interesting.

Happy Days,

Jane Clark

**Wellbeing Leader**



### **Sporting Schools @ SFX**

Sporting Schools began last week and it was fantastic to see so many students keen to learn new skills and enjoying themselves participating in Softball on Mondays and Basketball on Thursdays.

The students participating in these sports are:

**Term 1 Softball** - (Monday) Mollie Arnts, Tadhg Arnts, Maebh Arnts, Sophie Dalton, Pippa Dalton, Cooper Danaher, Molly Danaher, Kayden Finley, Charlie Kersley, Xavier Kersley, Olive Lenaghan, Tadhg Lenaghan, George Pearce, Madeline Purtell, Mylo Robertson, Hudson Shorter, Christian Wright, Ethan Wright, Maddison Wright, Johann Iles and Tobias Iles

**Term 1 Basketball** - (Thursday) Max Grigg, Jensen McCartin, Bailey McCartin, Ava Hewitt-McManus, Eli Prebble, Darci Prebble, James Bosworth, Edward Lloyd, Macie Lloyd, Sophie White, Evie Staley, Xavier Staley, Harriet Johnson, Milla Richardson, Sully Boyd, Flynn Boyd, Mia Van Hammond, Eva Cummins, Lois Cummins, Benjamin Walshe, Isla Page, Michael Leonard, Lucinda Leonard, Sonny Troon, India Skewes and Mackenzie McMahon

### **Division Swimming at Eureka Pool**

A warm day greeted our squad of 14 swimmers at Eureka Aquatic Centre on Friday for the Divisional Swimming Championships.

All swimmers swam fantastically, and the team spirit showed by the SFX children no doubt inspired lots of great results. Congratulations and well done to all of our swimmers!

Congratulations to Ruby Fraser, Jack Fraser, Tayla Hiscock, Sebastian Green, Maya Simanjuntak, Darcy Murray, Keely Geljon, Ari Jones, Harrison Lane, Lenny Driscoll, Emme Geljon, Grace Douglas, Lily Mason and Ky Geljon all the best.

### **Term 1 2021 Calendar Events**

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Junior (F-Yr2) Sports Day @ Russell Square
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Middle-Senior Athletics Day @ Llanberris Athletics Reserve
  - More information on these events will be posted shortly

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Shaun Carrol

**Sports Co-ordinator**

## Uniform Shop Update

### NEWS from the Uniform Shop:

- **EFTPOS AVAILABLE in the Uniform Shop**
- **Second Pop Up Stall**
  - Have you outgrown your sports house polos?
  - If so would you like to swap sizes or just take your size at the pop up stall in the undercc on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February and the 4<sup>th</sup> of March.

### Opening Hours Term 1 2021:

- Monday **8.40 am – 9.10 am**
- Wednesday **8.40 am – 9.10 am**
- Friday **3.00pm – 3.30pm**

### Available NOW!

- **Boys school socks \$10 a pair**
- **School coats available \$50**
- **Swim hats available \$10**

### Price List & Order Form

The price list and order form is downloadable from the schoolbag app.  
Orders **with full payment** (cash or cheque only) may be left at the front office.

### DONATIONS PLEASE

Please check your cupboards for any uniform items you no longer need. Donations of second hand uniforms can be left at the shop with Sam or Yvonne. All donations are appreciated. Thanks.

### VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for volunteers to help out in the shop during the term. We only roster you on for 1 or 2 half hour shifts per term maximum. Parents with small children are welcome to bring them along when they are rostered on.

**Please Sign Up to Help** in the Uniform Shop by clicking on the following link :

<https://signup.com/go/JvsbATD>

or text **Yvonne Arnts on 0426 240 496** if you are able to help, with your preferred day. Thanks.



**TERM 1 PROGRAM**

***MULTI-SPORTS (90 MINUTES)***

*Wednesdays after school 3:25 pm - 4:55pm*

*(3rd of Feb) to (31st of March)*

*Tennis, Soccer, T-Ball and Basketball.*

*Preps to Grade 4*

*\$178.20 for the 9 week program*

*Enrol online [www.kellysports.com.au](http://www.kellysports.com.au)*

*Any queries call or text Paul on 0423 335 616*

**Scholarship Testing date for St Patrick's College**

The next Scholarship Testing date for St Patrick's College will be held at the College at 9am on **Saturday, February 20, 2021 for 2022 Year 7, 10 and 11 students.**

Registrations are now open at [this link](#).

Please note that registrations **close at midnight on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.**

To encourage and recognise the pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life, St Patrick's College offers scholarships for Years 7, 10 and 11 entry level in the categories of academic excellence, art, performing arts, music, sport, leadership and general excellence. All categories have an academic component and boys must sit a scholarship test conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research. A fee of \$95 is payable at the time of registering your son as well as the opportunity to purchase additional practice testing papers at \$25 which are available online and downloadable in PDF format.

For further information please contact the College Registrar on 5322 4449 or email [enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au)

Go to our **St. Francis Xavier Facebook** page for more photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Francis-Xavier-Primary-School/273229632859103?ref=hl>