



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 26th April 2021
Term 2 Week 2

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2021

Key Dates

Term 2
April 19 – June 25

Term 2 Week 2

BOOK FAIR BEGINS

Tuesday 27th April
Student Led Conferences -
Day 1

**Confirmation - Parent
Information Session**

Wednesday 28th April
#6 Open Morning And
School Alive Tour
Student Led Conferences -
Day 2

**Confirmation - Parent
Information Session**

Thursday 29th April
**Confirmation - Parent
Information Session**

Friday 30th April
School Assembly - Year 2BW
Casual Dress Day

Term 2 Week 3

Tuesday 4th May
Bravehearts Incursion

Wednesday 5th May
Student Led Conferences -
Day 3

Friday 7th May
Mother's Day Liturgy

Term 2 Week 4

Tuesday 11th May
NAPLAN Testing - Year 3 & 5

Wednesday 12th May
NAPLAN Testing - Year 3 & 5

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

The chill in the mornings is refreshing and you surely know that you are alive! The colder weather appears to have arrived! Please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately and remember that from next Monday all children are expected to be in Winter Uniform.

Exciting News!

I am pleased to share with you the following exciting news from Mr. Manzl ...



We're officially proud to announce the arrival of our gorgeous baby boy: Wilbur Matthias Manzl. Born 3:02pm 21/4/21.

Weighing in at 2.64kg and 49cm. 😊😊😊😊

He's traveling well after joining us a few weeks earlier than expected, and we're fortunate enough to have had him by our side since his arrival!

Mabel is a proud big sister and can't stop raving about "Wilbur Wilbur Wilbur"!

Thanks to you all for the love, support and flexibility during these uncertain past few days. It's been a huge relief to be able to focus fully on my family! Can't wait to introduce you to him in person!

Cheers, Matt & Fee

I am sure that you join me in congratulating Matt, Fee and Mabel on the safe arrival of Wilbur.

Staffing Announcements at St. Francis Xavier.

Due to personal reasons, Lucy Loader class teacher of 5LL tendered her resignation and has finished teaching at St. Francis Xavier Primary School, effective at the conclusion of last Term. The school has appointed **Ms. Lindy Harty** as full time class teacher of 5LL for the remainder of the school year beginning at the start of Term 2. Lindy will also take up the role of Year 5 Leader.

Due to the redeployment of Lindy Harty to 5LL, I am very pleased to inform you that **Miss Jess Van Gaans** has agreed to take on the class teacher position in 3BGS to cover Brigid Ginnane-Smith's Parental Leave. Jess will continue to teach Performing Arts for the first 2 weeks of Term 2 and will begin teaching in 3BGS at the beginning of Week 3. Brigid will conclude her teaching in 3BGS at the conclusion of Week 3.

Welcome to **Mr Daniel West**, Performing Arts Teacher. Next week we welcome Mr Dan West to St Francis Xavier as Performing Arts Teacher for the remainder of the 2021 school year.

Thursday 13th May
NAPLAN Testing - Year 3 & 5

Friday 14th May
School Assembly - Year 1RC

Term 2 Week 5

Monday 17th May
Student Free Day

Friday 21st May
School Assembly - Year FEH

Term 2 Week 6

Monday 24th May
Catholic Education Week
begins

Friday 28th May
School Assembly - Year FTW
Casual Dress Day

Term 2 Week 7

Thursday 3rd June
Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones

Friday 4th June
School Assembly - Year 6JF
Year 3 Camp – Sunnystones

Term 2 Week 8

Friday 11th June
School Assembly Year - 5MH

Term 2 Week 9

Monday 14th June
Queen's Birthday – Public
Holiday

Tuesday 15th June
Year 2 Camp - Log Cabin
Camp Creswick

Wednesday 16th June
Year 2 Camp - Log Cabin
Camp Creswick

Friday 18th June
School Assembly - Year 4BL

Sunday 24th June
School Working Bee

Dan is a talented musician who has experience working in both primary and secondary schools, including specialist teaching in Music, Drama and Visual Arts. Dan plays drums, guitar and piano and has skills in school theatre management and productions.

Dan has already met some SFX children while working as an Emergency Teacher here in Term One, and he now looks forward to meeting and working with all children at our school. We extend a warm welcome to Dan!

Student - Led Conferences at SFX

Our Student – Led Conferences begin this week!

1. **Tuesday 27th April 202** 2. **Wednesday 28th April 2021** 3. **Wednesday 5th May 2021**

During Student – Led Conferences, your children will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation and answer questions you may have.

Questions to ask your child at Student - Led Conferences.

Here are some questions for you to ask your child during their Student – Led Conference. These are suggestions, so please look them over and pick a few that you would like to ask!

1. **What are you most proud of?**
2. **It makes me proud to see that**
3. **Can you tell me more about ...?**
4. **I can tell that you improved in**
5. **What did you find challenging this term?**
6. **Did you reach your goals? Why/Why not?**
7. **What can we do together at home to support your learning?**



Purpose of holding Student - Led Conferences.

We have several goals for holding conferences using this format:

- **For parents** – we hope that you will get to see rather than simply being told about your child's progress.
- **For students** – we hope students will take more responsibility for their learning.
- **For teachers** – we want teachers to have more meaningful and impactful conferences with you.
- **For all** – we want to maximize our time together, create ways to partner with one another to support student success.

These meetings will last for 20 minutes and we encourage all families to attend. Children must attend these meetings!

SFX Book Fair

The SFX Book Fair will take place this week!

The Book Fair provides children with the opportunity to explore literature and select books of interest. The Book Fair is a great way to celebrate reading within our community with hundreds of fun, engaging and affordable books for the children to discover. This week classes will be given the opportunity to view the selected books and write a wish list.



School Uniform:

The reason for our school uniform is to ensure that our children are identified as students who belong to the community of St. Francis Xavier. When some students continually ignore aspects of the uniform policy, this causes resentment and disharmony for other students and families. I ask parents to be encouraging and supportive in your role so that the school uniform is

Term 2 Week 10

Friday 25th June

Last Day of Term 2
School Assembly Year - 3CP
Casual Dress Day

Term 3

July 12– Sept 17

Term 3 Week 1

Monday 12th July

First Day of Term 3

Tuesday 13th July

School Board Meeting

Friday 16th July

Term 3 Liturgy

Term 3 Week 2

Friday 23rd July

School Assembly – Year 2AH

Term 3 Week 3

Wednesday 28th July

Finance Committee Meeting

Friday 30th July

Casual Dress Day
School Assembly – Year
1MM

Term 3 Week 4

Monday 2nd August

Foundation 100 Days of
School

Tuesday 3rd August

P & F Committee Meeting

Term 3 Week 5

Tuesday 10th August

School Board Meeting

Friday 13th August

Student Free Day

Term 3 Week 6

Friday 20th August

School Assembly – Year FSM

Term 3 Week 7

Friday 27th August

Casual Dress Day
School Assembly – Year FND

respected and adhered to and that there is a strong level of equality and fairness in the management of the uniform protocol.

- Full winter uniform may be worn from Day 1 of Term 2.
- For the first 2 weeks of Term 2 we will be in a transition phase for Uniform. Children are permitted to be in either Summer or Winter Uniform.
- From **Monday 3rd May** (Week 3) all children are expected to be in Winter Uniform.

Anzac Day

Yesterday was **Anzac Day**. Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of Anzac, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

Anzac Day Prayer

Lord our God,

boundless provider, source of peace that the world cannot give,

Kindly hear our constant prayer for those who bore witness to your own fidelity by giving their lives for those they loved.

Resurrect them in our true homeland and perfect that peace for which they longed and died.

Amen

Hot Chocolates

- Hot Chocolates will commence in Week 2, on a Monday.
- Children can purchase their hot chocolate for \$2.00 during the first break in the gym.

Volunteers Needed - Hot Chocolates

Hot Chocolates is a P & F fundraising activity, any parent interested in helping on a Monday from 10:30am - 11:45am please contact Ange Staley on 0438599996. At least three volunteers are needed each week, to serve hot chocolates and collect money. A regular commitment is not necessary, the P & F greatly appreciate any time you are able to donate.

Mothers and Special Friends Day Celebration

I am disappointed to inform you that we won't be able to hold our usual Mothers and Special Friends Day celebration in family groups this year. We are still not able to invite groups of parents into our classrooms due to COVID 19 density limits for schools. Instead, we have prepared a prayer celebration for children in their classrooms. We hope that classes will pray at the time that best suits them on Thursday 6th or Friday 7th May and will inform you via SeeSaw. We will also place a similar prayer on social media for families, should they wish to celebrate in this way.

Mother's and Special Friends Day Stall

The P & F Mother's and Special Friends Day stall will be held on the Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th May in the gym during first break.

- Tuesday 4th May: Foundation, Years One, Two & Three
- Wednesday 5th May: Years Four, Five & Six

Children are invited to purchase a gift for their Mother or Special Friend for \$2.00, \$3.00 or \$5.00. (Maximum \$5 per child)

For those children who may have missed out on purchasing a gift on the first two days, the stall will be available Thursday morning before school, in the undercover area.

We emphasise that this is not compulsory, it is just an opportunity for those children who wish to buy something for their Mother or Special Friend.

Term 3 Week 8

Friday 3rd September
Father's Day Liturgy

Term 3 Week 9

Tuesday 7th September
P & F Committee Meeting
Student Led Conferences

Wednesday 8th September
Student Led Conferences

Friday 10th September
School Assembly – Year 5MA

Sunday 12th September
School Working Bee

Term 3 Week 10

Monday 13th September
School Review 2021

Tuesday 14th September
School Board Meeting

Wednesday 15th September
Student Led Conferences

Friday 17th September
School Assembly – Year 4CJ
Last Day of Term 3

Term 4
Oct 4 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 1

Monday 4th October
First Day of Term 4

Tuesday 5th October
P & F Committee Meeting

Friday 8th October
Term 4 Prayer – Celebration
of Mercy

Term 4 Week 2

Tuesday 12th October
School Board Meeting

Term 4 Week 3

Term 4 Week 4

Wednesday 27th October
Year 4 Camp

Friday 29th October
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 5

School Closure Days

Please note that in Term 2 we have set aside two days as a School Closure Days for Staff Professional Development.

- **Monday 19th April** School will be closed as a Staff Professional Development Day
- **Monday 17th May** School will be closed as a Staff Professional Development Day

School Open Day & School Alive Tours – Wednesday 28th April

This Wednesday 28th April, St. Francis Xavier will hold the **last** of our **School Open Morning** at 9.30am and 6:00pm – for families enrolling children in Foundation for 2022.

These sessions will allow prospective families to meet with the School Leadership Team and visit the Foundation classrooms and to familiarise themselves with our school programs and facilities.



Please note that Foundation Enrolments for 2022 close on Monday 10th May 2021.

Parent's Car Park – Traffic Movement

The management of traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day is always a concern. We are fortunate that there is very little non-school traffic in the mix at these times. If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained.

We remind drivers to pull off to the left around the trees where the buses travel and U-turn to return down Fortune Street rather than cross directly across the traffic.

School Performances in 2021

At this stage we are planning for School Performances to be videoed and shared with families via SeeSaw and our Social Media Channels. We are hoping that the children will be able to at least perform to a school audience. COVID 19 density restrictions continue to affect our ability to have parents onsite in large numbers. Should these requirements for schools change we will amend our arrangements appropriately.

Week	Term 3	Term 4
1		
2		Year 1
3	Year 4	Year 5
4		
5		
6		
7		
8	Year 2	
9	Year 3	
10	Year 6	Nativity

Please note: The Foundation Nativity continues every year. This will take place at 12:00pm on Friday 10th December 2021.

Monday 1st November
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 2nd November
P & F Committee Meeting

Term 4 Week 6

Monday 8th November

Year 5 Camp - Kangaroobie

Tuesday 9th November
School Board Meeting

Friday 12th November
Public Holiday – Ballarat
Show Day

Term 4 Week 7

Term 4 Week 8

Friday 26th November
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 30th November
SFX Orientation
Year 6 Transition

Friday 3rd December
St. Francis Xavier Feast Day

Term 4 Week 10

Thursday 9th December
Year 6 Thanksgiving and
Graduation

Friday 10th December
Foundation Nativity

Term 4 Week 11

Tuesday 14th December
School Board Meeting

Thursday 16th December
Last Day of Term 4

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

Occupational Therapist - Brittany Curtain



Please see below the **Fourth Edition of The OT Times**

Brittany Curtain
Occupational Therapist



Continued Arrangements for End of the School Day Pick-Up

Please note that modified arrangements for End of the School Day Pick – Up will continue in Term 2. With the construction of the new School Building beginning over the school holidays approximately 20 staff car parks have been lost and will require some staff to park on Fortune Street until our temporary car park is constructed.

Please see the table below for changed pick up arrangements that continue.

	3:00pm – 3:10pm	3:10:pm – 3:20pm	3:20pm onwards
	Children with Surnames beginning...		
Week 1 to Week 3 Monday 19 th April to Friday 7 th May	H - P	Q - Z	A - G

Thank you to everyone for your continued co-operation and understanding!

Parents to Help Their Child Become a Reader!

- Read with your child every day
- Set up a dedicated reading area at home
- Introduce reading materials in your home covering subjects that interest your child.
- Have your child help you make or assemble something that interests them, and have them read the instructions, follow the recipe etc.
- Going on holiday or seen a place of interest in a magazine or on television? Help your child find out more about a possible holiday destination through books, the internet, maps etc.
- Visit the local library and get a borrower's card.

According to Clark and Rumbold, 'Students who choose what they read and have an informal environment in which to read tend to be more motivated, read more and show greater language and literacy development.'

School Assembly Dates 2021

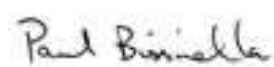
Due to the Specialist Timetable running from Monday to Thursday our School Assemblies will continue on Fridays in 2021 from 12:40pm to 1:10pm. Due to COVID19 restrictions, parents of just that class presenting the assembly are invited to join us.

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				

Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

The simplest and most practical lesson I know...is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow. Let us take one day only in hands, at a time, merely making a resolve for tomorrow, thus we may hope to get on taking short, careful steps, not great strides.

Letter to de Sales White February 28, 1841

Religious Education News



Confirmation News

Please read carefully, as there have been some changes made.

- [Link to Registration Form for Confirmation](#)
- [Link to Confirmation Letter from Fr Jorge](#)

Baptised Catholic children (Year 3 and up) living in the parish of St Alipius are invited to enrol for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Enrolment and Information Meeting at St Alipius Church

CHOOSE ONE

- Tuesday 27th April at 6:30pm *****NEW TIME
- Wednesday morning 28th April at 10:30am
- Wednesday 28th April at 6:30pm *****NEW TIME
- Thursday 29th April 6:30pm *****NEW TIME

Please bring your child's Baptism certificate, payment of \$30 (cash or EFTPOS) and completed enrolment form (see link above).

If your child was baptised outside the Diocese of Ballarat, you will also need to purchase a trifold certificate and stole from the parish. The parish representatives will clarify this for you.

Please book in via <https://sapliturgy.net.au/> then click on Register for Mass and Parish Events. Choose your date and register your details.

***new information about payment from the parish.

The people who paid during 2020 will need to pay \$20, not the full fee of \$30. A list of those who have already paid for Confirmation in 2020 has been given to the parish. If you are not sure if you have paid, please email me and I will let you know. bluckman@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

If you need to receive another copy of the preparation booklets (Year 4 & 5 families), you will need to pay the full fee. The preparation booklets will be used during the Parent & Child Preparation Workshop. You may use the booklets you already have if you received them in 2020.

Parent & Child Workshop at SFX

CHOOSE ONE

- Thursday 6th May 4:30 - 5:30
- Thursday 6th May 6:00 - 7:00
- Thursday 6th May 7:15 - 8:15

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

***Bookings for the preparation workshop are now required. Bookings open after the final enrolment/information session.

If you cannot attend on Thursday 6th May, you will need to attend a workshop at another venue. Just book in via <https://sapliturgy.net.au/>

At Emmaus Primary School:

- Tuesday 4th May 4:30 - 5:30pm
- Tuesday 4th May 6:00 - 7:00pm
- Tuesday 4th May 7:15 - 8:15pm

At St Alipius School:

- Wednesday 5th May 6.00pm start

Confirmation Celebrations:

CHOOSE ONE

- Wednesday 19th May at 6:30pm
- Wednesday 26th May at 6:30pm
- Wednesday 2nd June at 6:30pm
- Wednesday 9th June at 6:30pm

You may wish to attend a celebration hosted by one of the other schools. Dates are listed below.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, each child may have 3 guests and one of these must be his/her sponsor. If there are any changes to the COVID-19 restrictions, this number will be changed accordingly.

Bookings for Confirmation ceremonies will be online and will open after the last information/enrolment session.

Bookings are taken via <https://sapliturgy.net.au/> There are 'cut offs' for numbers and you are encouraged to book in as soon as possible if you need a particular date.

Hosted by Emmaus:

Tuesday 18th May 6:30pm
 Tuesday 20th May 6:30pm
 Tuesday 1st June 6:30pm

Hosted by St Alipius:

Thursday 13th May 6:30pm
 Thursday 20th May 6:30pm

Please direct all Confirmation questions to Bronwyn in the Parish Office on 53326611 or via email on ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au . The office is staffed Tuesday, Thursday, Friday between 10:00 and 3:00.

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
EUCARIST

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 Two Confirmation

Children who are baptised Catholic in Year 3 and 4 or older

Parent Information Sessions
St Alipius Church

TUESDAY 27th April 6.30pm
 WEDNESDAY 28th April 10.30am or 6.30pm
 THURSDAY 29th April 6.30pm

CELEBRATION DATES

Emmaus Primary Coordinated	St Francis Xavier Coordinated	St Alipius Coordinated
May 18 th and 25 th @ 6.30pm	May 19 th and 26 th @ 6.30pm	May 13 th and 20 th @ 6.30pm
June 1 st @ 6.30pm	June 2 nd and 9 th @ 6.30pm	

Term Three Eucharist

Those who have been CONFIRMED and have celebrated RECONCILIATION in Year 5

Parent Information Sessions
St Alipius Church

TUESDAY 27th July, or WEDNESDAY 28th July

CELEBRATION DATES

28/29 August
 4/5 and 11/12 September

Eucharist will be celebrated during the 6.00pm, 9.00am and 10.30am mass.

Term Four Eucharist

Children who have been CONFIRMED and have celebrated RECONCILIATION earlier this year in Year 4.

Parent Information Sessions
St Alipius Church

TUESDAY 12th October, or WEDNESDAY 13th October

CELEBRATION DATES

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

Casual Dress Day Fundraising

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.

All funds raised in April will support Allergy Awareness Week. Read more about Allergy and Anaphylaxis via this link: [Allergy Awareness Week](#) They will use the money to provide support to those with allergies and anaphylaxis and provide resources to educate the community about allergy and anaphylaxis. With many SFX students experiencing allergy or anaphylaxis, we feel this is a worthy cause and we act in solidarity with them.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

Gospel

Jn 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming,

and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer's choice of metaphoric language. In the gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd', not 'I am like the good shepherd'. The writer's use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people – more like the scum of the earth! – so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds – cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.

Historical Context – The GOOD Shepherd?

The John gospel writer's use of the image of Jesus as the good shepherd would have been a confronting image for the initial audience. Shepherds in first century Palestine were far from the idyllic pastoral image that we generally associate with the image. They occupied one of the lowest steps on the social ladder – men of such poor reputation that they could only be

trusted to herd sheep; they certainly couldn't be trusted around other people! Jesus' use of the image cut two ways: it was a confronting image for the audience; but it was also a challenge to those leaders who had been charged to 'shepherd' their people and behaved no better than thieves – Jesus was giving them an image of what it means to be a good shepherd.

Scriptural context – The Shepherd Messiah

The gospels go to great lengths to affirm the lineage of Jesus and associate him with the house of David, the first great Jewish king. David began life as a simple boy tending his father's flock of sheep. When the line of kings was instigated through David they were charged with being 'shepherds' of their people. However, down through the line of kings, this care for the people was lost and they ceased to be 'shepherds'. Jesus' claim to be the good shepherd is his claim to be in the line of the true kings of Israel – a shepherd of the people.

Different View – The Australian Shepherd

Australian audiences can tend to struggle a bit with the image of Jesus as the good shepherd. The Australian image of sheep is one of huge flocks of sheep that number in their hundreds and thousands and roam freely over enormous open plains. I guess we also tend to look on sheep as pretty stupid animals that will follow anything anywhere. It doesn't seem to work to put Jesus into this image of vast sheep stations. The idea of a shepherd knowing his sheep individually seems a bit ridiculous in this context.

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

- Q. What message does the image of Jesus, the good shepherd, hold for you?
- Q. What contemporary image might convey the same message as the image of the good shepherd?
- Q. What interpretation can be applied to the line, 'there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold'?
- Q. Have you ever had an experience of being cared for by someone you could call 'a shepherd'?
- Q. Who do you need to 'shepherd'?

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



Classroom Helper Information Sessions

Based on the most recent *School Operations Guide* circulated by CECV, we are now in a position to welcome Classroom Helpers. Prior to helping in a classroom, you are required to attend **one** Classroom Helper Information Session. Sessions will cover aspects of English and Mathematics and provide helpers with important information required prior to helping in classrooms.

This term I will be facilitating three Classroom Helper Information Sessions via **Zoom**:

- **Session 1:** Thursday 28th April at 3:45pm
- **Session 2:** Monday 3rd May at 6:00pm
- **Session 3:** Thursday 6th May at 9:00am

Zoom Details:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95353796013?pwd=ZkkzUWY1b1JPbGJQWmVlclJBUFBnQT09>

Meeting ID: 953 5379 6013

Passcode: xkp27m

Please note:

- If you are interested in becoming a Classroom Helper, you only need to attend **one** of the above Classroom Helper Information Sessions.
- A valid 'Working with Children's Check' is required prior to commencing classroom support. Office staff require a copy of **ALL** cards prior to commencement.
- If you have attended a St. Francis Xavier Primary School Classroom Helper session in previous years, you **do not** need to attend another session.

You will however need to read, sign and return the following documents prior to commencement:

- St Francis Xavier Primary School Volunteer Duty Statement
- St Francis Xavier Primary School Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct
- CECV School Operations Guide – Visitors to School Premises

All documents can be collected from the Office.

Book Fair

The SFX Book Fair will take place this week!

The Book Fair provides children with the opportunity to explore literature and select books of interest. The Book Fair is a great way to celebrate reading within our community with hundreds of fun, engaging and affordable books for the children to discover. This week classes will be given the opportunity to view the selected books and write a wish list.



Book Fair Details

Who: The Book Fair will again be organised by our wonderful P&F Committee

Where: School Gymnasium

When: To minimise congestion in the Gymnasium, the Book Fair opening hours will coincide with Student Led Conferences (dates and times below):

- **Tuesday 27th April, 2021** - 3:45pm – 7:45pm
- **Wednesday 28th April, 2021** - 3:45pm – 7:45pm
- **Wednesday 5th May, 2021** - 3:45pm – 7:45pm

We ask that families visit the Book Fair while onsite prior to or after their child's Student Led Conference. The option to order online will also be available.

Paying Online

If you are unable to attend the Book Fair, online payment is available. Details for online payment can be located on the back of your child's wish list.

After payment online has been accepted, you will be presented with a receipt that includes an **8-digit receipt number**. Please record your receipt number in the space provided on the back of your child's wish list. Remember to also record the amount paid and provide the details of the credit card holder on this form. **Please note that paying online does not order your child's books.** Your completed Receipt Record Form will need to be handed into the office, as this will be your payment form when collecting your child's ordered books.



Seasons for Growth

At St Francis Xavier we offer the Seasons for Growth program for children who are dealing with significant life changes by

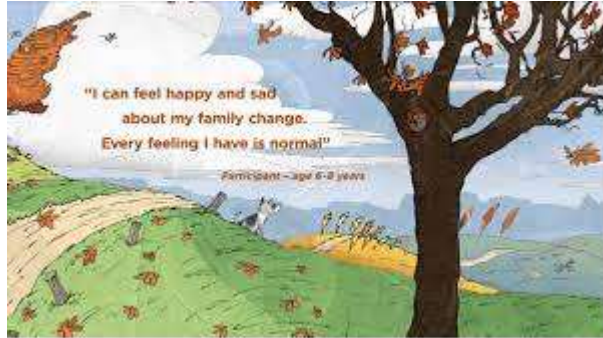
- exploring the impact of change and loss on every-day life
- learning new ways to respond to these changes

Groups for children in Year 3 and 4 will begin later this term.

If you would like child to be involved indicate by email to Christine Meneely

cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Should you have any queries about the Seasons for Growth program please make contact with your child's teacher or Jane Clark (Wellbeing) or Christine Meneely (School Counsellor).



BraveHearts Incursion for children in Years F, 1 and 2.

Children in years F,1 and 2 will soon have the opportunity to experience Bravehearts' personal safety education- Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show.

Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure show has been educating Australian children since 2006, providing them with personal safety tools and strategies while supporting positive self-esteem and resilience- building.



Date: Tuesday 4th May
Time: 10:00am.

The Ditto show is a live, interactive 40 minute performance starring Bravehearts' mascot 'Ditto'. It includes song, dance, and easy-to-

remember messages about personal safety. These songs and messages were written by Bravehearts' professional educators and child psychologists and are developmentally appropriate for the children's ages. **More information to follow.**

Happy Days,

Jane Clark

Wellbeing Leader



Cross Country @ SFX

True cross country conditions greeted our SFX XC team last Friday. Our team of 26 runners displayed excellent determination to conquer the testing course, with some outstanding results. We had 14 students automatically qualify for the next stage and many other run PB's and finishing top 20. Well done to all students on their team spirit and a big thank you to Mr Marshall and to the parents that helped out on the day.

Calendar Events 2021

Term 2

- Friday 7th May - Catholic Primary Schools Netball (Girls & Mixed)
- Friday 7th May - Catholic Primary Schools Soccer (Boys, Girls & Mixed)
- Friday 21st May - Catholic Primary School Football @ St Pat's College

Have a tremendous week everyone.

Shaun Carroll
Sports Co-ordinator



NEWS from the Uniform Shop:

- EFTPOS AVAILABLE in the Uniform Shop
- POP up shop will be happening again in the undercover area on Friday 26th March 2:45 to 3:30 all uniforms for sale \$5 and \$10

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 \$55
- Swim hats available \$10

Price List & Order Form

The price list and order form is downloadable from the schoolbag app.
Orders **with full payment** 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.

Uniform Shop Volunteers – we need your help All we need is half an hour of your time once or twice a term!!

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.

The shop is open and EFTPOS available in store and for all your online orders. All orders to be picked up at front office

Parish of St Alipius and Ss Peter & Paul - RCIA Process

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic?

An evening for those interested in inquiring about the Catholic faith will be held on Wednesday 19th May from 6.30 - 7.30pm in the St Alipius Hall, Victoria St (next to the church).

For more information please contact St Alipius Parish on 5332 6611.



TERM 2 PROGRAM

MULTI-SPORTS (90 MINUTES)

Wednesday's After-School 3:25pm - 4:55pm

(21st of April) to (23rd of June)

Footy, Netball, Soccer, Hockey & Basketball.

Preps to Grade 4

\$220 for the 10 week program

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au

Any queries call or text Dom on 0417 967 621

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

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