



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022  
Term 1 Week 2

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Ballarat East VIC 3354  
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### 2022 Key Dates

#### Term 1

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January to  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
= 11 Weeks

#### Term 1 Week 2

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
**First Day for Students Year  
3 to 6**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February  
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
**First Day for Students  
Foundation to 2**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February  
Enrolment 2023  
Applications Open

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February  
Beginning of School Year  
Liturgy

#### Term 1 Week 3

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
Year Ahead Meetings

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Foundation Children at  
Home

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
**Student Free Day** – Staff  
Professional Learning:  
ReLATE

#### Term 1 Week 4

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Foundation Children at  
Home  
Getting to Know Your Child  
as Person and a Learner  
Meeting #1

### *In the Land of the Wadawurrung People*

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back one and all! I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and are rested and renewed! What a wonderful sight it was yesterday morning to see our playground full of our Year 3 to 6 children! We look forward to welcoming our Foundation to Year 2 children and families tomorrow! It has been equally exciting to go into every classroom and see the children bright, fresh and energised ready to start the school year!

This week we welcome 15 new children, 74 Foundation children and their families to our school community and we look forward to them having an enjoyable and rewarding time at St. Francis Xavier.

There are seven new staff beginning at St Francis Xavier this year! We wish them the very best for their time at St Francis Xavier Primary School.

1. **Foundation MM** - Megan Mullane
2. **Foundation JS** – Jessie Simpson
3. **Year 1 EM** – Estelle McLean
4. **Year 4 BL** – Bec Warr
5. **Year 6ZA** - Zoe Astbury
6. **Physical Education** – Neville Down
7. **Deputy Principal** – Jayne Mohr

### Leadership at St. Francis Xavier 2022

In 2022 the Senior Leadership Team will look very different to previous years! **Jane Clark and Jayne Mohr will be in the Deputy Principal Roles.** Jayne Mohr will be Deputy Principal with responsibility for Learning Diversity while Jane Clarke will be Deputy Principal overseeing Learning Enhancement. **Bernadette Luckman** (Religious Education Leader), **Rebecca Conroy** (Junior School Leader) and **Gabrielle McKinnis** (Finance Officer) join the group also! The team and I believe this model of leadership will work effectively in catering for the needs of our whole school community, and I look forward to working again in a strong, collaborative team environment this year.

**Please find attached a full staffing list for this year.**

**Our Shared Vision, Mission and Values** were reviewed by our school community last year and outlines the major focus of our School. I am happy to share them with you today as we start the new school year.

### ***Our School Vision***

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



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

### Term 1 Week 5

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
Getting to Know Your Child  
as Person and a Learner  
Meeting #2

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Foundation Children at  
Home

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
Casual Clothes Day

### Term 1 Week 6

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
School Photos  
Year 5 Cyber Safety and  
Chromebook Boot camp -  
Parent Meeting

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
Shrove Tuesday  
P&F Meeting

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
Ash Wednesday  
Foundation Children at  
Home

### Term 1 Week 7

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
Foundation children at  
home

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
Student Free Day – Staff  
Professional Learning

### Term 1 Week 8

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
Public Holiday – Labour Day

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
School Open Day #1

### Term 1 Week 9

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
School Open Day #2

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
Year 5 Visit to Sovereign Hill

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
Casual Dress Day

### Term 1 Week 10

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
School Open Day #3

### ***Our School Mission***

*St Francis Xavier is a Catholic primary school community, inspired by the example of Catherine McAuley where we promote for all a sense of belonging, nurture right relationships, inspire a passion for learning and live in harmony with creation.*

### ***At SFX our Mercy Values are:***

- *Respect,*
- *Compassion,*
- *Excellence,*
- *Justice,*
- *and Hospitality*

We believe strongly that a great education is one of the foundations of life. Our Mission Statement and the values that flow from it reflect this belief and guide our every action. St. Francis Xavier is a place where minds are inspired, characters are formed and the traditions and values of the past are the foundation for the future. At St. Francis Xavier our goal is to educate children in the Mercy tradition so that they go on to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.

### **2022 St. Francis Xavier Primary School Captains**

Congratulations to the following children who have been elected as **2022 St. Francis Xavier Primary School Captains:**



**Ashlee Beseler**



**Ben Nunn**



**Poppy Le Grand**



**Eva Cummins**



**Liam Patterson**



**Jameson Reus**

I am sure that you join me in congratulating our Captains on their appointments!

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

### Term 1 Week 11

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
P & F Meeting

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April**  
Last Day of Term 1

### **Term 2**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April to  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
= 9 Weeks

### **Term 3**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July to Friday  
16<sup>th</sup> September  
= 10 Weeks

### **Term 4**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
= 11 Weeks

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**All other Calendar Dates for  
2023 have been updated  
and can be accessed live on  
the Skoolbag App or by  
visiting the School Website**

## School Timetable 2022

This year all the children will receive weekly lessons in Physical Education, Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Environmental Education. Accompanying today's newsletter is a timetable that outlines our Specialist Teacher Program. It is a 2 weekly timetable that co-ordinates (for most rooms) all Specialist Classes on one day. I ask you to read over it carefully and if you have any concerns to contact your child's class teacher.

**Teachers will also explain the Timetable in detail at the Year Ahead Meetings on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February.**

## Year Ahead - Parent Information Evening via Zoom 2022

On **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February** St. Francis Xavier will hold a Parent Information Evening for all parents. Arrangements for these meetings this year will change due to COVID 19 Requirements.

**Please note:** This year the meetings will be held online (**virtually with Zoom**) and all class teachers will send a Zoom Invitation to each family shortly.

These meetings are intended to give parents specific information about class programs and approaches to teaching and learning. I strongly encourage all parents to attend as we believe that a positive, nurturing, and encouraging home-school relationship is essential in helping children achieve success. The education of each of our children is a partnership between staff, parents and children.

The sessions will run for up to between 45 minutes with each classroom teacher (please note new times below).

- 5:00pm                      Foundation to Year 2
- 6:00pm                      **Specialist Teachers**
- 7:00pm                      Year 3 to Year 6

**Student Led Conferences about each child will take place in Week 2 & 3 of Term 2.**

## Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting 2022

Staff will be doing all they can to get to know your child at the beginning of this term so they can enhance wellbeing and support and challenge each child to be the best that they can be, to be successful!



An important aspect of getting to know children is the "Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting" on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**. This year the meetings also will be held online (**virtually with Zoom**) and all class teachers will send a Zoom Invitation to each family shortly.

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.

We will send home some question prompts the week before to ensure we maximise the time together. Please make a note in your diary for this now and look out for the School Interviews sign up on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February for your time slot.

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### The Francis Xavier Way – Our Whole School Behaviour Management Program

At St. Francis Xavier teachers have successfully implemented and run a whole school Behaviour Management program. The program is based on Lee Canter's Assertive Discipline research and has clear a set of rules and consequences that we promote in both the classroom and playground. The ultimate aim of the program is to teach the children to manage their behaviour well - thus allowing them to focus on their learning and to build positive relationships.

At St. Francis Xavier:

- 1. We follow adult instructions immediately**
- 2. We keep hands, feet and objects to ourselves**
- 3. We do not call out**
- 4. Swearing, teasing or calling others names is not welcome**

### Operoo (formerly CareMonkey) for school parents....

As you know we take the health and safety of your children very seriously. As such will continue with our use of **Operoo** as a health and safety program. It has been very well received by families since we began using it in 2015!



**Operoo** is an innovative parent controlled electronic medical form for schools, clubs and other groups with a duty of care. It's an electronic version of the paper based forms you're always having to fill in for excursions, camps, enrolments, etc.

As a parent you will have received an email or SMS from the **Operoo** system inviting you to enter the details for your child in an electronic medical form. Please complete and update your Operoo details as soon as possible.

**Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.**

### School Fees

School Fee Payment Agreement Forms were sent home to all families last year. If you have not yet returned your form please complete it and return to the school office by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February. This form is to be completed by all families on an annual basis.

For families that returned their forms last year, the direct debits have all been set up and will commence from the Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Attached to the newsletter is the direct debit schedule dates for 2022.

### 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.

### **Bus Transport for 2022**

If there are any changes with regard to your child's transport from school for 2022 could you kindly fill in a Transportation From School form or contact the office with the relevant changes.

If you are a new family starting in 2022 and intend for your child to travel from school, please find attached the Transportation Form for you to complete and return back to the office.

### **Bus Procedures for Parents**

- You need to notify the office if there is a change to your default (i.e. what you filled out on the form)
- Changes to the daily schedule would be appreciated as early in the day as possible – before 12.00pm midday.

Changes to the daily schedule will be able to be conveyed to the office via telephone, by a bus pass which will be available from the office or by downloading and printing from our website.

Changes to the daily schedule can also be communicated via the Skoolbag App, or via the generic "office" email [office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### **COVID Safe Environment**

Our school continues to monitor and abide by all COVID safe regulations and recommendations issued by both the State Government and the Catholic Education Office. Density Limits and Good Hygiene practices continue to apply.

### **Rapid Antigen Tests**

- We request that ALL children are tested this **Sunday night prior to the commencement** of the school year and **every Tuesday and Sunday night thereafter**.
- Free rapid antigen tests are available for all students at St. Francis Xavier Primary School for the first four weeks of Term 1 2022.
- Rapid antigen testing will be voluntary for all students.
- Students will be requested to be tested twice weekly.
- Tests will be provided in packs of five individual tests.

### **Face masks**

Face masks have proved an effective protection in previous outbreaks and are again a key protection:

- Students in Year 3 and above must wear a face mask indoors at school, unless a lawful exception applies.
- Students must wear face masks even if vaccinated.
- Students are not required to wear masks outside.
- Everyone over eight years old must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis or ride share vehicles.
- School staff must wear a face mask in all indoor settings, except where removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication or teaching.
- Visitors to schools aged eight and above must wear a face mask in all indoor spaces, unless a lawful exception applies.
- Students in Prep to Grade 2 are strongly recommended to wear a face mask indoors at school.



- **Should your child have a legal or medical exemption for not wearing a mask (Year 3 to 6) we ask that parents notify the Principal in writing before the beginning of the school year. Please email to [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)**

### **Parents and Visitors coming onsite**

We appreciate the start of the school year is a challenging time regarding parents and carers coming onsite. In the early weeks of this year we are limiting parents, carers and visitors who enter school buildings to reduce the risk of transmission. The school is aware of the challenges that the current restrictions impose and is required to observe the following requirements.

When Parents, carers and visitors enter school buildings they are required to check in with a QR code and have the school confirm that they are fully vaccinated. This is not required if you are just dropping off or picking up your student.

We ask all parents, carers and visitors to practise respiratory etiquette and good hand hygiene, and observe physical distancing, and face mask requirements when onsite.

Any parent, carer or visitor who enter school buildings must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a valid medical exemption, with the following limited exceptions:

- When attending to administer medical treatment to their own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- When attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer
- When attending for a momentary period that does not involve any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project or similar

As we are able to welcome parents, carers and visitors onsite for any event or activity inside a school building including, but not limited to, tours, graduations, transitions and whole-school events each person visiting will be required to show evidence of vaccination.

Meetings, parent/teacher conferences and other discussions (such as Student Support Group meetings) with visitors who do not meet vaccination requirements will be held virtually.

Parents, carers and visitors attending school sites for drop-off and pick-up who do not enter school buildings do not need to comply with vaccination requirements.

Our school will only visually verify the vaccination status of a visitor, no information is recorded or retained.

### **COVID Safe Principles for Children and Parents:**

- Any child who is unwell must not attend school
- Beginning of the Day Drop Off arrangements (see below)
- End of the Day Dismissal arrangements (see below)
- Entry and exit points to the school will be open, with additional staff allocated to ensure children are safely supervised
- Parents are not to enter classrooms at any stage and are to adhere to social distancing guidelines when waiting to collect their child at the classroom door
- Request that parents avoid or minimise time spent in or around the school grounds
- Regular School Cleaning
- Frequent announcements, messages, signage and red gaffer tape around school to remind staff, children and families of the need for changed behaviours

### First day of School

- To support students and families navigate the first day of school on Monday and Wednesday we will have staff outside to meet and greet new students and assist them to transition into their new learning environment.
- These are days of excitement and nervousness on the part of both students and parents.
- We are very experienced in supporting children/young people as they make a new start, so please be assured that when you hand them over to us, we will work incredibly hard to make sure their transition experience is a positive one.

### Beginning of the Day Drop Off

- Foundation (Prep) parents will be able to accompany their children to their classroom in the first week of school. We ask that the Foundation (Prep) parents drop their child at the entrance to the classroom and then leave in a prompt manner. On entry to the building Foundation parents must QR Code in.
- We continue to request that all other parents (Year 1 – 6) drop their children off in the undercover area and then exit the school in a prompt manner.
- Staff will be present in the undercover area from 8:30am to assist children with walking to their classrooms if required.

### End of the Day Dismissal

Please see the table below for staggered pick up arrangements that continue at St. Francis Xavier.

	3:00pm – 3:10pm	3:10:pm – 3:20pm	3:20pm onwards
	Children with Surnames beginning...		
<b>Week 1 to Week 5</b> Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> January to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>A - G</b>	<b>H - P</b>	<b>Q - Z</b>

To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to this timetable and to be vigilant when promptly entering and exiting the building. 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.

### Dismissal / Collections Area

Year Level	Teacher	Collection Area
Foundation	Megan Mullane	Side door of the Foundation MM classroom
Foundation	Tom Willmott	Side door of the Foundation TW classroom
Foundation	Emma Hancock	Side door of the Foundation EH classroom
Foundation	Jessie Simpson	Side door of the Foundation JS classroom
Year One	Gemma Johnson	<b>Enter via school FRONT GATES and proceed to classrooms via flag pole entrance (Please do not enter via the lower laneway)</b>
Year One	Shannon MacKlin	
Year One	Estelle McLean	
Year 2 - 6	Class Teachers	Collect from classroom door

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At no stage are parents able to enter any classroom. Red Tape and Distance markers will be outside each classroom door to remind all adults.

### **Parents' Car Park – Traffic Movement**

I wish to remind everyone at the start of this New Year that the management of traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day is always a concern. The following information and instructions are particularly important for Monday as it is the busiest day of the year in our Car Park and on Fortune Street. Please take your time to read these carefully and share with your family who will be driving to St. Francis Xavier.

#### **Traffic Movement Instructions:**

- When turning at the top of Fortune Street to come back down to park - please go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> group of trees beyond the double lines and opposite the golf club marked with a LARGE X. Please go up to the cross in a single line and cross to come back down Fortune Street.
- There will be two large Witches Hats out on Monday morning showing you where to cross back down Fortune Street.
- Please follow instructions given by staff and follow the marked lines and arrows.
- Please inform all friends and relatives of the parking expectations and in particular THE ROAD RULES around St. Francis Xavier.



#### **Double Lines on Fortune Street**

Double Lines are painted on Fortune Street adjacent to the St. Francis Xavier school grounds.

Double Lines rules state that is illegal to:

1. Overtake
2. U-turn
3. Right turn across the double lines from the left lane into a car park

The Double Lines have not been introduced to inconvenience people. Double Lines have been introduced to ensure that the SFX Community is kept safe and that sensible driver behaviour is encouraged.

#### **Road Rules**

- **As a pedestrian only ever cross Fortune Street at the School Crossing.**
- Parents please observe ALL 'No Standing,' 'No U-Turns,' 'One Way' and 'Bus Zone' signs.
- The Fortune Street Bus Zone is for BUSES ONLY. If you continue to park in the Bus Zone you do so at your own risk and may incur a fine.

Last year it was observed that some cars were parallel parking on Fortune Street facing east in illegal range of the school crossing. This behaviour is of concern to us as it is extremely unsafe. Please ensure that you continue to follow the road rules in the school zone and that you exercise patience and courtesy.

If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained.



For the safety of all - use the designated areas for parking and follow the rules. Police and Council patrols happen randomly and parents can and will be caught and fined.

### **Student Attendance**

- While families may be nervous about students returning to school, all students are expected to attend onsite.
- Parent preference is not an approved reason for students to be absent due to COVID-19.
- Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning.
- Schools are not expected to provide a full remote learning program in these circumstances.

### **Students who may be medically vulnerable**

- In keeping with expert public health advice, some students (or families) may be at higher risk for severe outcomes or complications of COVID-19, for example those with chronic medical conditions.
- Parents or carers of any student with a chronic medical condition should seek advice from their medical practitioner about attending school on-site.
- If you have a child or children who is medically vulnerable please reach out to us here at school, so we can work with you regarding the medical needs and your up-to-date condition-specific health management plan (such as an Asthma Action Plan).

### **Wellbeing**

- For some families the media and reporting surrounding the return to school will cause increased nervousness and concern in children and young people. There are a range of resources to support parents and carers on page 3 of the attached document.
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/health/mentalhealth/quick-guide-to-student-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources.pdf>
- Smiling Mind has also created digital Care Packs to support the mental health of kids aged five to 12. The resources can be downloaded from the Smiling Mind website Each pack includes brief learning tools as well as activities for children to use within the home or school environment. To download the pack, see: [Smiling Mind Digital Care Packs](#)
- If you have school specific questions, please contact Christine Meneely at [cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### **Stay home when unwell and get tested**

- The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is to ensure that any unwell students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms.
- Everyone should consider their health before they attend school, and ensure that they are free from coronavirus symptoms and have not had recent contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have coronavirus.

### **School Hats**

St. Francis Xavier is a Sun Smart school. This means all members of our school must wear a school hat while outside during the school day. Please ensure your child has a school hat.

## Newsletter

**The St. Francis Xavier Newsletter will continue to be published this year on a Monday.**

If you require anything to be placed in the Newsletter please send an email to [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au) by 2:00pm on Thursdays.

## St. Francis Xavier Primary School – Skoolbag App

Our St Francis Xavier Primary School App is very popular!

Over 1200 Downloads so far but we need ALL parents to Download it ASAP!!

### **What is Skoolbag?**

Skoolbag provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications.

No more lost paper in student school bags! School newsletters, school notices and alerts are communicated directly to the parent smartphone through the Skoolbag school Mobile App.

Skoolbag is a school Mobile App that communicates directly with iPhone, and Android devices.



### **Instructions**

Go to the Apple App Store and type in St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat and Install the App. It can be installed on an iPad but you need to select the iPhone version.

The App is also available to Android users through Google Play.

For google play its under St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat East

## Communication

St Francis Xavier tries very hard to communicate with the school community, mainly through Newsletters, NewsBlasts, Facebook or the Skoolbag app, available to download through apple or android store. The newsletter is emailed every Monday and can be viewed online, information is available on the school website. Many classroom teachers are also using an app called SeaSaw to communicate directly with their class community.

We also welcome the opportunity to meet face to face but please be aware that these cannot happen during class time. If you wish to meet with a teacher it is best to either phone or email them to organise a time that is mutually agreeable to both. Teachers email addresses are created by using the initial letter of their first name with their surname followed by @sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au, eg. John Smith - [jsmith@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jsmith@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au).

It is an expectation that all correspondence or meetings are held in a respectful and non-aggressive or abusive manner, in times of frustration, this can be a challenge for some people but all members of our school community (staff, students, parents and visitors) are entitled to be treated with dignity, it is at the heart of our Catholic ethos.

In 2015 the St. Francis Xavier School Board approved new policies for Concerns and Complaints and Expectations of Parents and Guardians at our school. Please find these attached for your perusal. They are also available on our website at <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/our-school/72/p/policies/> I ask that you familiarise yourself with these and follow the pathway for addressing a concern and/or complaint.

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

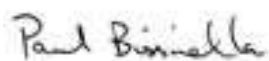
....and finally!

We at St. Francis Xavier count it as a privilege to share the learning journey of our students, teaching, supporting, challenging and encouraging. We do not expect our children to fit a mould, in fact the opposite. Our focus is on the individual. We take great pride in the achievements of each child.

I look forward to continuing the journey with you and to share the dreams and aspirations you have for your children and our school.

It is great to be back and I look forward to the privilege of working with each of our families this year.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella  
Principal

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**Catherine McAuley**

*We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about: our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back.*

*Letter to de Sales White December 20, 1842*

## Religious Education News



### Sacrament News

The dates for all sacraments occurring in 2022 will be decided soon. If all goes to plan, St Alipius Parish expect to enrol and prepare children baptised in the Catholic faith in:

- Year 3 (and above) for Confirmation
- Year 4 (and above) for Reconciliation
- Years 4 & 5 (and above) for Eucharist

These sacraments are organised by the parish and supported by the school.

Please don't hesitate to contact the parish if you have any further questions.

Please direct all sacrament inquiries and requests to Bronwyn Ballesty in the parish office on 53326611 or via email on [ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au) . The office is staffed Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday between 9:30am and 1:30pm.

### 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.*

*If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611. If you wish your child to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.*

Bernadette Luckman  
Religious Education Leader

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## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

### Gospel

Lk 4:21-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha, was not sent only to the Jews.*

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.'

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

### The Gospel of the Lord

### REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel completes the event in Nazareth that began last week with Jesus' declaration of mission. The initial response of the crowd is one of astonishment and approval. However, the people have largely missed the point of Jesus' teaching. When he declared that he had come to proclaim liberty to captives and to set the downtrodden free, Jesus probably didn't expect his audience to just say, 'Oh, that's nice!' The message he preached, and the message that flows throughout the Gospel of Luke, calls for a fundamental conversion of heart; a change to a life motivated by compassion for the lowly. When the people so obviously missed his point, Jesus virtually dismisses them by saying that 'no prophet is ever accepted in his own country'.

To make his point even further, Jesus then cites instances where two of the great prophets of Jewish tradition responded to the needs of pagans from Sidon and Syria rather than the needs of Israel. The two people helped are also very significant. Widows held a special place in Jewish tradition: God entrusted all widows to the care of the whole town. Whenever widows are named as being in need, it is a comment on the society as a whole neglecting its duty of care. Lepers were regarded as absolutely unclean and outcast by virtue of their condition (something that perhaps has never really changed). For Jesus to remind the people of these events is a great reprimand to them. He is, in effect, saying to them, 'if you can't accept my message I will take it to the pagans; the gentiles; and the socially unacceptable.' Is it any wonder that they tried to lynch him on the spot?

#### Scriptural context – Salvation for all

Luke is written for a predominantly non-Jewish (gentile) Christian community. Although it had been resolved that one did not have to become a Jew to become a Christian there was still a lingering doubt about preference being given to the Jews. The gospel writer goes to great lengths to reassure his audience community that the message of Jesus was for all people – gentile and Jew alike. This week's gospel is one of many passages that feature gentile people receiving God's acceptance and favour. It's a clear message that the salvation promised by Jesus is available to all who seek it.

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

### **Gospel Focus – They were astonished**

Jesus preaches the briefest of homilies, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen,' yet he wins the approval of all and the people were astonished by his gracious words! The reaction appears a bit overdone. However, the people knew the significance of the first part of the text Jesus quoted, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me.' They recognised that this language referred to the Messiah. When Jesus said that the text was being fulfilled as they listened he was laying claim to this status. Of course they were impressed!

### **Have you thought? – A summary**

The Nazareth event, described in last week's and this week's gospels, provides a 'snapshot' or a summary of the whole of Luke's gospel. In an apparently simple episode, the gospel writer has captured the elements of the remainder of the gospel and laid them out as a foretaste of all that is to come. Jesus is clearly positioned as the one who fulfils the Messianic expectation of scripture. His message of release and acceptance of the poor, afflicted and oppressed is put right up front and the hope of salvation is offered to all people – Jews as well as gentiles.

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

- Q. Why might Jesus have chosen to return to Nazareth for his first public appearance?
- Q. What might the crowd have meant when they said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'
- Q. Why did the crowd turn against Jesus and try to throw him off a cliff?
- Q. Have you ever been put down by people you know when you tried to take a new direction?

**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**



### **Welcome to the 2022**

Hello and Welcome to the 2022 school year and St Francis Xavier primary School.

My name is Jane Clark and I have the privilege and pleasure to hold the position of Deputy Principal/ Learning Enhancement here at school. Late last week our leadership team were working with our new terrific staff and I spoke to them about my role. I mentioned that Learning Enhancement is all about Learning. Learning is the process of acquiring new u

nderstanding, knowledge, behaviours, skills, values, attitudes, and preferences and Enhancement is an increase or improvement in quality, so therefore that is what I will be striving to do this year with children, staff and our community.

I look forward to the year ahead and supporting all. I wish everyone a happy and learning filled year.

Jane Clark

**Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement**





### **Welcome to the 2022 school year!**

Welcome to the 2022 school year! How wonderful it was this morning to feel such positive energy and to see our children so excited about another year of learning.

With new beginnings comes the opportunity to introduce myself to new families as the School Counsellor and Wellbeing Leader. Each week I will share articles of interest in the newsletter about strengthening families and wellbeing as a way of supporting you in your very important role as parents and caregivers.

We are very fortunate at St Francis Xavier that mental health and wellbeing is prioritised as a means of ensuring holistic educational outcomes for all children. Children may benefit from school counselling support for issues such as anxiety, grief and bereavement, self-esteem or family issues.

I am thrilled with the way the school counselling service has been embraced by the school community and particularly the children with whom I work. Many of my referrals have come from children talking to their friends, parents speaking to other parents or teachers suggesting a child may benefit.

Over the next couple of weeks I will spend some time catching up with the children who worked with me last year. I look forward to hearing how their year has started and their goals for the year ahead.

This year I am excited that we will have Student Wellbeing Leaders, so our children will have a voice in both issues that affect them and give them the opportunity to be a part of the solution.

As in 2021, I will be working on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I am also in the undercover area these days before school. Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries or concerns as I value our partnership in working towards the best outcomes for your child.

Christine Meneely  
**Wellbeing Leader**

## Uniform Shop Update

### **NEWS from the Uniform Shop:**

#### **Uniform Shop Sales during Term 1**

For the time being and until further notice the Uniform Shop is CLOSED and will only accept orders submitted by completing the attached order form and emailing back to [office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au) or by dropping it into the school office.

Payment can be made by filling out your credit card details on the order form or by cash. Please indicate your preferred payment method on the order form.

#### **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. **EFTPOS available**

#### **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. All donations are appreciated. Thanks.

## Community News

### **Guitar lessons are back!**

Tim will be returning next week to resume school guitar lessons.

Any parents that would like their child to continue lessons this year, or enquiries regarding new enrollments please contact Tim by phone/email on 0490314621 or [Timothysmol@gmail.com](mailto:Timothysmol@gmail.com)



### **TERM 1 PROGRAM**

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

Wednesdays After-School 3:25pm - 4:55pm

(2nd of Feb) to (6th of April)

Tennis, Soccer, T-Ball, Basketball and Cricket

Preps to Grade 4

\$220 for the 10 week program

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

Any queries call or text Dom on 0417 967 621

### **Friday Lunches are back this week - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February.**

The P & F are pleased to announce that Golden Nugget Bakery will be providing our lunches whilst our wonderful friends at Stewart's Bakery rebuild over the next few months. We send the whole team at Stewart's Bakery all the very best and can't wait to see them reopen!

Don't forget to order your child's lunch before 10:00 am each Thursday via your Flexischools account.

#### **Please note:**

No late orders are accepted and our suppliers will not take any late orders.

We are also looking for volunteers each Friday to help pack the orders if you can spare an hour from 11:00am each Friday. Please sign up using the link below:

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

Thank you in advance for your support!



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

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