



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 27th February 2023
Term 1 Week 6

P.O. Box 2027
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Term 1 Week 6

Monday 27th February
School Photos

Tuesday 28th February
9.30am School Alive Tour

Wednesday 1st March
Foundation children at home

Friday 3rd March
12.40pm 6PB Assembly

Term 1 Week 7

Tuesday 7th March
9.30am School Alive Tour

Wednesday 8th March
Foundation children at home

Friday 10th March
12.40pm 4HC Assembly

Term 1 Week 8

Monday 13th March
Labour Day holiday

Tuesday 14th March
Student Free Day -
Staff Professional
Development Day
(Structured Literacy
Partners - Reading)

Regional Swimming at
Horsham

Wednesday 15th March
NAPLAN testing commences

Thursday 16th March
Year 4 SFX Sacrament of
Reconciliation

Friday 17th March
No Assembly today

Term 1 Week 9

Monday 20th March
NAPLAN testing concludes

Friday 24th March
12.40pm 5CC Assembly
7pm Mix + Mingle at Oscar's

Term 1 Week 10

Wednesday 29th March
9.30am School Alive Tour
6pm School Alive Tour

Thursday 30th March
Ballarat Catholic Primary
Schools Cross Country at
Fed Uni

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Did you know that for the Catholic Church, we are now in the season of Lent? We commenced this liturgical season last week when we received the ashes on our foreheads as a sign of repentance. While the ashes might have disappeared by lunchtime, the season of Lent lasts much longer. Over 40 days we will strive to adjust our lives according to the three key practices of prayer, abstinence and almsgiving.

The children are learning much about prayer at school. They know that there are many ways of praying and while there might be traditional prayers that are passed on through generations, sometimes prayer can be short, reflective, and impulsive or even an action. By increasing our awareness of prayer we can deepen our connectedness to our God and to each other. The focus on prayer is an important part of Lent.

If ever you thought that abstinence was tricky, try explaining it to a 6 year old! We teach that abstinence is holding back from something that we enjoy doing or experiencing. It might be going without that extra biscuit or spending less time doing something that we enjoy so as to give more time to others. If I don't enjoy making my bed or putting away things at the end of the day, I might consider doing it to help my parents around the house. Sometimes the little things make all the difference.

Finally, we teach about almsgiving as a way of sharing our gifts with others. By sharing our time, talents or resources we can assist someone else who might need a helping hand. By thinking of others and acting to build a stronger community we are contributing towards a better world. That has to be a good thing!

Lent is our time of reflection, prayer and preparation. Without Lent, Easter is just another event on the calendar. However when we make time to think, pray, prepare and assist others, our Easter becomes a truly sacred event.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.



A Prayer to Know God More

Oh Lord,

Please help me this day. Give me eyes to see how you are at work in every one of my circumstances. Lord, give me perseverance to increase my understanding of you. Give me a hunger to read your Word and to seek to know you more each day. Just as the dawn comes with its exact precision, help me to trust that you will also move in my life, in your perfect timing and in your beautiful way. In your name I pray. Amen.

by Tiffany Thibault

Thurs 30th-Fri 31st March
Year 5 Sovereign Hill School

Friday 31st March
Casual dress day
Donations to Caritas
(Project Compassion)

12.40pm 3VG Assembly

Term 1 Week 11

Thursday 6th April
Holy Thursday Liturgy
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

Monday 24th April to Friday
23rd June = 9 weeks

Friday 26th May
Years 3-6 SFX Athletics Day
at Llanberris

Term 3

Monday 10th July to Friday
15th September = 10 weeks

Term 4

Monday 2nd Oct to Wed 20th
Dec = 12 weeks

School Photos We have had a busy day today making sure that all students and staff are prepared for their annual school photos. The children looked terrific and I'm sure that all families will be proud of the results when they are collected at the end of term.

Congratulations Swimmers! Congratulations to our swimming team who represented St. Francis Xavier at the district swimming sports on Friday. We are proud of your efforts, well done!

Thankyou! A special thanks this week to our wonderful parents and staff who all came together over the past 2 weeks to meet and learn about the children in our care. With only 5 minutes allocated to each meeting we were all under the pump, but it was great to see everyone making the effort to meet up. Thankyou!

School Communications You may have noticed that our face-book page has been active over the past few weeks. While the weekly newsletter remains our official means of communication, the face-book page is a great way to keep up with what is happening around the school. Special thanks to Carla who has taken on the role of managing this form of communication for us. What a great job!

While we use social media as a quick and easy platform for communication we are reminded that we should always proceed with caution. Anything that is published in the public domain can be misinterpreted or sometimes, even taken out of context. Please be mindful of others when communicating online especially when our school is involved.

Please find at the end of this newsletter: School Alive Tours and 2024 Enrolment Information; Assembly roster; St Alipius parish bulletin; Parenting ideas – Helping siblings resolve their fights; Department of Education Collection Notice for parents/guardians.

Parent Helping and Volunteering at St Francis Xavier

In the spirit of partnership we welcome family members to be actively involved in the education of their children.

In line with the Child Safe Standards Guidelines we now require all members of our community who would like to parent help and volunteer their time to complete our **Volunteer Induction Presentation** (link below) which includes a Volunteer Induction Application.

This will familiarise you with the protocols and expectations for volunteering at St Francis Xavier Primary School.

You are only required to watch the presentation and complete the application once.

Volunteer Induction Presentation

<https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SFX-Volunteer-Induction-Presentation-.pdf>

(This should take approximately 5-10 minutes)

Documentation required: Please bring your Working with Children card to our Office when volunteering for the first time. You will be required to sign in via our electronic Passtab system and will need your WWC card to do this. After signing in once you can save your details with as Quickpin which is your mobile number.

You will be also be required to sign a hardcopy of the DOBCEL- Child Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct on your first time volunteering, which we will keep on file. Hard copies will be available from the Office.

This information can also be found on the school website:

<https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/community/volunteering-at-st-francis-xavier-primary-school/>

Religious Education News

Caritas - Project Compassion Last week on Ash Wednesday, our Mercy School Leaders Harriett Johnson, Annabella Chalmers, Xavier Kersley and Will Shorter launched our Caritas-Project Compassion 2023. The theme for this year is "For All Future Generations". Caritas Australia is a Catholic organisation which works tirelessly to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity by working alongside vulnerable communities in Australia and overseas. Our Mercy Leaders told us God wants a world of justice, where no one is hungry



*St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition.
Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*

or poor, a world of peace and a world where richness is shared. They challenged us to have the inspiration and courage to build that world. Our amazing team is pictured here distributing posters and collection boxes to each classroom to help raise awareness about how every dollar we donate will help make a difference now and for all future generations in some of the poorest nations.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. Then the Devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.'"

Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down." Jesus answered, "The scripture also says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. "All this I will give you," the Devil said, "if you kneel down and worship me." Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'" Then the Devil left Jesus; and angels came and helped him. *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)*

Gospel reflection: Can you think of a time when you have been tempted to do something even though you knew it wasn't right? What happened next?

Sometimes we can make really good choices, like Jesus did. We can choose to do what is right even when it's hard-like standing up for someone in the playground, pointing out when others are being mean or sharing when we'd really like to keep things to ourselves.

Lent is a time when we try to turn back to God. We say sorry for the things that we have done wrong and we try to make a change to live as God wants us to.

This Lent, let's think about how we can make good choices – just like Jesus did in the desert – even when we find it hard.

Our challenge: Is there anything that we can do to help our sisters and brothers around the world, to stay strong in difficult times?



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

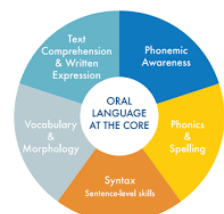
Curriculum News



Throughout each term our Class Teachers and Specialist Teachers upload work which each child has completed and participated in. Here, at St Francis Xavier we use the Seesaw platform to make this happen. Seesaw increases student motivation by sharing learning with an authentic audience: their teachers and family members. Seesaw is primarily used as a way to communicate with families and keep them in the loop on the learning their child is doing at school. Students add posts to Seesaw that they are proud of in a self-directed way, as well as work their teacher has assigned. Please keep an eye out for alerts that your child has uploaded their work. Make a comment. Seesaw connects school to home in live time.

2023 NAPLAN

Preparations are underway for 2023 NAPLAN. Please put these dates into your diary.
Wednesday 15th March - Monday 20th March Week 8/9 of Term 1.



STRUCTURED LITERACY Structured Literacy is an instructional approach aligned with the Science of Reading and Learning. This year we have the pleasure to be working with Emma Rutherford and Breanna Wade from Catholic Education Ballarat who will guide us in this area.

Have a wonderful week!



Jane Clark
Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News

I was reflecting on what I say frequently to my children. As a mother of two boys, I realised the words I speak most seem to be: "Someone will get hurt" followed by "This will not end well" (oh.... and "Who made this mess?") Conflict and siblings tend to go together! While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they offer us as parents a great opportunity to help our children handle conflict effectively (and this is a very important life skill). With our help, children can learn to work out disagreements by themselves, without fighting. This can help your children get along better and deal positively with conflicts with other children.

Here are some tips for helping your children work things out:

- Let children go if they're trying to work things out. Talking, debating and even arguing are all signs that children are trying to work things out. Add some enthusiastic feedback about the way they're interacting such as, 'Hey, I'm really proud of the way you're trying to work this out on your own'.
- Give some tips. A few well-placed suggestions might be all children need- 'Do you think that's a kind voice right now?' or 'Remember to be fair and take turns. Whose turn was it last?'
- Give friendly reminders about house rules and expectations- for example, 'Remember we all speak respectfully to each other', or 'Let's keep our hands and feet to ourself'.

Attached is a great article by Michael Grose on helping siblings resolve their fights- hopefully it brings some ideas for peace at your place!

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

District Swimming Well done to the 10 students that participated and represented SFX at last week's Division Swimming Carnival at Eureka Pool on Friday. Harriet Locke, Amelia Sordello, Oliver Klein, Charlotte Quarrell, Hugh Farrell, Olivia Green, Mackenzie Burbidge, Pearl Nicholson and Julian Simpson all swam fantastic and had a great day. Congratulations to Amelia who qualified through to the Regional event next month in Horsham! Thank you to the parents and to Mrs Barclay for your assistance and support throughout the day.



After School Sporting Schools program This week our after school Sporting Schools program continues. Students participating on the following Monday's (Volleyball) are:

- Monday Feb 27 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
- Monday Mar 6 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
- Monday Mar 20 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) (*Mar 13 is a Public Holiday*)
- Monday Mar 27 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Mollie Arnts, Maeve Arnts, Damilare Baruwa, Elizabeth Baruwa, Mayomikun Baruwa, James Bodnar, Laura Bodnar, Meredith Bodnar, Charlotte Carter, Daulat Singh Gill, Scarlett Govan, Harper Gull, Harriet Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Oscar Kersley, Charlie Kersley, Xavier Kersley, Edward Lloyd, Macie Lloyd, Harriet Locke, Emma Locke, Jasper

Patterson, India Skewes, Hannah Smith, Evangeline Spiers, Sofia St Louis, Christian Wright, Vivienne Young & Edith Young.

Students participating on the following Thursday's (Basketball) are:

Thursday Mar 2 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Thursday Mar 9 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Thursday Mar 16 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Thursday Mar 23 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Thursday Mar 30 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

Connor Allen, Eddie Anderson, Judd Boyd, Flynn Boyd, Sully Boyd, Greyson, Broadbent, Odie Brooks, Freddie Brown, Tex Brown, Leni Brown, Lilly Bye, Harley Bye, Nicholas Green, Thomas Green, Olivia Green, Eliza Hanrahan, Grace Hocking, James Hocking, Alexander Hocking, Charlie Irving, Noah Irving, Isla King, Evie Loader, Patrick Ludbrook, Annie Ludbrook, Banjo Nicholson, Betsy Nicholson, Oskar Olsewski, Myah Rivett, Jet Rivett, Aurorah Rivett, Imogen Sordello & Amelia Sordello.

2023 Sports Dates

Term 1:

- Week 8 - Tuesday Mar 14th - Regional Swimming @ Horsham
- Week 10 - Thursday Mar 30th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country @ Fed Uni

SFX Football Jumpers, Singlets & Netball dresses/bibs If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to either Mr Down or Mr Carroll.

Have a tremendous week.

Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator



P&F News

Zooper Doopers for sale on Mondays. 50 cents each.

Please see below a link to sign up to help with Zooper Doopers on a Monday.

Your help is really appreciated!

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

Please be aware that you will need a current Working With Children Check to be a helper. Thank you.

The P and F committee are continually in need for volunteers to **help pack hot lunches**, please sign up via this link.

SignUp.com
signup.com



Mix and mingle

Friday the 24th March
Oscar's (Atrium Room)

18 Doveton St Sth, Ballarat
7pm start
\$30 a ticket

Includes 1st drink free, finger food, live music and door prize

On sale now through Flexischools

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

Foundation Enrolment 2024 – Enrolment Information

School Alive Tours

We are happiest when prospective families pay us a visit to see for themselves what makes us different.

New and Existing Families are invited to join us to learn about St. Francis Xavier Primary School.

An information session will take place at 9:30 am with a School Alive Tour to follow:

1. Tuesday 21st February 2023
2. Tuesday 28th February 2023
3. Tuesday 7th March 2023
4. Wednesday 29th March 2023

An information session will take place at 6pm with a School Alive Tour to follow:

5. Wednesday 29th March 2023

Event Registration

To register your attendance for a School Alive Tour please complete the Registration Form at:

<https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/open-days/>

Online Enrolment Opens from Wednesday 8th February 2023

Foundation Enrolment 2024 – New Families

Attending a School Alive Tour is the first step in the enrolment process.

The online City of Ballarat Expression of Interest for Enrolment form is the second step in the enrolment process. If you wish to do so, please nominate St Francis Xavier Primary School as your first preference for your child's education.

Please note the link to the CEOB Expression of Interest form does not become live until Wednesday 8th February 2023

Please click on this link below or scan the QR code and fill in and submit the City of Ballarat Catholic School Expression of Interest Form:

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



Foundation Enrolment 2024 – Existing Families

Enrolments open for children of existing families who start Prep in 2024 on Wednesday 8th February 2023. Parents of existing families who have a child to start in 2024 - please complete the Expression of Interest form by clicking on the following link to submit a City of Ballarat Expression of Interest for Enrolment Form:

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



Please note this is an essential step for existing families in ensuring your child is enrolled in Prep 2024.



▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**
701 FISKEN ST
BUNINYONG 3357



▶ **ST ALIPIUS**
82 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350



▶ **PARISH OFFICE**
84 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350
PH 5332 6611
OPEN TUE – FRI
10.00 AM – 1.00 PM

26 February 2023

First Sunday of Lent

We do not live on bread alone

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Mon 11:00 AM (Sr Monigatti funeral)

Wednesday, Friday 9:30 AM

Saturday 6.00 PM

Sunday 9.00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)

10.30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)

10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 5 this week – 9:30 AM

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

THE COMBINED
COMMUNITIES OF ST ALIPIUS
PARISH REACH OUT IN THE
SPIRIT OF FAITH, HOPE,
LOVE, AND ACCEPTANCE, AS
GOD CALLS US TO IN THE
GOSPELS.

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed: Sr. Irene
Monigatti RSM

Anniversary: Joan Shannon,
Jacinta Wilson

Unwell: Madeleine Ballinger,
Remy Bourke, Anne D'Cruz, Ray
Gregory, Noreen Griffin, Mary
Hall, Heather Healy, John Healy,
Peter Martin, Betty McGarry, Peter
McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan,
Trish O'Donohue, Barry Orchard,
Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott.

*Our parish is committed to the
safety, well-being, and dignity of
all children and vulnerable adults.*

*We acknowledge this land's
traditional owners and custodians
and pay our respects to Elders
past, present, and emerging.*



St Alipius
Parish Community

Parish Priest
Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Sacramental and Parish
Coordinator
Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant
Natalie Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council
Chair
David Morrison

Finance Officer
Kerrie McTigue

Finance Chair
Paul O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer
Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordinator
David Santamaria
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry
Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



WELCOME BACK TO MASS

The attendance at Mass last weekend was heartening with many staying behind after the vigil mass for the BBQ and chat in the hall. It was a beautiful evening weatherwise and people gathered inside and out to share a meal and some good conversation. The feeling in the room was really positive and given that community is such an important part of our Catholic religion, we would hope to see our community grow, with more opportunities for such gatherings in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Pastoral Council meeting
Monday 27 February

Liturgy Committee meeting
5.30 PM, Tue 28 February, Presbytery

Caring Group
2:00 PM, 3 March, St Alipius Hall

World Day of Prayer
2.30 PM, Sunday 5 March, Ss Peter and Paul's

Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations
Saturday 15 April

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Collection basket – \$1,442

Presbytery and Priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – \$693.20

Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance.

For any queries or concerns, or should you wish to join our stewardship program to support our parish, please phone our Finance Officer Kerrie on 5331 2933 or email ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held at Ss. Peter and Paul's Buninyong at 7:00 PM every Tuesday night for the six weeks of Lent. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet at 2:00 PM, Friday, 3 March in St Alipius Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend for a cuppa and a chat. Please bring a small plate to share.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Ballarat Committee of World Day of Prayer invites you to join WDP services in Ballarat and surrounds, including Ss Peter and Paul's at Buninyong at 2:30 PM on Sunday 5 March. WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year our sisters in Taiwan have chosen the theme "I have heard about your faith." Let us listen to these women's stories of faith and their prayers for wisdom in the face of the political isolation that their island home experiences.

RCIC AT ST ALIPIUS

It was lovely to welcome the children from the RCIC to mass last weekend for the Rite of Naming. These children are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter Masses. They have been preparing since last October, gathering once a fortnight to learn more about our Catholic faith. The children are keen to learn and enjoy participating in discussions. They are accompanied by their parents at each of our sessions and parents are encouraged to join the discussions with their children. In more recent times we have been discussing and learning the Apostle's Creed. It was terrific to see most of these families join the community at the BBQ after Mass.

GET WELL LIST OF NAMES

We will be resetting the list of unwell people on the parish notice sheet on 12 March. Please contact the parish office if you would like any names kept on the list.

CHOIR FOR MASS OF THE OILS

Singers and musicians are invited to join the music group being formed for the Mass of the Oils. Practice times are at the Cathedral on Sundays at 6:15 PM after 5:00 PM mass on 19 and 26 March and 2 April. Register your interest with Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office – julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

SPORTS AND FAITH

Australian Catholics can hear from the head of the Vatican's Church and Sport Office during an online, national consultation later this month exploring sports and faith <https://nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge/the-bridge/national-consultation-to-explore-sports-and-faith>

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost and the death toll increases by the hour. After 12 years of civil war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act now. Your generous support of the Caritas Middle East Emergency Appeal will provide emergency relief to help people recover and rebuild from this disaster. Call 1800 024 413 toll-free or visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/Turkey-and-Syria-earthquake/

MASS OF THE OILS 2023

Each year, the Mass of the Oils is celebrated on Monday in Holy Week at St Patrick's Cathedral for all parishes within the Ballarat Diocese. Representatives from each parish come forward to receive the oils which will be used during sacraments in the coming year. There is an opportunity to come together with the priests and people of other parishes with the supper in the cathedral hall following mass. This year's mass will be on Monday, 3 April at 6.30 PM.

BAPTISMS

Sid Jackson Gill
Child of Eammon and Emma Gill

Tadhg Francis Shaw
Child of Lachlan and Gemmah Shaw

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

Pope Francis

LENT WITH BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired, be refreshed, and be renewed! Sign up for Bruce Downes's free Lenten program and for 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. Visit <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent23> for further information and to register.

LENTEN RESOURCES

There are a number of Lent prayer resources available from the diocese www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of the diocesan e-News has been published with stories of news and events in the diocese. www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/. You can subscribe to receive e-News directly to your inbox.

PROJECT COMPASSION

After losing her father when she was just 10 years old, Laxmi, now 16, was at risk of falling further into extreme



poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village, and hopes to become an engineer. Please donate to Project Compassion to help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In its submission to the Plenary Council, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) recommended that "the traditional custodians of the land on which the Church, school, parish, or organisation stands be acknowledged in a prominent and appropriate manner. Verbal acknowledgement prior to meetings and mass is also encouraged". To this end, the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission has asked if parishes are not already doing so, that they add an Acknowledgement of Country to their weekly bulletin and to their websites and announced at liturgical celebrations in the parish.



POPE FRANCIS ANNIVERSARY

Pope Francis will celebrate the 10th year of his pontificate on 13 March. The Digital Synod has launched an online map featuring virtual candles representing people's prayers for the Pope. Visit <https://www.decimus-annus.org/site/index> to offer a prayer and light a candle.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

First Sunday of Lent: Matthew 4:1–11

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is also a time to enter into the “wilderness” and grapple with the mysteries of life “in Christ”. It presents us with a challenge to take stock of our lives, see more clearly what is in our hearts, and discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. Today’s liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many humans before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is “tempted”].

Jesus is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world.

Forty is a significant number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Explanations of its significance vary: a round number suggesting a long period of time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness.

In Israel’s story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deuteronomy 8:2). In Matthew’s account, the “devil” is the “tester” or “tempter”, the instrument of God’s testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus’ relationship to God: “If you are the son of God....” The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God’s empire or the empire “of the heavens” rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed “of God”. This testing in the wilderness foreshadows later



events in the gospel such as Peter’s attempt at Caesarea Philippi to deflect Jesus from his mission and the bystanders’ challenge in 27:40 to prove he is “son of God” by coming down from the cross.

Most people of faith would agree that being son or daughter “of God” right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to all of Earth’s human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to Earth’s precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources. Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or of greed or status or entitlement so that, like Jesus, we may truly be “of God”.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
GENESIS 2:7–9, 3:1–7
ROMANS 5:12–19
MATTHEW 4:1–11

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
GENESIS 12:1–4
2 TIMOTHY 1:8–10
MATTHEW 17:1–9

INSIGHTS

Helping siblings resolve their fights



With family members living in close proximity during the current COVID-19 pandemic, parents may find an increase in sibling squabbles. This is understandable as any relationship is tested to its limits by excess time and lack of space. Sibling squabbles usually arise over low level issues such as space ("He's sitting in my seat."), possessions ("That's my book!") and fairness ("It's not fair. I was here first!"). It's enough to send most parents around the twist.

While it seems that kids in families are programmed to fight with each other, the good news is that parents have the power to facilitate learning.

According to a recent study, sibling fights teach kids important conflict resolution skills. In fact, parents who stop their children from arguing may well be depriving them of important learning opportunities. Researcher Laurie Kramer from the University of Illinois in the US found that kids who learned how to argue with their siblings had more advanced emotional development.

Many parents also worry that their children who fight with each other will not get along as adults. The evidence doesn't support this view. The test for strong families is more about the willingness for kids to pull together when the chips are down, rather than the frequency of the squabbling.

Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are some practical strategies to use:

Model good conflict resolution skills

Kids wear L plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some kids will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your partner, compromising and apologising when you've said something upsetting to your partner or your children.

Help kids manage their emotions

"Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me." Usually someone's feelings get hurt when siblings argue so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy in siblings as well.

Monitor sibling relationships

Keep your antenna up for the signs of discord within sibling relationships. Some disputes kids can sort out themselves, but you need to be ready to intervene and assist kids in the peace-brokering, or at least to act as a safety net when one child continually appears on the wrong end of a power imbalance.

Mentor them to sort out disputes

Kids need the chance to sort their conflict out themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. They often invite their parents to take sides, which is usually counter-productive. Rather than trying to sort out who started an argument, focus on possible solutions, provide suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining, swapping or even walking away.

Encourage them to make up

Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so it gets tricky intervening sometimes. However there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean kids have to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together. While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they also offer parents great opportunities to help kids to handle conflict effectively, which is a great life skill.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

Assembly Roster – 2023

Friday at 12.40pm

Friday 3rd March	6PB
Friday 10th March	4HC
Friday 17th March	NIL (NAPLAN and closures)
Friday 24th March	5CC
Friday 31st March	3VG
Thursday 6th April	Holy Thursday Liturgy
TERM TWO	
Wednesday 26th April	ANZAC gathering
Friday 5th May	6MM
Friday 12th May	Mother's Day
Friday 19th May	1EMc
Friday 26th May	3GW
Friday 2nd June	FTW
Friday 16th June	2EH
TERM THREE	
Friday 14th July	4BW
Friday 21st July	1MM
Friday 28th July	School closure
Friday 4th August	5OH
Friday 11th August	FLH
Friday 18th August	6ZA
Friday 25th August	Book Week celebrations
Friday 1st September	Father's Day
Friday 8th September	1JS

Friday 24th March	5CC
Friday 31st March	3VG
Thursday 6th April	Holy Thursday Liturgy
TERM TWO	
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Friday 16th June	2EH
TERM THREE	
Friday 14th July	4BW
Friday 21st July	1MM



Collection Notice for parents/guardians

2023 Student Residential Address and Other Information

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to notify you that we have requested for your child's school to provide residential address and other information.

Under the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*, the school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- Names and residential addresses of student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- Student residential address (excluding student names)
- Whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- Whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a unique and unidentifiable – student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The school only uses the SRN for this collection. It is not allowed to be used for any other purpose. The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

Purpose of the collection

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 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to calculate a non-government school community's capacity to contribute to schooling costs.

From 2020, the department introduced a new measure of capacity to contribute: the Direct Measure of Income (DMI). The DMI is based on the median income of non-government school students' parents or guardians using the Collection data. Find more information about the DMI on the [What is the methodology for the Direct Measure of Income \(DMI\)? Department web page](#).

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with Privacy Act and the *Australian Education Act 2013* and *Australian Education Regulation 2013*.

Your personal information provided to the department through the Collection may be:

- disclosed to the ABS for the purposes of capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). Find more information about MADIP on the ABS website [MADIP page](#).
- disclosed to a contracted auditor where the department may from time to time, carry out an audit of a school's collection submission. The contracted auditor compares the school's submission with the school's student enrolment information. The contracted auditor will not use the information for any other purpose.

- disclosed to its service providers for the purposes of providing the department with information and communications technology support services.
- used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

The department does not intend to disclose your personal information to any overseas recipients.

Find the department's privacy policy on the [Department of Education](#) website which includes information on:

- how individuals can access and seek correction of personal information held by the department;
- how complaints about potential breaches or breaches of the Privacy Act can be made;
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

The department commissioned an independent privacy impact assessment (PIA). The PIA assesses the flows of information under the Collection, compliance with the Privacy Act and measures in place to safeguard the personal information being collected. The current version is available on the [2018 Student Residential Address Collection: Additional Required information Privacy Impact Assessment web page](#).

What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the department with the requested details; however, you can contact the school to update your family's details.

Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the Collection process.

Alternatively, please visit the [SchoolsHUB Address Collection help and support page](#).

To contact the department about privacy-related matters, email privacy@education.gov.au or write to:

Privacy Officer
Legal Services
Department of Education
LOC: C50MA1
GPO Box 9880
Canberra ACT 2601