



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 27th March 2023

Term 1 Week 10

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311
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Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 1 Week 10

Tuesday 28th March

3.30-7.30pm Student Led Conferences

Wednesday 29th March

9.30am School Alive Tour
3.30-7.30pm Student Led Conferences

6pm School Alive Tour

Thursday 30th March

Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country, Fed Uni

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

Monday 3rd April

9am Holy Week Liturgy in Gym

Thursday 6th April

Finishing time 2.20pm
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2 (9 weeks)

Mon 24th April - Fri 23rd June

Monday 24th April

Student Free Day Auslan Professional Learning Day

Tuesday 25th April

ANZAC Day holiday

Friday 28th April

9.30am Mass at St Alipius

Mon 1st-Fri 5th May

Book Fair in Library

Friday 5th May

12.40pm 6MM Assembly

Friday 12th May

Mothers' Day celebration

Tuesday 16th May

Division AFL

Friday 19th May

12.40pm 3GW Assembly

Wednesday 24th May

Division Netball

Friday 26th May

Years 3-6 SFX Athletics Day at Llanberris

12.40pm 1EM Assembly

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

We are busily preparing for our student led conferences which will be held at school this week. This is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their learning as well as to chat with the teachers about how things are going at school. It has been a very busy first term so it will be great to stop and acknowledge the work that our children have completed to date and to set some goals moving forward.

One of the hallmarks of our school is that we aim high and work with our students to identify future learning goals and how they might attain them. We know that learning is not always easy and that hard work is often required in order to reach success. We also know that we are working with small children, and that success can come in many different forms. Different children learn in different ways and with support from caring staff we should be able to see success every day. If we can understand that knowledge builds from knowledge then it's the small steps that often make the big difference.

As you meet with the teachers this week and have a chat with your children about their learning, please take time to acknowledge and celebrate your child's success. Whether it's little steps or mighty leaps, it doesn't matter. What matters is that we are all trying our best and with the support of our teachers, staff and families we will continue to grow and learn each day.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.



Farewell Sr. Mary Gregory We say farewell to a dear friend of our school this week. Rest in Peace Sister Sheila Bellville rsm (Sister Mary Gregory) who died peacefully in Mercy Place Ballarat on March 20th. She was 70 years a Sister of Mercy. There had always been a big place in her heart for the "Villa" (SFX) boys several of whom had visited her up to very recent times. Besides teaching she coached football, supervised gymnastics practice, meal and bed time with the boarders and any other task that came her way! Sr. Mary Gregory holds a special place in the story of our school. May she rest in peace.

Welcome Chantelle We welcome Chantelle Stacey to our school community this week. Chantelle will be assisting us with our Auslan language program this year. Welcome Chantelle, we are very excited to have you on our team!

Thankyou! A huge vote of thanks to our Foundation teachers who conducted a very

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Monday 29th May
Regional Cross Country at
Warrnambool

Friday 2nd June
12.40pm F TW Assembly
Division Soccer

Friday 16th June
12.40pm 2EH Assembly

**6pm Sat 17th and 10.30am
Sun 18th June at St Alipius**
Year 4 First Eucharist

Term 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 10th July - Fri 15th Sept

Friday 14th July
9.30am Mass in Gym
12.40pm 4BW Assembly

Friday 21st July
12.40pm 1MM Assembly

Fri 28th July school closure

Friday 4th August
12.40pm 5OH Assembly

Friday 11th August
12.40pm F LH Assembly

Friday 18th August
12.40pm 6ZA Assembly

Friday 25th August
Book Week celebrations

Friday 1st September
Fathers' Day celebration

Thursday 7th September
6pm at St Alipius
Year 3 Confirmation

Friday 8th September
12.40pm 1JS Assembly

Term 4 (12 weeks)
Mon 2nd Oct - Wed 20th Dec

Friday 6th October
9.30am Mass at St Alipius

Friday 13th October
12.40pm 5JF Assembly

Friday 20th October
Grandparents' Day

Friday 27th October
12.40pm 2CJ Assembly

Friday 3rd November
12.40pm F MM Assembly

Friday 10th November
12.40pm 4CP Assembly

Friday 17th November
12.40pm 3NM Assembly

Friday 24th November
12.40pm F GJ Assembly

Friday 1st December
12.40pm 2GH Assembly

Monday 18th December
9.30am in Gym Mass

special reading information evening last Monday. What a great effort from our team! Thanks also to the many parents who were able to come along and learn more about the structured literacy approach to learning and teaching.

Sibling Enrolments 2024 If you have a child to enroll in Foundation in 2024 at St. Francis Xavier please ensure that you lodge their information on the Catholic Education website as soon as possible. This information will secure a place for your child but without it we cannot guarantee that places will be available.

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

Please find at the end of this newsletter School Alive Tours and 2024 Enrolment Information; Parish Bulletin; School belonging starts at home; Assembly Awards.

Religious Education News

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

Gospel: John 11:1-45 *Below is the shortened version.*

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' . . . When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' . . . Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I know indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' Then he cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Gospel reflection: I read this Gospel slowly, prayerfully, even imaginatively. Though it has been much shortened, there are great riches here. What am I noticing? The two sisters respond differently to the death of their brother. To Martha's questions, Jesus asks her a faith question; to Mary's anguish and weeping, Jesus responds with emotions of his own. He loves them both. In times of crisis, do I tend to respond with my head or my heart? And how do I encounter the Lord in such moments? Am I able, even when feeling the Lord has seemed slow to answer my pleading, to know I am loved, held and cared for? I end by speaking, as one who is much loved, to the Lord from my heart.

Courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham, UK

FREE DRESS DAY! Friday March 31 is a free dress day so children are welcome to wear their casual clothes to school. This month we are raising money for the tremendous works of Caritas. During Lent each classroom has a Caritas donation box and the children enjoy looking at the posters around the school describing the ways their fundraising is making a real difference in the World. Our children have been learning about Catholic Social Teaching and the reasons why Catholic Christians choose to support those in our communities who are not as fortunate as we are. Just like Jesus, we want to look after the poor, respect human dignity and work towards the common good. These are also the values that Catherine McAuley followed when she began the Sisters of Mercy in the 1800s.

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PARISH NEWS

TERM TWO – FIRST EUCHARIST			
<i>Children must be in Year 4 and have received Confirmation and First Reconciliation to enrol for First Eucharist</i>			
Parent Information Sessions for First Eucharist will be held in St. Alipius Church at 10.30 am and 6pm on Thursday April 27th. Attendance at one of these sessions is compulsory.			
Celebration of First Eucharist will be during parish masses as follows:			
May 27 th	St. Alipius PS	St. Alipius	6 pm
May 28 th	St. Alipius PS	St. Alipius	10.30 am
June 3 rd	Emmaus PS	St. Alipius	6 pm
June 4 th	Emmaus PS	Ss. Peter & Paul	10.30 am
June 17 th	SFX PS	St. Alipius	6 pm
June 18 th	SFX PS	St. Alipius	10.30 am

Hello everyone,

Please use the following link to enrol your child for First Eucharist. <https://forms.gle/aLt7cwwDvsRBwaf8A>

Every family will be required to attend an information session in order for their child to participate in the program. You will also be asked to attend at least one Mass in the parish during the preparation period where your child will be introduced to the community.

Please don't hesitate to make contact with me if you have questions.

Regards, Cathy Prunty

Ballarat East Parish

St Alipius' Church: 82 Victoria St, Ballarat East

Ss Peter & Paul's Church: 701 Fiskens St, Buninyong

Parish Office: 84 Victoria St, Ballarat East 3350



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Thanks to all the Year 3 and 5 children who participated in the 2023 NAPLAN tests. They come to a close today and we will eagerly wait for our results. Many thanks to the teachers in the Year 3 and 5 teams who supported the children during this time.

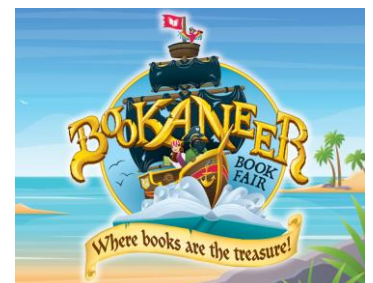
Book Fair: We are very excited to announce that the Book Fair is taking place this year! Our Book Fair will begin on Monday 1st May and conclude on Friday 5th May 2023. The Book Fair provides children with the opportunity to explore literature and select books of interest. The Book Fair is a great way to celebrate reading within our community with hundreds of fun, engaging and affordable books for the children to discover. Prior to the Book Fair, classes will be given the opportunity to view the selected books and write a wish list.

Book Fair dates: Monday 1st May- Friday 5th May

Shopping hours: 8:30am- 8:50 am & 3:00pm- 4:00pm

Special activities: Maze activity, Word Find, Story writing, Colouring activity, Guessing Game)

Location: Our school LIBRARY





Student - Led Conferences at SFX this week

Your child(ren) will be showcasing their schoolwork and discussing learning goals with you through Student-Led Conferences. 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. These conferences are scheduled this week. Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March.

Bookings for these conferences are made via PAM

These meetings will last for 15 minutes, and we encourage all families to attend. Children must attend these meetings!

We have several goals for holding conferences using this format:

- For parents/carers – 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.

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?

We have deliberately formed them as Student – Led and not 3 – Way Conferences. Highly Effective Primary Schools promote Student Voice. Student – Led Conferences are identified as a significant way of developing Student Voice and the latest research and evidence around Assessment as Learning supports this.

If a parent/carer needs to have a conversation with the teacher not in the presence of the child in regards to other matters, this needs to take place at another time. Contact can be made with the class teacher requesting further time if needed.



Have a wonderful week.

Jane Clark, **Deputy Principal – Learning Enhancement**

Wellbeing News

Welcome to Week 10!

It was fabulous to meet so many parents and have time to chat on a social level at the recent P&F Mix and Mingle. It's always lovely to learn names for faces and be able to connect children to family members- I hope those of you who made it had an enjoyable night too!

Friendships matter, especially as a parent. Having supportive friends is associated with higher life satisfaction, being happier and better physical and mental health. Taking time out for yourself from the busy job of parenting is so important for wellbeing and self care.

Having friendships with other parents to talk to about joys and challenges of child raising can be a wonderful support- friends offer shared experiences and understanding. Connecting with other parents give us a chance to normalise the “ages and stages” with those who are also experiencing it. These relationships can help you maintain balance in your life, encourage you and give you a different perspective on things. These friendships don’t have to be “soul-level deep”- sometimes they simply make us feel in the loop and part of a larger community.

At our school, we want all children and families to feel that strong sense of belonging. Psychologists Goodnow and

Grady (1993) describe school belonging as “the extent to which students feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment.”

Attached is an article about the supportive roles parents play in encouraging school belonging.

Kind regards, Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Cross Country Over the past couple of weeks, Mr Down in his PE lessons conducted fitness testing for students in Years 3-6. These results along with the trials for the Athletics Day 800m event formed the basis for selection for the SFX Cross Country squad. Congratulations and Good Luck to the following students that have been selected to run on Thursday at Fed Uni:

Eli Jones, Paddy Dwyer, Xavier Foster, Noah Irving, Xavier Morris, Nellie Cheeseman, Lucy Elliot, Jed Hynes, Hudson McGrath, Will McGregor, Nicholas Green, Cooper Manning, Archie Williams, Sophie Beseler, Zara Thorp, Haddie Morley, Archer Spackman, Mitch Kane, Lachlan Patterson, Braxton Buntsma, Jack Elliot, Ivy Bromley, Pippa Dalton, Lilly Rice, Emily Hanrahan, Mila Shilito, Frankie Hill, Jake Cheeseman, Ash Norris, George Britt, Xavier Staley, Sully Boyd, Nate Toohey, Wentworth Campbell, Felicity McGrath, Olivia Green, Tayla Hiscock, Ivy Pearce & Annabelle Chalmers

After School Sporting Schools program

This week our after school Sporting Schools program continues.

The remaining Monday (Volleyball) session is: Monday Mar 27 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

The remaining Thursday (Basketball) session is: Thursday Mar 30 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

2023 Sports Dates

Term 1:

- Week 10 - Thursday Mar 30th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country @ Fed Uni

Term 2:

- Week 4 - Tuesday May 16th - Division AFL
- Week 5 - Wednesday May 24th - Division Netball
- Week 5 - Friday May 26th - Year 3 - 6 Athletics Carnival - Llanberris
- Week 6 - Monday May 29th - Regional Cross Country @ Warrnambool
- Week 6 - Friday Jun 2nd - Division Soccer

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 terrific week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

P&F News



Our ever popular **Easter Raffle** is back! All donations gratefully received and this year's draw is already looking good! Don't forget to purchase your tickets, and remember, you have to be in it to win it! Drawn at 3pm on Friday 31st March.

SCAN HERE AND BUY TICKETS NOW



1 ticket \$2
3 tickets for \$5
7 tickets for \$10
16 tickets for \$20

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

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JOIN THE FUN!

North Ballarat Auskick Centre
Oval No. 2

725 Creswick Road, Wendouree
Starting Wednesday March 29th
4.30pm -5.30pm

Contact: Leah Moneghetti, 0439 306 375
Leahmoneghetti@gmail.com



Scan the QR Code

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/>



SCAN ME

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/>



SCAN ME

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 March 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

With the Lord there is mercy

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Wed 10.30 AM Funeral Mass

Thurs 10.30 AM Funeral Mass

Fri 9:30 AM Mass & Stations of the cross

Saturday 9.30 AM, 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 2 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. Sheila
Belleville RSM, Remegio Gevero,
Noreen Griffin, Alice Westbrook

Anniversaries: Jim Dawson,
Gerard Mishkinis, Vincent
Mishkinis

Unwell: Mary Hall, Peter
McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan

*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

stalpiusfuneral@gmail.com



CATERING - FR. JORGE'S ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD

We plan to come together on Saturday 15 April to celebrate with Fr. Jorge the occasion of his 25th anniversary of priesthood. Following the 6:00 PM mass, we will gather to share a meal in the hall. Meat will be provided, but we are asking parishioners to provide a salad/side dish. If you are able to do this, please contact the parish office during office hours to let us know what you plan on bringing, so that we can avoid double-ups, and can cater for everyone. If you have any queries, please reach out to Cathy or Natalie.

FAITH AND REASON

St. Augustine and the early Church Fathers

This talk at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 21 April at 7 PM, will explore the relationship between philosophy and theology, beginning with Tertullian's acerbic comment, "What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" and ending with Augustine's conclusion that faith is the starting point of reason, not its end.

UPCOMING EVENTS
<p>Liturgy Committee meeting 5.30 PM, Tuesday 28 March, Presbytery</p>
<p>Caring Group Afternoon Tea 2:00 PM Friday 31 March, Church Hall</p>
<p>Mass of the Oils 6.30 PM, Monday 3 April St. Patrick's Cathedral</p>
<p>Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations Saturday 15 April</p>

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next preparation session for baptism will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall at 10.00 AM on Thursday 6 April. There will not be a 5:30 PM session because it is Holy Thursday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held at Ss Peter and Paul's in Buninyong at 7:00 PM every Tuesday night during Lent. Stations of the Cross also follow the 9.30 AM Mass each Friday morning at St Alipius. Everyone welcome.

LITURGY MINISTRIES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER VIGIL

With Holy Week and Easter approaching, the parish Liturgy Committee is calling for volunteers to help with liturgical ministries. Sign up via the sheet in the foyer of St Alipius or call the parish office. If you'd like to read the Passion, please speak with Susan Begbie (St Alipius) or Mike Maloney (Ss Peter and Pauls). For the washing of feet on Holy Thursday, we want a wide range of people including adults, seniors, adolescents, parents, single people etc. Those who already volunteer and those who are putting their hand up for the first time are all welcome to contact the office or speak with Fr Jorge or David Santamaria to help increase layperson engagement with our ceremonies this year.

CARING GROUP GATHERING

Everyone is invited to join the Caring Group for a cuppa on Friday 31 March at 2 PM in the parish hall. Please bring a small plate to share.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,146**

Presbytery and priest support.

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$542.20**

Parish – buildings, office, administration, grounds maintenance.

PLANNED GIVING RENEWAL

The Parish Finance Committee discussed the need for a renewal of the parish's planned-giving program at its recent meeting.

We are seeking volunteers to join a planned giving program committee. Our goal is to renew and revitalise our parish's planned giving efforts and ensure the long-term sustainability of our community.

If you are interested in joining the planned giving program committee, please contact the parish office and leave your details. You will then be invited to an information session to discuss the role further before committing. We look forward to hearing from you!

170 YEARS OF EDUCATION

Next Friday, March 31, the St. Alipius School Community will celebrate 170 Years of education with a Mass at 12.30 PM at St. Alipius Church. Our best wishes go to the staff and students on this special occasion.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday masses next weekend. Other liturgies during the week leading up to Easter will be as follows:

Mass of the Oils (Cathedral)	3 April	6.30 PM
Holy Thursday	6 April	7.00 PM
Good Friday	7 April	3.00 PM
Easter Vigil	8 April	7.00 PM
Easter Sunday	Regular masses	

During the mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, we will have the Washing of the Feet, and following mass, the Parish Hall will be open for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight. At the Good Friday ceremony, our community will gather for the Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. Our Holy Week Ceremonies will culminate with our Easter Vigil on Saturday evening where we will welcome Michael Marshall to full communion with the Catholic Church along with a number of children who have been preparing for the sacraments of Initiation through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for Children of Catechetical Age. Mass will begin on the east side of the church with the Blessing of the Fire and be followed by the Liturgy of the Word. Candidates will receive the sacraments throughout the Mass. We encourage parishioners to join us at each of these ceremonies.

BAPTISMS

Mabel Rose Steenhuis
Child of Jacob Steenhuis & Elena Jones

Billy Jack Watson
Child of Tray & Tessa Watson

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

PRIEST APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the following appointments within the Ballarat Diocese taking effect from 20 April:

Fr. Shaiju Mathew MST, administrator of Robinvale and Ouyen.

Fr. John Corrigan, assistant priest in the parishes of Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs.

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

Congratulations to the children who have recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Our thanks to the schools for their work in preparing these liturgies and to Fathers Eladio, Eugene, Ed, Abraham, Jim and Marcello for joining Fr. Jorge at these liturgies, their presence is greatly appreciated. These children will now prepare to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. Those who have already enrolled will receive an email, others should check the parish website for further information. Information Sessions will be held on Thursday 27 April.

VINNIE'S SCHOOL APPEAL

More than 1 million Victorian students headed back to or started school this year. For a rising number of their families, it is getting harder to find the funds to ensure that their children have everything they need to learn and grow. The Vinnies Education (Back-to-School) Appeal, which launched on 1 February, is needed more than ever. Visit <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023> to donate.

WALK FOR JUSTICE

This year's Palm Sunday Walk for Justice will call for Justice for Refugees, including permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. Walk with us this Palm Sunday, 2 April at 1.00 PM for a group reflection, with the walk starting at about 1.30 PM. Meet at the right side of the State Library of Victoria, near the Joan of Arc statue 'CAPSA', 'Jesuit Social Services' or 'Xavier Social Justice Network' or 'CSSV' banner). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maeve at CAPSA, email info@capsa.org.au.

VOLUNTEER PASTORAL CARE

Grampians Health Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for volunteers Pastoral Care Workers to provide regular pastoral care support to patients and visitors of all faiths and beliefs. If you are willing to commit to 2.5 hours per week and provide a listening ear, then Grampians Health Ballarat would like to hear from you. Contact Paul Ryan 5320 8634 or paul.ryan@bhs.org.au

PROJECT COMPASSION

This year met Laxmi, Priscilla, Thu and the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group who are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023 by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifth Sunday of Lent: John 11:1–45

Sunday's readings touch on the most profound of mysteries, the mysteries of life and death. To hold a newborn child or to see the sick restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. On the other hand, sudden death can bring unimagined grief and pain. The recent earthquake in Türkiye and Syria brought sudden death to tens of thousands of people and an extraordinary outpouring of grief. This unexpected tragedy has come at a time when thousands are dying every day in the world's major conflict zones and when extreme weather events continue to bring death and destruction and species loss. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation and new beginnings or that "death" so often signifies deprivation and loss.

The gospel reading is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs.

It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death:

"...from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). It provides the occasion for Jesus to assert "I am the resurrection and the life" and to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at the grief of Mary his friend and at the death of her brother. It also reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life.

I am the resurrection and the life

Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary are the characters who, with Jesus, occupy centre stage and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany.

Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus and the community around him, or

both? Lazarus is Mary's sick "brother". Martha will later claim him as her "brother". Might they all be part of a little faith community in



Bethany rather than biological siblings? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". The reader will later discover that Mary's anointing of Jesus is "for the day of [his] burial".


As so often in John's gospel, misunderstanding and irony function to bring the actors in the drama, and to bring us as actors in the theatre of life, to new levels of understanding and faith. Right now, in the aftermath of earthquake and in the face of ongoing conflict, we are called, as sisters and brothers across the globe, to open our hearts and share our resources so that some measure of "life" might be restored

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
EZEKIEL 37:12–14
ROMANS 8:8–11
JOHN 11:1–45

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
ISAIAH 50:4-7
PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11
MATTHEW 26:14 – 27:66



INSIGHTS

happy families. 

ISSUE 2 | TERM 1 | 2023

School belonging starts at home

Belonging is a hot topic right now. It's on posters and internet memes, with some schools making it their number one priority. A sense of belonging at school has been linked to many benefits – including better grades, improved physical and mental health, and positive outcomes for future education or employment. But what does school belonging mean and what steps can you, as a parent, take to encourage it?

In psychology, a sense of belonging refers to the feeling that you form an integral part of your surroundings. Humans can be highly motivated to seek out a sense of belonging. For many people belonging emerges from relationships and bonds with other people. These bonds come from many sources. Most children first begin to form bonds with their family circle. As they grow up, their social connections expand beyond the household. Naturally, since kids spend a significant portion of their days at school, the school becomes a key environment to form connections and experience feelings of belonging.

Benefits of school belonging

The most accepted definition of school belonging comes from psychologists Goodnow and Grady (1993). They describe school belonging as “the extent to which students feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment.” Psychologists often view school belonging from an ecological perspective. In other words, multiple supports (teachers, parents, peers, etc.) come together to encourage school belonging.

Overall wellbeing, academic achievements, better physical and mental health, and increased self-esteem are often cited as benefits of school belonging. Similarly, prosocial behaviours, including participation in classroom and extracurricular activities, have been reported in students who feel connected to their schools. School belonging can also have the potential to prevent negative outcomes such as school dropout, low academic achievement, low self-esteem, behavioural issues, and feelings of anxiety and loneliness.

Now that we've established the importance of school belonging, let's explore the role that parents play. The following suggestions are actions that you can take to support your kid's sense of belonging at school.

Offer academic support and encouragement

In a 2007 study of American middle school girls, Pauline Garcia-Reid found that parental support is directly related to school engagement. School engagement (e.g., participation in class or extracurriculars) is a facilitator of school belonging. The students in Garcia-Reid's study who reported higher levels of supportive parental behaviours were more positively engaged in school.

Examples of academic support and encouragement include having regular conversations about school, classes your kid is taking, and plans for the future. These conversations can help nurture a desire to engage and achieve at school and inspire plans for higher education.

Get involved

There are many ways to get involved in your kid's education – at home and at school. Ideally, your kid's school will provide opportunities for involvement, such as invitations to school activities or opportunities to provide

input in educational decisions. Other examples of at-home involvement include sharing educational values and supervising school activities (e.g., monitoring homework).

Contrary to popular belief, research suggests that parental school involvement is just as important during the middle and later years of education as it is for younger years (Mo & Singh, 2008). Of course, that may be easier said than done. As teens gain more independence and busy schedules get in the way, it is common for parents to step back from school involvement. But remember – school involvement comes in many forms. Small steps, like attending a parent evening or getting in touch with a teacher, can still go a long way for your kid's engagement and performance in school.

Form close family relationships

Positive family relationships, for example, parent-child relationships, incorporate all of the strategies we have explored so far. Supportive behaviour, encouraging communication, and active involvement in your kid's life – at school and beyond – all contribute to a strong relationship.

Close family relationships may not seem especially relevant to education. However, research shows that family relationships directly affect school connectedness and academic performance (Kelly et al., 2012; Mo & Singh, 2008).

At the end of the day, it's about being there for your kids. When kids feel like they can come to you for support and advice in their everyday lives, that feeling will extend to support for school. A sense of belonging at home, in the community, and at school can do wonders for your kid's academic engagement and achievement.

Most of us take the first steps to a healthy sense of belonging at home, closely followed by school. Although we continue to form our sense of belonging throughout our lives, school belonging plays a crucial role in kids' development and motivation to belong moving forward. Teachers, educational policymakers, and parents all have a role to play in encouraging school belonging.

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AUTHOR

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AWARDS from 24th March Assembly, hosted by 5CC

Assembly Date: 24/3/23 Term 1, Week 9	Theme: HOSPITALITY Hospitality means welcoming other people. We show hospitality because Jesus teaches us to include everyone and show them they are welcome.
F LH	Charlie Ryan and Olive Anderson
F TW	Lillian Armstrong & Will Allan
F GJ	Emme Cavanagh & Alfie Brennan
F MM	Odie Brooks & Lachy Hatt
1 JS	Harvey Kersley & Rome Davis
1 MM	Paddy Quinlan & Scarlett Govan
1 EM	Milla Nicholson & Jimmy Faull
2 EH	Jagger Van Langevelde and Malo Hansen
2 CJ	Maeve Tongs and Jack Quinlan
2 GH	Byron Morton and Edie Young
3 NM	Ella Crumpton and Nixon George
3 JVG	Finley Rolfe and Finya Najera-Hinko
3 GW	Chloe Wilson, Noah Rice
4 BW	Aria Treacy & George Pearce
4 HC	Liam Fulcher and Sophie White
4 CP	Lois Cummings and Will McGregor
5 JF	Lilly Rice & Tom Anderson
5 OH	Monty Harrison & Laine Anwyl
5 CC	Sophie Keating and Orion Morton
6 PB	Alex Hocking and Ash Norris
6 MM	Mia Van Hamond and Matthew Corrigan
6 ZA	Sully Boyd & Lucy Kierce
Environmental Education	Lucy Kierce (6ZA)
Visual Arts	Howard Latchford (FGJ) Toby Watson (6MM)