

# St Francis Xavier Primary School



## Newsletter

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Term 1 Week 9

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### Term 1 Week 9

#### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March

NAPLAN testing concludes  
6-7pm Foundation Parent Reading Information Workshop

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March

12.40pm 5CC Assembly  
7pm Mix + Mingle at Oscar's

### Term 1 Week 10

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

3.30-7.30pm Student Led Conferences

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am School Alive Tour  
3.30-7.30pm Student Led Conferences  
6pm School Alive Tour

#### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country, Fed Uni

#### Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>-Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March

Year 5 Sovereign Hill School

#### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Casual dress day (*Donations to Caritas-Project Compassion*)  
12.40pm 3VG Assembly

### Term 1 Week 11

#### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

9am Holy Week Liturgy in Gym

\*Please note change of date

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Finishing time 2.20pm  
Last Day of Term 1

### Term 2 (9 weeks)

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April - Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> June

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Student Free Day Auslan Professional Learning Day

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

ANZAC Day holiday

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am at St Alipius Church  
Term 2 Mass

#### Mon 1<sup>st</sup>-Fri 5<sup>th</sup> May

Book Fair in Library

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Last Thursday evening students in Year 4 received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. It was a memorable event and the children were well prepared.

Reconciliation is one of seven sacraments recognised by the Catholic Church, and the second sacrament after Baptism. In this sense, it is an important event. Do you have significant events that you honour in your family? Sometimes these events are linked to particular things like a wedding anniversary, birthday, name day etc. In the Church the sacraments recognise graces that are bestowed on an individual when they engage in particular activities.

In Baptism the young child is named and becomes a member of the faith community. Through the sacrament of Reconciliation the child learns that we can seek forgiveness and will be forgiven. At Confirmation the child receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit and through First Eucharist we are welcomed to participate as full members of the faith community. Then as adults we can receive the sacrament of Marriage or Holy Orders, and finally the Last Rights as we prepare to die. Hopefully that one will be a long way away!

For our students in Year 4, there is much to learn. They have begun their journey through the sacraments and we congratulate them on their preparations. For the rest of us, we are all learning to be the best people that we can possibly be, and for that we should feel very proud!

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.

**Seesaw UPDATE for Parents** This year, all classes will continue to use the online digital portfolio tool, Seesaw. Seesaw provides children with the opportunity to document and reflect upon their learning while strengthening their skills in the area of technology. Each child has their own Seesaw portfolio and throughout the year authentic assessment tasks will be uploaded to Seesaw so that you can see your child's achievements and next steps in learning in real time.

Given the use of Seesaw for Assessment and Reporting and for communication purposes, we strongly encourage all families to ensure they are connected to their child's Seesaw portfolio. This also includes families double checking that their Seesaw notifications are turned on. When viewing your child's learning samples on Seesaw we encourage you to be active in liking the posts and leaving a comment for your child as this will be sure to further enhance our positive partnerships between home and school. We also know that the



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

12.40pm 6MM Assembly

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

Mothers' Day celebration

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

12.40pm 3GW Assembly

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**Years 3-6 SFX Athletics Day  
at Llanberris

12.40pm 1EM Assembly

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

12.40pm F TW Assembly

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

12.40pm 2EH Assembly

**6pm Sat 17<sup>th</sup> and 10.30am****Sun 18<sup>th</sup> June at St Alipius**

Year 4 First Eucharist

**Term 3 (10 weeks)**Mon 10<sup>th</sup> July - Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Sept**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

9.30am in Gym Term 3 Mass

12.40pm 4BW Assembly

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

12.40pm 1MM Assembly

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> July** school closure**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

12.40pm 5OH Assembly

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

12.40pm F LH Assembly

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August**

12.40pm 6ZA Assembly

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

Book Week celebrations

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

Fathers' Day celebration

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

6pm at St Alipius

Year 3 Confirmation

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

12.40pm 1JS Assembly

**Term 4 (12 weeks)**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

9.30am at St Alipius Mass

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

12.40pm 5JF Assembly

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Grandparents' Day

\*Please note change of date

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

12.40pm 2CJ Assembly

\*Please note change of date

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

12.40pm F MM Assembly

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

12.40pm 4CP Assembly

children benefit significantly from seeing and reading their family's comments on Seesaw too.

If you are not connected and require a Seesaw login for your child, please see your child's classroom teacher this week. We look forward to continuing to use Seesaw as a platform for Assessment and Reporting, and for communication purposes in 2023.

**St Patrick's Day**

Last Friday we celebrated the Feast of Saint Patrick. Many Australian Catholics have Irish ancestry, and St Patrick is honoured as one of the patron saints of Irish heritage. We can all celebrate the life of this very interesting man because he is also the patron saint of the Ballarat Diocese.

Who was Patrick? Patrick was born on the west coast of Britain about 360 A.D. At the age of 16 he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold as a slave into the service of a local king. On a rainy hillside tending sheep, he met the Lord and his faith was nurtured over the next several months. He escaped, but God called him to return to Ireland as a missionary. He was a saint of God who gave his life to help people know Jesus by starting mission churches. He baptized tens of thousands and hundreds of chapels were erected for the worship of Jesus all over Ireland. <http://www.joyfulheart.com/stpatrick/patrick.htm>



**Mix & Mingle Night** Have you purchased your tickets for the Mix & Mingle yet? We are looking forward to a great evening together at Oscars as we welcome new families into our community and acquaint ourselves with friends from time past. Let's all put the date in the diary and make an effort to enjoy an hour or two among friends. See you there!

**SFX Tuition Raffle 2023** Imagine winning \$1500 dollars off your school fees! Tickets are now available for our super raffle which will be drawn at the Mix & Mingle night. Jump on board and purchase as many tickets as you can and who knows? You might be the lucky winner!

**SFX Easter Raffle 2023**

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!

SCAN HERE AND BUY TICKETS NOW



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

Drawn at 3pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**New Staff** We welcome the following new staff members to St Francis Xavier. We look forward to working with them at our school.

Ms. Kerrie McTigue - Business Manager (commencing Term 2)

Ms. Anita Houlihan - Administration Officer (commencing Term 2)

Ms. Ange Staley - Learning Support Officer (commencing this week)

Ms. Laura Stevens - Learning Support Officer (commencing Term 2)

**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/>

**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.**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**  
12.40pm 3NM Assembly  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**  
12.40pm F GJ Assembly  
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**  
12.40pm 2GH Assembly  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
9.30am in Gym Mass

**Anaphylaxis and nut products** We have a number of students at St Francis Xavier who have a severe allergy to all nuts and nut products. Even exposure to very small amounts could be serious and life threatening for them. It is essential that we all play a role in supporting these children and their families with this very important issue. As a result of the seriousness of this issue, we ask that no parent send products to school that have nuts listed on the ingredients section of the packaging.

**Please find at the end of this newsletter** School Alive Tours and 2024 Enrolment Information; Parish Bulletin; How to help your child be a good friend.

## Religious Education News

### THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday March 19, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41 *Below is the shortened version.*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man's eyes and said, "Go and wash your face in the Pool of Siloam." (This name means "Sent.") So the man went, washed his face, and came back seeing.

His neighbours and the people who had seen him begging before this, asked, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "He is the one," but others said, "No he isn't; he just looks like him." So the man himself said, "I am the man."

Then they took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. The day that Jesus made the mud and cured him of his blindness was a Sabbath. The Pharisees, then, asked the man again how he had received his sight. He told them, "He put some mud on my eyes; I washed my face, and now I can see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "The man who did this cannot be from God, for he does not obey the Sabbath law."

Others, however, said, "How could a man who is a sinner perform such miracles as these?" And there was a division among them. So the Pharisees asked the man once more, "You say he cured you of your blindness — well, what do you say about him?"

"He is a prophet," the man answered. They answered, "You were born and brought up in sin — and you are trying to teach us?" And they expelled him from the synagogue.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so that I can believe in him!" Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now."

"I believe, Lord!" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus.

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

#### **Gospel reflection:**

Today we hear how Jesus helped a blind man to see again. The Pharisees (some of the religious leaders of the time) question the man and his parents to find out how Jesus gave him his sight. The man tells them but they do not believe it and grow angry.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are blind because they are more concerned with the rules than with helping the man. While there is nothing wrong with their eyes, the Pharisees do not open their hearts to see the truth of who Jesus is.

God has given us the gift of sight to see all the wonderful things in our world but we also need to open our eyes to things that are wrong and try to do what we can to change them. We can see that it is not fair for some people in the world to have lots of money, power and things while others of us are poor or hungry or do not have a safe place to live. We can see that we are damaging our planet and that the climate is changing. Floods, droughts and natural disasters are happening more often and affecting more people around the world.

We can also see what is possible when people work together to solve problems.

**Our Challenge:** Look out for all the good things that you can see in the world this week. If you see anything that is wrong or unfair, think about what you could do to help to change it.

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## YEAR FOUR RECONCILIATION

We congratulate the Year Four children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last week. They have been preparing for this Sacrament and presented themselves beautifully at the liturgy. Many thanks to the families and to Ms Wrigley, Ms Pearson, Ms Howard and Ms Cicchini for preparing and supporting these children at this special time.

A big thank you to our Parish Priest Fr. Jorge and many thanks also to Frs. Eladio, Eugene, Ed, Jim, and Abraham for giving up their time to join us.

We look forward now to joining these children as they receive their First Eucharist in June. Please keep them in your prayers.



**Year One Church Visit** Last Friday our Year One children joined with the St Alipius Parish to celebrate Mass for St Patrick's Day. After Mass, Fr Jorge took us around the Church and showed us the altar, the baptismal font, the tabernacle and explained the stories depicted in the stained glass windows. The children had the opportunity to ask lots of great questions and learnt a lot about the Catholic tradition. Many thanks to Fr Jorge and to our fantastic teachers Ms Simpson, Ms McLean and Mr Manzl.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**



Looking forward to our Foundation Parent /Carer Reading Information Workshop that is happening **tonight** at 6pm in the Gymnasium.

## Foundation Parent Reading Information Workshop

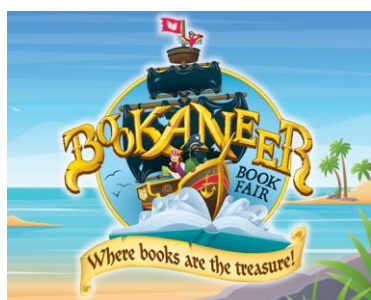
*Supporting Your Child To Read*



**Monday, 20th of March, 2023**

**6:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Location - School Gymnasium**



**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 1<sup>st</sup> May- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May    **Location:** Our school LIBRARY

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

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



**Student - Led Conferences at SFX:** 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 in week 10 of this term on the following dates: Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March.

**Bookings for these conferences will be open on PAM by Wednesday 15th March.**

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 Catholic Primary Schools promote Student Voice. Student – Led Conferences are identified as a significant way of developing Student Voice and all 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.



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

Have a wonderful week.

### Wellbeing News

Friendships are an important part of childhood, but social skills don't come easily to all children. Some children struggle to take turns, play make believe games, share, control their anger or let others have their say. Others may be hesitant to join in, feel socially awkward, hover at the margins of groups or are naturally more introverted- and that's okay because we are all different!

As parents we can't make friends for our child, but we can help them to develop and practice key social skills. This is where some coaching at home can help. Focus on positive behaviours you want to reinforce. Catch your child during family playtime and praise them as this makes them more likely to repeat the desired behaviour ("That was really kind how you took turns playing with the doll, you are being a good friend to your brother")

Supervised play dates might provide you with ways to help your child practice socialising in a warm, supportive environment- you could talk about being a good host, what games they might like to play, checking if their friend is still enjoying the activity and negotiating what to do next.

Joining a team or club are also a good way to make friends as they provide a shared area of interest and built-in structures to help minimise anxiety- you might like to role play what they could say when they arrive or how to introduce themselves.

Please find attached to this newsletter further strategies to assist you in supporting your child to be a good friend.

As a parent you are modelling good social behaviour in all your interactions.

You can use these natural opportunities to highlight kind and respectful ways to behave in the conversations you have with family, friends, online, to your wait staff, shop assistants and customer service representatives- little eyes are always watching and learning from us!

Adult friendships are important too so don't forget our P&F Mix and Mingle this Friday night!

What a great opportunity to make some new connections and friendships!

I look forward to meeting some of you there!

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

## Sport/Physical Education News

**Cross Country** Over the past couple of weeks, Mr Down in his PE lessons has been conducting fitness testing. This information along with the trials for the Athletics Day 800m event will form the bases for selection for the SFX Cross Country squad. We look forward to announcing the squad very soon.

### After School Sporting Schools program

This week our after school Sporting Schools program continues.

The remaining Monday (Volleyball) sessions are:

- Monday Mar 20 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) - Monday Mar 27 (3:30pm - 4:30pm)

The remaining Thursday (Basketball) sessions are:

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

SCAN HERE AND BUY NOW



7pm start  
\$30 a ticket

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

**PURCHASE NOW through the Flexischools App**

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## 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023
2. Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023
3. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023
4. Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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

5. Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

19 March 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

*The Lord is my shepherd*

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-east/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarat-east/)

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30 AM  
Stations of the cross after Friday mass  
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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Counting team 1 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:

**Anniversaries:** Anne Bernadette  
Cheeseman, Carmel Doherty,  
Molly Forbes

**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](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

**Funeral Ministry**  
Carmel Flynn  
[stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com](mailto:stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com)



## SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION

In preparation for Easter, you are invited to gather at St Alipius on Monday 20 March at 6:00 PM, for the second rite of reconciliation. The second form of the sacrament of penance is a communal liturgical celebration that includes listening to the Word of God, followed by a homily, and an examination of conscience. Individual confession and absolution take place with people approaching a priest one at a time and privately confessing their sins. Penitents can be seen but not heard by others who are present. The second rite respects the privacy of each penitent within the communal nature of the sacrament.

## FR JORGE'S ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD – CATERING

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 in a position 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation</b> 6.00 PM, Monday 20 March, St Alipius
<b>Parish Pastoral Council meeting</b> 6.30 PM, Thursday 23 March
<b>Liturgy Committee meeting</b> 5.30 PM, Tuesday 28 March, Presbytery
<b>Fr Jorge's Silver Jubilee celebrations</b> Saturday 15 April

## 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.

## EASTER MINISTRIES

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.

## RCIA – INTRODUCING MICHAEL

Michael is excited to be undertaking his Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Born and raised in Ballarat where he attended primary school at St Francis Xavier and high school at St Patrick's College, Michael attended university as a mature-aged student at the age of 30 to study for a Bachelor of Education. In 2017 he started his first full-time teaching job at St Alipius Primary School where he spent 4 years before taking a job at St Francis Xavier Primary School, where he teaches Year 6s. Michael is a proud husband to Nicole and has a 2-year-old named Layla. They will welcome a second child in May. Michael's interests are music, running and AFL. We look forward to Michael becoming fully initiated in the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil on Saturday 8

## 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!

## VINNIES BREAD RUN

Vinnies volunteers provide bread to those in need each Monday between 7.30 and 8.00 PM. If this would benefit you or someone you know please visit the hall during this time. Please bring a bag to put the bread in.

## 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.

### BAPTISMS

#### Sienna Mae Flood

Child of Brian Flood and Sarah Van Egmond

#### Billy Lukas Webster

Child of Lukas and Erin Webster

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

Pope Francis

## PARISH PROTOCOLS

As a parish, we are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment to encourage everyone to be involved and share their talents. We have several protocols in place to enable this and share some of these here to raise awareness. Please remember that anything that happens in our parish reflects all those who call our parish home and therefore any event that is organised must be authorised through the parish office. Such authorisation is also required in regard to items for the weekly notice sheet and notices put up in the church foyers. We ask that people do not advertise or share material that relates to the church without first speaking to Fr Jorge or a member of the parish administration team. If you wish to have something said at weekend masses, this must be approved by Fr Jorge in the week prior to mass. We ask that people respect these protocols as they are designed to ensure that our parish is inclusive, and we encourage you to call the parish office if you have any questions or concerns.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Collection basket – **\$1,628**

*Presbytery and priest support.*

Envelopes, credit cards and direct debits – **\$433.20**

*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](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## BALLARAT EAST COMMUNITY DAY AT ST ALIPIUS PRIMARY

Stalls, music food and fun. Be a part of the festivities on Sunday 2 April between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at St Alipius Primary School grounds, 106 – 108 Victoria St.

## MASS OF THE OILS

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils on Monday 3 April at 6:30 PM at St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, aided by Caritas Australia, supports young women in the community with practical support like housing and helps mentor the next generation of young people. They provide advocacy, counselling services and links to government departments. With your support, Baabayn can continue to work with young mothers and help them keep their culture strong for future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

## SLAVERY FREE CHOCOLATE

Easter chocolate is already on supermarket shelves, so let us recommit to buying slavery-free chocolate this year. It is also the right time to tell our families, friends, and communities about the exploitation of children in chocolate production, to encourage them to start buying slavery-free chocolate now – and to keep going after Easter. You can find the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard at [www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate](http://www.beslaveryfree.com/chocolate). The scorecard published in 2022 and updated before Easter, features most of your favourite brands and explains how they rate in several key areas including child labour, payment of a living income and the impact on climate.

## 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. Join 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 and next to Little Lonsdale Street – you'll see a large '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](mailto:info@capsa.org.au).

# Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

*Fourth Sunday of Lent: John 9:1–41*

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness.

In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes.

Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again, they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final

authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins".

This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, and the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In the present global political climate, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength.

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*Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith.*

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In the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the



perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. It seems to me that there is a little bit of each character in every one of us.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1 SAMUEL 16:1, 6–7, 10–13  
EPHESIANS 5:8–14  
JOHN 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

EZEKIEL 37:12–14  
ROMANS 8:8–11  
JOHN 11:1–45

## INSIGHTS

### How to help your child be a good friend



Winnie the Pooh once said that “a day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside,” and my bet is that when he said this, that he wasn’t talking about any friend, he was talking about a *good* friend.

Being a good friend and knowing what a good friend entails is an integral component of friendship. Research says that kids start making meaningful friendships from around the age of four and from that point onwards, friendships will contribute to their wellbeing, learning, confidence and mental health.

But understanding what a good friend is can be tricky, so here are some strategies you can use to help explain what being a good friend means to your child and how they can be one.

#### Defining what it means to be a good friend

While most adults know instinctively what a good friend is, explaining this to kids can be difficult, says Reach Out’s Online Community Coordinator Janine Nelson.

Pinpointing some of those elements of what being a good friend means can be a great way to start.

For example, “being a good friend means including concepts of respect, loyalty, providing support and having fun together”, Nelson explains.

“Good friends typically display behaviours such as being trustworthy, someone who is around for the hard times not just the good times, and someone you can laugh with. Good friends respect your boundaries, and make you feel comfortable being yourself.”

Healthy Harold and the team at Life Education add that “generally, being a good friend involves loyalty, empathy and trust. A good friend would listen, be an upstander instead of a bystander, be forgiving, be patient, and respect your opinion. They are empathetic, and able to put themselves in your situation.”

#### What a good friend is can vary and change

It is also critical for kids to know that a good friend can be different for different people and that what we view as a good friend can change over time and as we grow.

“As kids grow older, it’s important to help them understand that there are many different types of friends and that these relationships can change over time,” says Nelson.

Helping your kids understand that this is normal and that it doesn’t equate to failure, while also supporting them through these changes is important.

## Teach your child friendship values.

Life Education says that helping your kids understand what specific values are associated with friendship is key to understanding what a good friend looks like and how to be one.

"Friendship values include being a loyal friend, accepting differences in a friend, standing up for a friend, being kind and supportive to a friend and including a friend in games," they explain.

## Teach and model the social skills that underpin successful friendships

While knowledge and values are a key underpinning, consolidating these with skills is the next step.

Life Education suggest you "explain to your child that just as they can get better at swimming by practising, they can also get better at making and keeping friends by practising social skills such as smiling and greeting classmates, sharing, cooperating, negotiating, being positive, having an interesting conversation, playing games well (e.g., being a good winner and loser)."

## Praise the good stuff

Provide positive feedback when you observe your child using social skills or values that have the potential to contribute to the development of their friendships. This will help reinforce the values that make a good friend.

## Empower them to find their own solutions

Don't always try to fix every problem that arises, be present and support the children as they try to find a resolution. Create an environment where no questions are off limits so that nothing is too uncomfortable to discuss.

## Friendships in adolescence are different

As your kids grow into teens, friendships often take on a different significance and influence. Reach Out advises some additional strategies for parents with pre-teens and teenagers to use to help support them being a good friend. Work with your teen to set expectations around how they should treat their friends. A reminder of the values of a good friend and the skills that a good friend utilises can be helpful.

Be supportive if your teen comes to you about an issue with one of their friends without necessarily always trying to solve the problem. Listen openly and non-judgmentally without jumping into solution mode can be helpful. Model the behaviours of being a good friend. For example, you could get your teen involved if you are cooking a meal to support a friend and use the opportunity to talk about why that is important to you.

## In closing

Helping your child understand the distinction between being a friend and being a good friend is important but supporting them to become one can be a tricky process. It can vary depending on you, your child/ren, the friendships and over time. Experiment with different strategies and techniques and see what works best for you and your child/ren.



### Shona Hendley

Shona Hendley is a freelance writer and a former secondary school teacher. Her work appears in Kidspot, ABC Everyday, The Guardian, Body + Soul, and News.com.au amongst others. Shona currently lives in regional Victoria with her family, including husband, two daughters, two cats, and three super cheeky goats. You can follow her on [Instagram](#).