



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 17th July 2023
Term 3 Week 2

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311
Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 10th July - Fri 15th Sept

Friday 21st July

12.40pm IMM Assembly

Fri 28th July

School closure day

Friday 4th August

12.40pm 5OH Assembly

Friday 11th August

12.40pm F LH Assembly

Friday 18th August

12.40pm 6MM Assembly

Wednesday 23rd August

Division Basketball

Friday 25th August

Book Week celebrations

Friday 25th August

Ballarat Catholic Primary
Schools Athletics at
Llanberris

Friday 1st September

Fathers' Day celebration

Tuesday 5th September

Division Athletics @
Llanberris

Thursday 7th September

6pm at St Alipius
Year 3 Confirmation

Friday 8th September

12.40pm 1JS Assembly

Mon 11th – Fri 15th Sept

Years 1 & 3 swimming

Term 4 (12 weeks)

Mon 2nd Oct - Wed 20th Dec

Mon 2nd – Fri 6th October

Years 2, 4 & 5 swimming

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

We were fortunate to have some important visitors to our school today. Mr. Tom Sexton, our Director of Education for the Ballarat Diocese met with his leadership team at school as part of their commitment to visiting all schools across the diocese. Thankfully the sun shone and our school was looking at its winter best.

Whenever visitors call in I receive such positive comments about the students and how they interact so pleasantly. We have reason to feel proud that our students can speak respectfully to visitors, welcome them and explain a little about our school and their learning when asked. Such confidence can be established early, as you would know, and grows over time. The characteristics of good communication include looking a person in the eye when speaking, responding to a question with a full sentence reply, using manners and careful listening. These are all taught by you at home from such an early age. Then in school we capitalize on these skills and practice them every day in our classrooms and in the yard. Our children are doing a great job!

As we continue to enjoy some winter sun, I hope that you have a pleasant week. May your interactions with your children be positive and engaging so that you can see the fine young people that your children are, just as we do.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.

News from the Parents & Friends

Our Parents & Friends meeting will be held in the staffroom tomorrow evening at 6.00pm. All welcome.

Assistance Required



We are in desperate need of helpers for our Hot Chocolate Mondays. Our children love to have a hot chocolate and it helps to raise money for our school. Unfortunately, we only have a very small team of people who can help out and we really need more. Another 6-8 names would make all the difference so if you can assist, please let our office staff know and we will pass your details on. With just a few more names on the list we will be able to set up a roster and that will mean that we are not reliant on the same few each week.



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

St Francis Xavier Feast Day
celebrations

Wednesday 6th December

Year 4 Camp

Monday 18th December

9.30am Mass in the Gym

Tuesday 19th December

Last 2023 student day

Lost Property

We seem to have a mountain of lost jumpers and other items of clothing at the moment. If you think that your child's clothing might be in the lost property area, please call in at school and have a look.

Traffic Conditions around our school

I wish to remind everyone at the start of this new term that the management of traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day is always a concern. We are fortunate that there is very little non-school traffic in the mix at these times. If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained. We remind drivers to pull off to the left around the trees where the buses travel and U-turn to return down Fortune Street rather than cross directly across the traffic. (This is illegal!).

Our staff carpark is not to be used as a pathway to either drop your children at school or pick them up. Car spaces are limited and the onsite carpark is for staff cars only. Many thanks for your assistance with these matters.

Please find at the end of this newsletter: Parish Bulletin; Assembly Awards; Parenting Ideas – Use your words Dad.

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday July 16, 2023 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9.

That same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside, where he sat down to teach. The crowd that gathered round him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. He used parables to tell them many things.

"Once there was a man who went out to sow corn. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it burnt the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants. But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants produced corn; some produced 100 grains, others sixty, and others thirty."

And Jesus concluded, "Listen, then, if you have ears!"

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection:

In today's gospel reading which is all about planting seeds, Jesus goes on to explain his parable and exactly what it means. The seed that falls on the path is like those people who hear what Jesus is saying but don't really understand it or listen to it properly.

The seed that falls on the rocks is like the person who hears what Jesus asks of us and starts off really excited about it, but who gives up following him as soon as it is difficult.

The seed that falls in the thorns is like someone who hears what Jesus says but concentrates too much on having the best things, the most money, rather than on being the person Jesus wants us to be. The seed that falls on the rich soil is like someone who hears what Jesus is asking, understands it, and lives their life as he asks them to.

Our Challenge: This week, see if you can be like the seed that falls on the rich soil – listen to what Jesus asks of you, try to understand it and live your life as God calls you to.

A special thank you to Fr Barry Ryan who celebrated our Beginning of Term Mass with us last Friday. The theme of our Mass was the importance of reconciliation in our lives, which fit beautifully with all the work the children had been doing for NAIDOC week. Fr Barry shared stories of when he was living in Papua New Guinea and the wisdom of the elders in caring for our environment. He encouraged us all to be "the body of Christ" and treat others and our world with kindness and respect. Many thanks to all the family members, friends and community members who joined us for our Eucharist- everyone is always welcome here at St Francis Xavier!

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.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News

Term 3 Learning Enhancement

Term 3 has begun with a bang and we are already getting down to our core business of teaching and learning. Term newsletters are coming out which give families an overview of what is being taught in each specific year. Please take time to read these as they are very informative and assist with dates, events and learning. Another great place to visit is your child's Seesaw posts.

This is a 'live' up to date reporting tool which each year level is using. Teachers have assigned at least 3 assessment tasks which will be accompanied by a Learning Intention, Success Criteria, teacher comment and student comment throughout this term. I encourage you to also write a comment that explains to your child what you think of their work and learning. Another wonderful way of showing Home - School connections. Thank you for your support in this area.



NAPLAN reports should be on their way to us very soon. Further information will be coming shortly.



This term we are trialling the "oldie but a goodie" process of Book Club purchasing. Issue 5 catalogues will be sent home this week for you to view and discuss with your children. The process is simple:

Orders from the Issue 5 catalogue close Monday 31st July.

Parents/Carers can order online and pay by credit card.

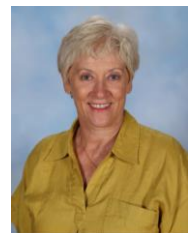
If you order via the school, return the order form to us with cash to the office.

Sue will then place an order for all orders. Sue Shuttleworth has kindly offered her time and energy into this exciting opportunity to keep our children reading and learning. Of course you do not need to purchase anything.

Please go to <https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/book-club/> for further details and to view the catalogue online.

1 CREDIT CARD – Visit scholastic.com.au/LOOP OR download the LOOP app. Your order will be electronically linked to the rest of your school's order. You do not need to complete the order form.	2 CASH – If your school accepts cash payments, please enclose cash with completed order form and return to your school.	3 CREDIT VOUCHER – Please enter details on LOOP or return to your school with your cash order.
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Have a happy week.



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

Wellbeing News

When he was smaller, my son always loved pretend play. When he turned 4 we purchased a dollhouse full of little people, furniture and even a toy pet. His face would light up when we would sit down to play together and we spent many hours telling each other stories and acting them out. One day a neighbour was over visiting and she laughed when she saw the dollhouse- she made a comment that I had a house full of boys, so why did we have a girls toy?

She didn't intend any harm by her comment, but this really got me considering how gender stereotypes can be harmful and there are a lot of them directed at our children.

Saying things like, "that's only for girls/boys," indicates to children that their choices should be predetermined according to their gender and there is shame in expressing themselves freely. Gender expectations limit choices and behaviour. It doesn't matter if the gender expectation is positive or negative, it serves to perpetuate stereotypes and inequality.

This term in our Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program (as part of our Social and Emotional Learning and Personal Development) we will be exploring topics on stress management, help-seeking and gender and identity. You can support our learning at home, by your words and modelling of respectful relationships. The attached Parenting Ideas focuses on ways Dads (but I think parents of all genders) can communicate from their hearts as well as their heads, finding words to support, heal and advise when their children struggle.

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Cross Country

Well done to Archer Spackman and Felicity McGrath who ran last week in the State Cross Country Final in Melbourne. They both ran super well in the very tough conditions and achieved great results.

Afterschool Netball

Thank you to all of those that expressed interest in playing in the after school netball competition in Term 3. Teams have been confirmed and the draw for the first 3 weeks has been sent out.

Sporting Schools

We had an overwhelming response to those wishing to participate in the Term 3 Sporting Schools Program. Please see below a list of the names that will participating this term:

AFL - MONDAY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Monday July 24 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) | - Monday July 31 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) |
| - Monday Aug 7 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) | - Monday Aug 14 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) |
| - Monday Aug 21 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) | - Monday Aug 28 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) |

Ted Answer, Levi Crowe, James & Mitchell Cyples, Cooper Daly, Oliver & Cooper Downs, Jack Fraser, Mia Hamill, Sahesi Kariyawasam, Patrick Lenaghan, Oscar Martin, Harvey Mason, Flynn & Hudson McKay, Byron, Sienna & Orion Morton, Lenny Owins, Lachlan Purtell, Jude & Mabel Reus, Hudson Rowland, Ollie Rumble, Nicholas Taylor, Arlo & Sonny Troon, Alfie Waldron, Connor White, Sam White & Flynn Williams.

BASKETBALL - THURSDAY

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| - Thursday July 27 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) | - Thursday Aug 3 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) |
| - Thursday Aug 10 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) | - Thursday Aug 17 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) |
| - Thursday Aug 24 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) | - Thursday Aug 31 (3:30pm - 4:30pm) |

Edith & Alfie Brennan, Olivia Klein, Lucinda Leonard, Jack Lewis, Maddison Little, Frederick & Audrey Lynch, Cooper & Spencer Manning, Devon, Bailey & Jensen McCartin, Alexander & Riley Ponsonby, Leo & Henry Robb, Ignatius Rush, Harvey & Isabelle Slater, Macklin Smith, Byron & Asha Toohey, Joe & Oscar Trigg, Leighton Troon, Percy & Rupert Veal, Myles & Jessica Youl.

2023 Sports Dates

Term 3:

- Week 5 - Friday August 11th - Interschool Sport v Lumen Christi (Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 - Wednesday Aug 23rd - Division Basketball
- Week 7 - Friday Aug 25th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris
- Week 9 - Tuesday Sep 5th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris

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**

RAP Report - NAIDOC Week at SFX ❤️❤️❤️



Nyurra wurriyn? How do you do?

As a **school**, we hosted our **NAIDOC Week** celebrations throughout the **first week of Term 3**. The RAP Team aspires to **help support our school community to get to know our local Wadawurrung community** and the **Kulin Nation** through a range of activities. We began with a **NAIDOC Week prayer** led by our Year 6 RAP Leaders at Monday morning's Assembly.

Our SFX Prayer for NAIDOC Week

In Wadawurrung the word for **thank you** is **nyatne**.

Our response is **Nyatne**

We give thanks for Wadawurrung Country that we are gathered on today.

Response: **Nyatne**

We give thanks for the Traditional Custodians of this Land who have nurtured and cared for Country for tens of thousands of years.

Response: **Nyatne**

We give thanks for the Resilience of First Nations People and the wonderfully rich culture that has survived and thrived.

Response: **Nyatne**

We give thanks for the Stories and Wisdom passed down through so many generations.

Response: **Nyatne**

We give thanks for the amazing Art and Music that we learn from and enjoy.

Response: **Nyatne**

During NAIDOC Week and always, we give thanks for and pray FOR OUR ELDERS

Response: **Nyatne**

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**



WHAT IS NAIDOC Week?

National **NAIDOC Week** celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about **First Nations cultures** and **histories** and participate in celebrations of the **oldest, continuous living cultures on earth**.

This year's NAIDOC Week theme, **'For Our Elders'** gave us a great opportunity to discover, reflect upon and celebrate the First Nations Elders, who have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities. They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and loved ones.

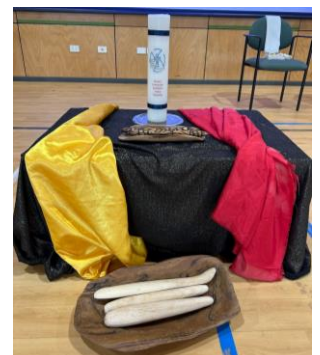
This year's official **'For Our Elders' artwork** was designed by **Bobbi Lockyer**, a proud Ngarluma, Kariyarra, Nyulnyul and Yawuru artist, born and based on Kariyarra Country in Port Hedland, who won the prestigious National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition for 2023 with her entry, For Our Elders.

"Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future." Bobbi Lockyer.



👉 If you would like to find out more about this year's artwork and artist, scan the QR Code to watch a short film about Bobbi's artwork and story.

At our Term 3 Mass on Friday, some of our students carried our precious new **Message Stick** and **clapping sticks** during the Gospel Procession. Traditionally, message sticks were passed between different peoples, language groups and even within clans to make alliances and to manage the movements of people and goods. They were often used to summon neighbouring groups to ceremonies, including mortuary or initiation ceremonies. Clapsticks, also spelt clap sticks and also known as bilma, bimli, clappers, musicstick or just stick, are a traditional Australian



Aboriginal instrument. They serve to maintain rhythm in voice chants, often as part of an Aboriginal ceremony. These beautiful cultural symbols were lovingly crafted and gifted to us by local Aboriginal artist, Robert Watts.



“I was born in Warrnambool and started drawing when I was very young. My art connects me to my culture and I especially enjoy drawing, painting and burning Australian animals onto my designs. I tried carving emu eggs a few years ago, and I now enjoy this medium as well. My art is relaxing for me, and I have successfully taught myself to paint, carve wood, carve eggs, burn onto skins and wood. I have recently started sculpting large tree logs into native animals and have many of my designs within the gardens around the Ballarat & District Aboriginal Cooperative.” Robert Watts.

The Ballarat Courier featured Robert in an article in last Saturday’s paper. It’s a great read, definitely worth checking out. We welcome Robert into our St Francis Xavier School Community, and look forward to sharing more of his creations and culture in the future.

Gobata Take Care



Jacinta Molloy & Sarah Page
RAP Leaders

P&F News



SFX Official School Beanies

Our stylish and warm official SFX school beanies are here!! Available to purchase from the office for \$25 while stocks last, then available from Crocker’s Ballarat.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We currently have a large supply of second-hand items available for purchase. If you would like to check what is in stock and buy, please call into the front office. New items are available to buy from Crockers.

Did you know we pack out over 10,000 hot lunches a year for our little people, make almost 3,000 cups of Hot Chocolate and cut the tops off even more Zooper Doopers!



Now we need YOUR HELP! VOLUNTEERS are the life line of the P&F!

It could be Mothers, Fathers, Aunts, Grandparents, Uncles - even your neighbour, (as long as you have a working with children check) you can help us support our school community!

Sparing 45 minutes even just ONCE throughout the year on a FRIDAY from 11.15am to 12pm packing hot lunches or a MONDAY for hot chocolates 10.30-11.30 would make a massive difference 🙏

If you have ever wondered what we do and a little unsure how you could help, feel free to get in touch with the P&F.

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▶ **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

16 July 2023

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Listen anyone who has ears!

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Thurs 10 AM Mary Moran funeral mass

Fri 9.30 AM in the Parish Hall

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 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: Mary Moran,
John Kerrins

Anniversaries: Jason Luke Duck
OMI, Peter Michael Saunders

Unwell: Peter McLachlan, Sarah
McLachlan, Maureen Santamaria,
Carole Simmons, Shelley Pawang

*Our parish is committed to all
children, young people, and
vulnerable adults' safety, well-
being, and dignity.*

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



Parish Priest
Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

Visiting Priest
Fr Barry Ryan

Sacramental and Parish
Coordinator
Cathy Prunty

Administrative Assistant
Natalie Shannon

Parish Pastoral Council
Chair
David Morrison

Finance Officer
Bernadette Prestwood

Finance Chair
Paul O'Beime

Child Safety Officer
Emily Clarke

Liturgy Coordination
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Funeral Ministry
Carmel Flynn
stalipiusfuneral@gmail.com



PARISH MASTER PLAN

The Parish Finance Committee is embarking on a process to establish a parish master plan to maximise the potential of our buildings and land. By generating income through these assets, we can better support the upkeep of our churches, our various ministries, programs, and ongoing pastoral initiatives, thereby serving our community more effectively.

We seek your insights, suggestions, and creative ideas. Together, we can envision new possibilities and identify sustainable income streams that align with the mission and vision of our parish. If you have expertise in real estate, business, or finance or simply possess a passion for our parish's wellbeing, your input is invaluable.

Please join us after the 10:30 AM masses on 16 July at St Peter's & Paul's and 23 July at St Alipius to discuss the parish's asset holdings and ideas for their future use.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Master Plan Discussions
After 10:30 AM masses on 16 July at Ss Peter and Paul's and 23 July at St Alipius

Parish Trivia Night
7:00 PM, Friday 4 August, St Alipius Hall

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Tables are selling out for the Parish Trivia Night to be held at the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM on Friday 4 August. Tickets are \$10 per person with tables of up to 8 people. BYO nibbles and drinks, with tea and coffee supplied. Please contact the office if you can help with donating prizes. A raffle will be held on the night with some great prizes up for grabs.

VIGIL FOR REFUGEES

Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) Ballarat has organised a vigil to be held between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM on Wednesday 19 July at Catherine King MP's office, 5 Lydiard Street North, followed by vigil at Queen Victoria Square, opposite the Town Hall. The Town Hall's Alfred Memorial Bells will ring 10 times at 12 noon in recognition of the 10 years of trauma that refugees have endured. The action is to let the Albanese Government know it's time to end the suffering. More info is available at: <https://aran.net.au>, email: rarballarat@gmail.com or call Margaret on 0402 498 644.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal will focus on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Appeal envelopes are located at the ends of the pews. People wishing to support the work of SVdP through our local conference can place their donation in an envelope and return it via the collection plate. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made at www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal, at Vinnies shops, or by calling 13 18 12.

DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT

Our Parish Vision Statement is printed on the front of this notice sheet. At our most recent Parish Pastoral Council meeting, the following Mission Statement was drafted:

Our mission at the Parish of St. Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel. Rooted in the spirit of faith, hope, love, acceptance, and Mercy, we strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. Guided by God's call to service, we aim to build strong connections, provide spiritual nourishment, promote social justice, and offer support to individuals and families in their journey of faith. Through our dedicated interactions, we seek to deepen our relationship with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.

We invite and encourage all parishioners to consider the contents of the Mission statement and welcome your feedback.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated.

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,024
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$428.20

Planned giving envelopes for the new financial year are available for collection at the back of the churches. Thanks to all who participate in the stewardship program for your contributions. We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

VINNIES BREAD RUN

Each Monday night between 7:00 and 7:30 PM, Vinnies volunteers can be found in the St. Alipius Church Hall providing bread for those in need. If this would benefit you, or someone you know please call into the hall and bring a bag to put the bread in.

NEW PARISH

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on 1 July. The newly established Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia comprises the territory that belonged to the parishes of Merbein (est. 1965), Mildura (est. 1906) and Red Cliffs (est. 1953). More information is available from www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/parish-of-saints-anne-and-joachim-sunraysia/

BAPTISMS

Ivar Cliff Taguibao
Child of Clifford and Shella Taguibao

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

GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY

"His mercy is from age to age" (Luke 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be held on 23 July. The day is marked near the Feast of Ss. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Resources to celebrate this day are available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly-sunday-july-23-2023/

PIETY STALL

During a recent stocktake, many slow-to-move articles were identified. These have been placed on tables near the piety stall and are either free or \$2 each.

MMHC OPEN DAY

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne are holding an open day on Saturday 29 July from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, with tours running on the hour. For information and bookings, visit www.mmhc.org.au/open-house-melbourne-at-mmhc/

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

Read about news and events of the diocese in the latest edition of e-News www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

A fundraising concert titled "Bold as Brass" featuring 36 musicians from Eureka Brass is to be held at the Ballarat Central Uniting Church, 103 Lydiard Street South, at 2:30 PM on Sunday 30 July. Tickets for adults are \$15, with children 15 and under free. Sponsored by the Little Cupcake shop, part of the proceeds will go to Sleepbus® who provide safe, temporary overnight accommodation, for the most vulnerable. Tickets are available from: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bold-as-brass-featuring-eureka-brass-tickets-590759065267?aff=ehometext>

PRAYING WITH THE POPE

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – www.thepopevideo.org.

The Pope's intention for July – for a Eucharistic life: We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and be opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL

CatholicCare Victoria helps individuals, families and communities access the care and support they need when they need it most. They believe that everyone deserves the safety and comfort a home can provide. This winter, you can support people who need a home. www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/16/winter-appeal

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

On Tuesday, 20 June, the Secretariat of the Synod published the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, for the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – commonly referred to as the Synod on Synodality. Read more at the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/

Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 13:1–23

During the recent pandemic, we necessarily distanced ourselves from others. Some of us focussed on the natural world so that our sensitivities sharpened, and our planetary awareness heightened. We became more attuned to the complexity of nature and its rhythms. We observed the diverse feeding habits of the birds in the backyard, for instance, and their communication patterns. There was new and renewed interest in gardening, in the growing of vegetables and fruit in pots or in built-up garden beds. Such changes in lifestyle conditioned us to use our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as today's gospel invites us to do. Jesus' directive, "Let anyone with ears listen", is a reminder that we do have ears and that we do not always hear, that we do have eyes and do not always see. Ann Lewin's words come to mind:

*"Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,
You have been prepared
But when you've almost stopped
Expecting it, a flash of brightness
Gives encouragement."*

(Watching for the Kingfisher, 2011).

To what sort of being, of looking and listening does today's gospel call us? The parable of the soil, of the seed, of the birds and the thorns, of the sun and the sower alerts us to Jesus' deep sense of connection with life in its multiple forms. It calls us to examine our connection with the natural world.

Let anyone with ears listen

For a long time, we have focussed on the human character in the parable, a character who evokes an agricultural world that is far removed from our post-industrial world, but not so far removed from the world of millions of people in our planetary home who live close to the soil and to earth's elements and who struggle to produce the food they need to stay alive. Is the Matthean Jesus presenting in the sower an image of an estate owner, or a tenant farmer or even a slave? Or is the reader being asked to imagine the sower, whether estate owner, tenant farmer or slave, as an image of an extraordinarily generous God whose life-sustaining gifts are there for all, no matter their readiness to



receive? It may not be one or the other but both.

What of the silty clay loam or red sandy soil, of the wheat or barley seed, of the birds and the thorns and the sun? We know that barley was domesticated some ten thousand years ago in what became bible lands and that these lands are also the original home of the finest bread-making wheat. The birds and the thorns and the sun are for another reflection. We bring our experience of looking and listening and being into dialogue with the parable and search out its meaning for us. We trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest if we but learn to look and to listen to the needs of a planet in peril.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISAIAH 55:10–11
ROMANS 8:18–23
MATTHEW 13:1–23

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WISDOM 12:13,16–19
ROMANS 8:26–27
MATTHEW 13:24–30

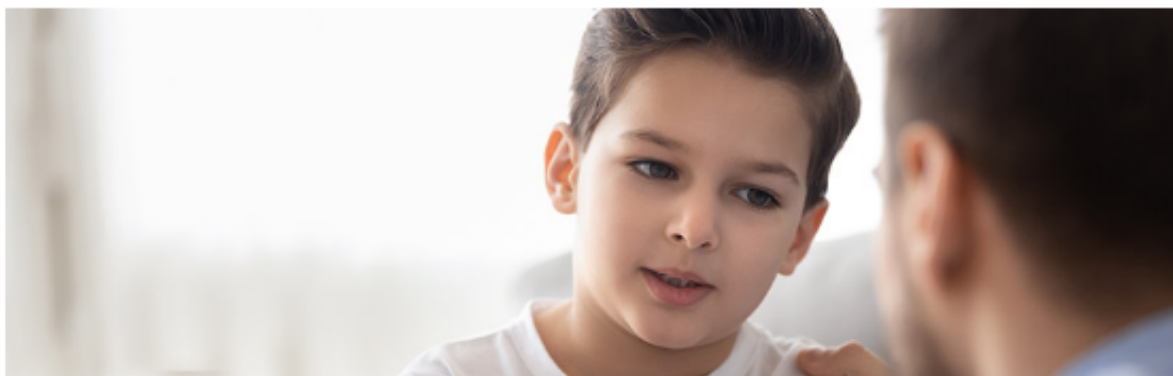
ASSEMBLY AWARDS 14th July 2023 Hosted by 2EH Theme: Excellence

Excellence means being the best person we can be.
We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

F LH	Evy Faull & Harry Toohey
F TW	Connor Allen & Ruby Miles
F GJ	Howard Latchford & Birdie Toohey
F MM	Tom Stanley & Odie Brooks
1 JS	Angus and Ollie G
1 MM	Toby Skrokov & Devon McCartin
1 EM	Louie Evans and Bryn Glab
2 EH	Maya Skewes and Oliver Downes
2 CJ	Connor White and Maddison Little
2 GH	Hudson Ryan and Lawrence Wilson
3 NM	Ella Crumpton and Milla Richardson
3 JVG	Minka Henjak and Jet Rivett
3 GW	Sienna Morton and Minti Toohey
4 BW	Leni Brown & Amelia Sordello
4 HC	Hamish Lloyd and Bailey McCartin
4 CP	Haddie Morley and Maeve Waldron
5 JF	Archer Spackman & Ivy Bromley
5 OH	Emily Hanrahan & Jack Lewis
5 CC	Lyla Deturt and Lottie Rush
6 PB	Sebastian Green and Jasper Patterson
6 MM	Toby Watson and India Skewes
6 ZA	Will Brown-Kenyon & Tayla Hiscock
Environmental Education	Cooper Roberts, 1JS , for being an excellent 'custodian' when he found the gorgeous Southern Brown Tree Frog that visited our schoolyard on Tuesday morning, making sure others knew and stood back whilst it hopped off the path to safety. 🐸🐸🐸
Performing Arts	George Britt for persistence and focus whilst learning the guitar
Physical Education	Maya Skewes & Ben Walshe - they are always attentive listeners and try their best because they want to learn, improve and be the best they can be.

INSIGHTS

Use your words Dad



Seven-year-old Thomas lay crying on his bed wrapped in the arms of his father. Thomas was upset and his dad was trying to find out what was bothering his son. His voice was quiet, and his words were soothing.

Gradually, Thomas opened up, sharing with his father how his best friend had embarrassed him in front of others at school. Unable to articulate his disappointment and anger, Thomas's father did so for him. "I guess you feel let down. I'd be really mad too if that happened to me."

Thomas let out a sigh, relaxing even more into his father's embrace knowing he understood how he felt. Empathy has a soothing effect on upset children.

Popular parenting author Steve Biddulph is correct when he wrote that activity is the main language of fathering. Dads use physical touch and play to build relationships and as a tool to develop self-control, teamwork, fairness, and other values.

However, if activity is the only way a man relates to his children, his impact will be limited. As Thomas's father discovered, physical touch may provide an entry point but it's through talking that we get to the heart of matters that bother children and young people.

Anecdotally, talking with kids about their worries and anxieties is still largely a mother's preserve. Sexuality educators report that mothers do most of the talking when it comes to sexuality, respectful relationships, and consent.

Talking through personal problems with a son or daughter is a new role for many men, especially for a generation whose fathers stoically advised them 'get on with it' when problems emerged. Many males feel more comfortable giving advice rather than solace to kids who are struggling.

The most effective parents are those who adapt to the times in which they live. The COVID-19 era requires parents to be even more patient, calm and focused on children's wellbeing. Parents of both genders need to communicate from their hearts as well as their heads, finding words to support and heal, as well as to advise when children and young people struggle.



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.