



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
Term 3 Week 3

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

Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> July - Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### Fri 28<sup>th</sup> July

School closure day

#### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August

12.40pm 50H Assembly

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

12.40pm F LH Assembly

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

12.40pm 5JF Assembly

#### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Division Basketball

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

Book Week celebrations

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

Ballarat Catholic Primary  
Schools Athletics at  
Llanberris

#### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

Student Led Conferences

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

Fathers' Day celebration

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Division Athletics @  
Llanberris

Student Led Conferences

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

6pm at St Alipius  
Year 3 Confirmation

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

12.40pm 1JS Assembly

#### Mon 11<sup>th</sup> – Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

Years 1 & 3 swimming

### Term 4 (12 weeks)

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fri 6<sup>th</sup> October

Years 2, 4 & 5 swimming

#### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am Mass at St Alipius

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

12.40pm 6MM Assembly

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

Grandparents' Day

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

12.40pm 2CJ Assembly

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

12.40pm F MM Assembly

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

It has been a busy start to the term. As we commence week three we are thinking of our many school friends, staff and families who are battling illness at the moment. I am aware that among other things, the winter bugs have begun to make themselves known as our children struggle to keep fit and well when the weather outside doesn't engender a sense of excitement for the great outdoors. Let's all be kind to each other and look out for how we might be able to help a friend in need.

I was reminded of the need to be present to others yesterday when I listened to the gospel reading at Mass. Over recent weeks we have been hearing of the parables in Matthew's Gospel which try to set for us some kind of understanding of what the kingdom of heaven might be like. Sometimes I think the more we hear, the more confusing things can be! Perhaps one overall message I have heard in the various readings is that the scriptural understanding of Heaven has to do with acceptance, welcome, love and peace. One reflection that I will carry with me this week is that whatever we might think about eternity, our challenge might be to create a sense of welcome and acceptance for those we encounter each day. Perhaps through my words and deeds I might be able to make someone's day brighter, thereby allowing them to do the same for others too. In this way, we might be building and celebrating the reign of God together, here on earth.

This is a fair challenge for me and I know that I won't always succeed. I also know that through my actions I can plant seeds which just might bear fruit in time with the children in our care. It's a work in progress and we can only do our best.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.

### Time to trim the roses

Rick, our good friend and maintenance man is unwell at the moment. While he can't be at school we are relying on the help of friends to keep up the high standard of our grounds and garden spaces. Last week Krystina called in to prune the roses for us so that we will have happy and healthy plants in the spring. Thanks Krystina for helping us out!



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November**  
12.40pm 4CP Assembly

**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

St Francis Xavier Feast Day  
celebrations

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
Year 4 Camp

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
9.30am Mass in the Gym

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
Last 2023 student day



### Vinnies Winter Appeal

What a super effort in collecting donations and money for St. Vincent's Winter Appeal! Our students managed to fill several boxes with donations to assist those in need as well as raising \$580.00 through our casual clothes day at the end of last term. We set ourselves the challenge of \$500 and we exceeded our expectations. Well done everyone!

*To all the wonderful and generous pupils, staff and parents at St. Francis Xavier primary school. On behalf of the Ballarat assistance centre I would like to express our gratitude to everyone who organised and participated in the fundraiser for Vinnies. Your donation of toiletries and money will be put to good use in our work to assist people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. May God bless each and every one of you.*

*Kind regards, Elizabeth and Mary from Vinnies Ballarat*

### School Closure Day

A reminder that our school will be closed for staff professional development on Friday. We will be gathering with the staff from St. Patrick's school in Stawell to continue our work on Structured Literacy with staff from the Catholic Education Office, Ballarat. We hope that our children can enjoy a winter long weekend.

### Thank you Volunteers!

Last week I mentioned the importance of volunteers to help keep our hot lunches and hot chocolates running this term. Thanks to your generous support we have filled the rosters for this week. Sometimes the most challenging aspect of volunteering to assist at school is not knowing what to expect when you turn up. Please know that you are welcome and that new friends are waiting to support you in helping our school. Together we can achieve so much!

**COW PAD LOTTO  
FAMILY FUN DAY**

Talbot Football Netball Club

Date  
**AUGUST 6TH**  
SUNDAY  
**12:00-17:00**

Jumping Castle | Face Painting  
Live Music | Silent Auctions  
BBQ Lunch | Fun + Games

1ST PRIZE - \$1,500  
2ND PRIZE - \$500  
TICKETS \$30 EACH

Proceeds go to Maddisyn Carroll and the  
Carroll family to support their fight  
against Friedreich's ataxia

www.eventbrite.com for digital tickets  
www.fara.org.au for information on Friedreich's ataxia

**Please find at the end of this newsletter:** Parish Bulletin; Assembly Awards; 2023 Non-Government Schools Census collection notice; Structured Literacy handouts; Parenting Ideas – What to do when life feels overwhelming.

Please find to the left a flier advertising the fundraiser Talbot Football Netball Club is having on 6th August to support Maddisyn Carroll and her family as they battle the rare degenerative neuromuscular disease, Friedreich's Ataxia. Maddisyn is the daughter of our LSO Shaun. It would be great if you and your family could come on the day to show support. There are lots of fun activities happening including live music, auctions and kids activities. There is a link to buy tickets at the bottom of the flier, please type 'Talbot' into Eventbrite to find them. Tickets can be purchased without attending on the day. They are also welcoming any donations for raffles if this is something you are interested in.

For more information on Friedreich's Ataxia visit

[www.fara.org.au](http://www.fara.org.au)

Thank you.

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday July 23 , 2023     Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**Gospel:** *Matthew 13:24-30.*

Jesus told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man sowed good seed in his field. One night, when everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the plants grew and the ears of corn began to form, then the weeds showed up. The man's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, it was good seed you sowed in your field; where did the weeds come from?' 'It was some enemy who did this,' he answered. 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' they asked him. 'No,' he answered, 'because as you gather the weeds you might pull up some of the wheat along with them. Let the wheat and the weeds both grow together until harvest. Then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn.'" *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:**

Jesus was a great teacher and taught people by telling stories. Stories kept the people interested in what he had to say and helped them to reflect upon and understand things that are complicated. Jesus tells a parable – a special story - about the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus didn't say exactly what God's Kingdom is like, or exactly what it is he wants us to do- he wanted people to think, be challenged and learn.

Who explains things to you when you don't understand? Who do you learn from?

We learn from all sorts of people – teachers, friends, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, cousins and more! Learning helps us to find out more about the world that we live in and to understand how we can work together to make it a better place. Let us try to learn more about Jesus and how he asks us to treat others.

**Our challenge:** This week, let's give thanks to God for all the people we learn from. Let's try to listen carefully to our teachers and our grown ups at home.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News

**School Closure Friday 28th July**

This coming Friday our school is closed for the children as we have a professional learning day on Structured Literacy. We welcome the staff from St Patrick's Stawell who will be with us on Friday. The day will be led by Emma Rutherford from Catholic Education Ballarat, Education Officer: Project Lead Structured Literacy and Breanna Wade Education Officer: Learning and Teaching (Primary). We will also be welcoming Julie Cooper Education Officer: Learning and Teaching (Primary) from Catholic Education Ballarat who will be journeying with us along the Structured Literacy path. At the end of this newsletter are two handouts which may give families a little more information about Structured Literacy.

**In brief:**

Structured Literacy is an approach to literacy instruction that applies a systematic, cumulative, explicit and diagnostic methodology to the teaching of phonology, sound symbol, syllables, morphology, syntax and semantics.

Jayne Mohr, Learning Diversity, Emma Hancock, Junior Literacy Leader and myself are heading up to Mildura for a couple of days this week to attend a 'Come and See Week' at St Paul's Catholic Primary School Mildura. St Paul's is one the founding schools of the SunLit project. We are looking forward to seeing Structured Literacy in action in all classes (F-6) and coming back to school and sharing our learnings with the staff.

## Book Week 2023 (19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August)



### **Book Week Theme: READ, GROW, INSPIRE**

Classes will be taking part in this event throughout the week and we will have Book Reading in the library every day and culminate with Book Week dress up day on Friday 25th August. (Clark the Shark may have to make another appearance on this day!! )

Enjoy your week!



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

## Wellbeing News

We talk about our and prioritise our child's wellbeing, but sometimes as parents we neglect our own wellbeing. Taking time for yourself is not selfish- everyone needs space to unwind and relax. We've all heard the saying "you can't pour from an empty cup!"

It can be difficult to balance the many demands of work, school and parenting but engaging in self-care has been clinically proven to reduce anxiety and depression, reduce stress, improve concentration, minimise frustration, increase happiness and improve energy levels.

Looking after yourself involves looking after your relationships, your health and your wellbeing.

Self-care is a great way for caregivers to ensure their own needs are being met; and because self-care and mental health are connected, neglecting one can have a negative impact on the other. Self-care looks different to everyone and it's important to experiment and work out which strategies work best for you. Factoring in regular time or activities for yourself will allow you to enjoy the good moments in life more and find strength during difficult times. Looking after yourself physically, emotionally and mentally will in turn help your child to grow and thrive.

In the attached article, Turia Pitt focuses upon how we can cope better when life feels overwhelming. If you, or someone you know is struggling with their mental health, reach out to a trusted friend, your GP or call support services such as Lifeline or Beyond Blue. As we tell the children in our Protective Behaviour Lessons, there is nothing so awful that we can't talk about it so reach out for help if you need it!

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

### 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 Cycles, Cooper Daly, Oliver & Cooper Downs, Jack Fraser, 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, Charlie & Hudson Ryan, Nicholas Taylor, Arlo & Sonny Troon, Alfie Waldron, Connor & Lachie 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, Lyla & Indi Nestor, 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.***

### Eureka Division Basketball

Thank you to all of the students that attended the tryouts for the Basketball tournament later this term.

Unfortunately we are limited to the number of teams we can enter but our two teams look strong.

Congratulations to the following students that were selected to represent SFX:

*Frankie Hill, Rafter Castles, Jake Cheeseman, Ash Norris, Julian Simpson, Abe Sosinski, Xavier Staley, Jack Fraser, Annabella Chalmers, Mia van Hamond, Felicity McGrath, Evie Knowles, Olivia Green, Ivy Pearce, Lola Roney & Tayla Hiscock*

### 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 great week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator



### Silver Coin Challenge

Students are invited to bring in as many silver coins as they can to place into a piggy bank in their classroom.

The class from each year level with the highest total, will be treated to Carboni's pizza later this term!

The challenge will run from July 21st until August 4th.



### 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!

Spring 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.



▶ **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

23 July 2023

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Let them grow together until harvest*

# St Alipius parish

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

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

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Wed and Fri 9.30 AM in the Parish Hall  
Saturday 9.30 AM, 6.00 PM  
Sunday 9.00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)  
10.30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

### Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
10:30 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

### Mass and prayer resources

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

Counting team 6 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:** Beth Flynn,  
Mary Moran, Tony Corcoran

**Anniversaries:** Rohan Cosgriff

**Unwell:** Peter McLachlan, Sarah  
McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon,  
Maureen Santamaria, Carole  
Simmons, Shelley Pawang, Colin  
McKenzie

*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.*



St Alipius  
Parish Community

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

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



## PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Tables are selling fast 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, so please join us for a fun night.

## 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 our churches' upkeep, 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. Your input is invaluable if you have real estate, business, or finance expertise or simply possess a passion for our parish's wellbeing.

Please join us after the 10:30 AM masses on 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 mass on 23 July at St Alipius

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

## 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](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal), at Vinnies shops, or by calling 13 18 12.

## 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/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-for-grandparents-and-the-elderly-sunday-july-23-2023/)

## 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 positively impact 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	\$1,047
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$464.20

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.



## 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>

## BAPTISMS

Harriett Anne, Imogen May, and Matilda Dan  
Curtain  
Children of Simon and Brittany Curtain

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

## 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.

## TOILETRIES COLLECTION

Our local Vinnies are collecting toiletries for people in need. Please donate soap, toothpaste, or other toiletries, in the box on the Vinnies stall. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.

## PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of very affordable cards and gifts for sale including some runout items on tables near the piety stall that are either free or \$2 each.

## 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/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/parish-of-saints-anne-and-joachim-sunraysia/)

## MARY MACKILLOP OPEN DAY

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne is 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/](http://www.mmhc.org.au/open-house-melbourne-at-mmhc/)

## MARY MACKILLOP GRANTS

Applications will soon open for the Mary MacKillop Today (MMT) Community Grants 2024. Schools and community groups with a project that helps people may apply for a grant of up to \$10,000. Applications open Monday, 14 August. Apply at [www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/grants/how-to-apply/](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/grants/how-to-apply/)

## 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](http://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 open to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

## WOMEN DEACONS WEBINAR

ACU Centre for Liturgy is presenting an online public lecture titled, "Women Deacons and the Synod: What Happens Now?" on Monday, 7 August from 10.00 AM – 11.30 AM presented by Dr Phyllis Zagano, Hofstra University, New York. Registrations close on 4 August at [www.acu.edu.au/publiclectureCfl](http://www.acu.edu.au/publiclectureCfl). The Zoom link to join will be sent following registration. More information is available from <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/news-events-and-resources>

## RESILIENCE WEBINAR

A free NCLS Research Webinar titled "Thriving and Resilient Leadership" will be held on Wednesday, 2 August 2, at 7.30 PM and will explore the latest findings and reflections on how Australian church leaders are coping and what factors contribute to their resilience. Findings are based on the results from the 2021–22 NCLS Leader Survey by NCLS Research. Tickets are available at <https://events.humanitix.com/ncls-thriving-and-resilient-leadership>.

# Reflection on the Gospel

Veronica Lawson RSM

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 13:24–30

Experienced gardeners or farmers or bakers might take issue with Jesus' choice of images for God's empire or kin-dom of the heavens. They may be singularly unimpressed by the methods of the farmer-gardener-God presented in today's gospel reading. An "enemy" planting weeds "all through the crop" is no surprise to readers familiar with the earlier part of this parable chapter, although the landowner's decision to leave the weeds to endanger the wheat crop seems none too smart. Mustard, known for its propensity to grow wild and threaten the life of every other plant in the garden, makes for an equally strange kin-dom analogy. God's empire imaged as a baker woman taking yeast, a substance considered to be a corrupting influence in the first-century Jewish world, and mixing it into twenty kilos of wheat flour, stretches the imagination in other directions.

These images cut across the readers' expectations quite dramatically. What might they be telling us about God's kin-dom of the skies? In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, there is a movement from small to

great that communicates something about the power of God to bring abundance of life from the most inauspicious beginnings. They do not seem to fit with the parable of the wheat and the weeds until we look a little more closely. The element of danger to the life of the whole is common to all three parables. Maybe Matthew's Jesus is telling us that God is a God of risk who does not intervene but allows the weeds and endangering herbs to "infect" God's field. Harvest season will be time enough to divide the wheat from the weeds, the life-giving from the infectious. In the meantime, the good seed must take hold. The good will finally outweigh the evil. That is small comfort, of course, to those who suffer at the hands of evildoers.

---

*The good will finally outweigh the evil*

---

In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, Jesus seems to be telling his hearers that their idea of infection or danger is different from his. At one level, he engages the more-than-human and



talks about respect for the complexity of ecosystems. At another, he is talking about societal inclusion: the people that many consider unclean or sinful or demon-possessed are not to be displaced from God's field or God's table. On the contrary, they may be the very ones who season the life of the whole. Life is messy after all, and God is in the mess. It is worth noting that the leaven parable offers one of the few occasions in the gospel where God is imaged as female. While we know that God is neither male nor female, most of us have been conditioned to use only male images for God. The parable of the woman kneading dough validates the potential of female experience to reflect the life and activity of God in our world.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WISDOM 12:13, 16–19

ROMANS 8:26–27

MATTHEW 13:24–30

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 KINGS 3:5, 7–12

ROMANS 8:28–30

MATTHEW 13:44–46

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 Hosted by 1MM Theme: Compassion**

Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering.

We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

F LH	Meredith Bodnar & Charlie Ryan
F TW	Harvey Mason & Tilly Vanlagevelde
F GJ	Alfie Brennan and Penny Carrick
F MM	Harriet Howard & Marli Wilson
1 JS	Ollie Rumble and Fletcher Hipke
1 MM	Jude Reus & Charlie Irving
1 EM	Harrison Madigan and Damilare Baruwa
2 EH	Milla Kingston and Milla Rowland
2 CJ	Pippa Gleeson and Leo Robb
2 GH	Sophie Knowles and Willow Prato
3 NM	James Bosworth and Jackson Roberts
3 JV	Alexis Toohey and Bridie Millington
3 GW	Hannah Firth and Noah Rice
4 BW	Jed Hynes & Alexander Ponsonby
4 HC	Ava Nicholson and Riley Ponsonby
4 CP	Tom Kierce and Mila Knowles
5 JF	Noah Sheehan & Hannah Smith
5 OH	Laine Anwyl and Henry Warr
5 CC	Milla Alford and Mylo Robertson
6 PB	Sophie and Harriet
6 MM	Xavier Staley and Evie Knowles
6 ZA	Jack Fraser & Lucy Kierce
Performing Arts	Mannix Tracey for sharing the instruments so considerately
Visual Arts	Spencer Manning and Billy Toohey (FTW)



# 2023 Non-Government Schools Census collection notice

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to advise all staff, parents and guardians that it will collect certain information about your school, its staff and student body as part of the 2023 Non-Government School Census collection (the Census).

## How and what information is collected for the Census?

Census information is provided to the department by your school legal entity (the approved authority) via the [SchoolsHUB website](#).

The Census provides information about your school and the number and characteristics of the school's staff and student body during a specific reference period. Characteristics collected through the Census include:

- teaching and non-teaching staff
- students' year level and workload
- students' gender and age (as on 1 July 2023)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students
- students with disability
- students receiving distance education
- boarding and overseas students.

The names of students and staff are not collected, apart from the name, position and contact details of the staff member nominated as the primary contact for the Census.

## Census special circumstances applications

Census special circumstances applications may also be made by schools to include a student/s who did not attend during the Census reference period but otherwise meets Census eligibility requirements. Schools will provide the department with information and documents about the student demonstrating their eligibility. The department does not require personal information about a student and asks schools to de-identify any documents before providing them.

## Purpose of the Census collection

The information provided during the Census is collected by the department in accordance with the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) and the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (the Regulation). The Act and the Regulation require the legal entity responsible for the administration of the school (the approved authority) to provide this information to the department to:

- Ensure the provision of Australian Government funding to schools is properly calculated and appropriately managed.
- Conduct research, statistical analysis and develop school education policy for the Australian Government.
- Meet national and international reporting obligations on school students in Australia.
- Publish and provide information about schools to the public.

## Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act).

Personal information is information or an opinion about an identified individual or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with the Privacy Act, the Act and Regulation and any other applicable laws.

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

- Used or disclosed by the department for the purposes outlined above under the heading Purposes of the Census collection.
- Disclosed to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to publish on the [My School](#) website and include as high-level data for ACARA's National Report on Schooling in Australia.
- Disclosed to state and territory government departments and authorities in accordance with the Act and Regulation.
- Disclosed to Australian Government departments and authorities in accordance with the Act and Regulation.
- Disclosed to non-government school representative bodies in accordance with the Act and Regulation.
- Disclosed to a contracted auditor where the department decides to audit or verify the information provided by an approved authority about a school. The contracted auditor may use previously collected information or request access to individual student records for comparison purposes. The contractors may pass this information onto officers within the department, if there is a discrepancy in the data provided by the school and the school's records and further investigation is required. The contracted auditor must handle personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act.
- Disclosed to its service providers for the purposes of the provision of information and communications technology support services to the department.
- Used to validate data from other collections undertaken by the department.
- Used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law including under the Act or Regulation, or otherwise permitted under the Privacy Act.



Other than in exceptional circumstances (for example, investigation of fraud relating to overseas students), the department does not disclose any of the personal information collected to overseas recipients.

You can find the department's privacy policy on the [Department of Education](#) website or request a copy from the department at [privacy@education.gov.au](mailto:privacy@education.gov.au). The privacy policy includes information about how to access or correct personal information held about you or your child, how to make a complaint about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how the department will deal with such a complaint.

## What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. The approved authority of the school is responsible for providing the information to the department.

## Contacts for further information

Your school can provide information about data provided for you or your child for the purposes of the Census. To find out more about the Census collection and reporting, visit [SchoolsHUB](#).



## Key terms

Your child might come home using some unfamiliar words. Here are some helpful terms and definitions.

### Phoneme

A speech sound.

### Grapheme

A written symbol that represents a phoneme.

### Schwa

A weak vowel sound in an unstressed syllable.

### Syllable

A word or part of a word with one vowel sound.

### Morpheme

The smallest unit of meaning within a word.

### Etymology

The study of the origin and meaning of words.



## Daily Review

At the start of each Literacy Block, students participate in a short, fast-paced session which requires them to recall previously learnt information. This ensures that learnt skills and knowledge are retained in their long term memories.

## Knowledge Curriculum

As well as teaching children how to read, we also need to teach them about the world around them so that they are able to make sense of text. The Knowledge Curriculum works alongside the Literacy Curriculum and is carefully planned and sequenced.

*"If we want our children to be broadly competent readers, thinkers, and problem solvers, they must have a rich, broad store of background knowledge to call upon, enabling them to flex those mental muscles. Learning builds on learning."*

E.D Hirsh

In 2020, the International Literacy Association, after reviewing the current literature, stated that

*"The approach to reading instruction that is currently best supported by evidence is Structured Literacy."*

Structured Literacy is supported by the findings of the National Reading Panels and recommended by the International Dyslexia Association.



## Structured Literacy

DIOCESE OF BALLARAT CATHOLIC EDUCATION LIMITED



## What does it look like in a classroom?

### Phonology

The study of the sound structure of spoken words. Possible activities: identifying sounds in words, blending sounds in words, describing vowel and consonant sounds, identifying rhyming words.

### Sound Symbol

The association of sounds with written symbols. Possible activities: spelling, reading and writing high frequency words, handwriting and keyboarding.

### Syllables

A syllable is a word or part of a word with one vowel sound. Possible activities: counting syllables in words, dividing words into syllables using syllable division rules.

### Morphology

A morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning in language.

Possible activities: studying the definition and origin of base words and affixes, adding affixes to base words to create complex words.

### Syntax

The set of principles that dictate the sequence and function of words in a sentence.

Possible activities: naming sentence types, recognising and using punctuation marks and identifying parts of speech such as nouns, verbs and adjectives.

### Semantics

The comprehension and appreciation of written language.

Possible activities: learning new vocabulary words and idioms and creating texts such as narratives and persuasive texts.

## Structured Literacy

Structured Literacy is an approach to literacy instruction that applies a systematic, cumulative, explicit and diagnostic methodology to the teaching of phonology, sound symbol, syllables, morphology, syntax and semantics.



INSIGHTS

## What to do when life feels overwhelming



A friendly reminder: it's perfectly OK if you're finding things tough right now.

Being a parent is awesome. It's also exhilarating, frustrating, hilarious, exhausting, sun-drenched, rain-soaked, love-soaked, and overwhelming.

All the emotions. The full spectrum of them!

If you're having a hard time at the moment, I'm sending you a very large coffee and an uninterrupted night of sleep (preferably not at the same time).

I also have some tips for getting through a tough time in general.

I hope they help!

### Firstly, try to accept it

Your experience in life right now might be better than someone else's ... or it might be worse. But, however you want to spin it, a tough time is a tough time. Accept it.

There's no need to temper it with an "at least ..."

Say to yourself "Yep, this sucks".

It's amazing what happens when we drop the facade that "Everything's OK".

### Secondly, try to practice some mindfulness

About a year ago, my son Hakavai was gifted a secondhand box of Lego from a friend of a friend. And, he frothed on it. Every morning, for like a solid month (a decade in toddler time), he was playing with his Lego. Initially, I found it annoying.

Have you ever stepped, barefoot, on tiny little Lego pieces at 6 am, before coffee? Have you ever tried to vacuum around little Lego pieces?

(Don't kid me, you minx. You sucked 'em straight up into the vacuum, just like I did, didn't you?!).

But the Lego fascination seemed to be a lasting one, so one morning I sat down with him and tried to build something. But I couldn't, cos none of the sets were complete. And also, he didn't really want me to play with "his" Lego pieces either.

Which suited me fine, cos the next day I drove down to the shops and purchased a shiny new box of Lego. The police station set, not anything cool like the Star Wars ones (that stuff is expensive!!).



# parenting \* ideas

And that night, the very minute Hakavai fell asleep, I busted out my new Lego. A glass of wine at the ready, I relaxed into a world of tiny, intricate construction.

There was something soothing about following someone else's instructions and building the pieces block by block. I got to zone out, unwind, and temporarily forget my responsibilities.

That night, I slept not like a baby (they wake up a lot), but like a tiny, plastic policeman – flat on my back, in the same position I dropped down in.

Being mindful doesn't have to involve crystals and chanting and yoga pants. It's really about relaxing into the present moment. And when life is feeling all a bit too much, a little present moment time can feel really good.

## Thirdly, ask yourself "What would make today feel just a little bit better?"

And whatever the answer is: making apple crumble, talking to a friend, putting on a comforting TV show, reading your favourite book, playing Monopoly with the kids ... go and do it. Make it happen.

Note: you're not asking "What do I have to get done today?". You're asking yourself "What would make my day feel just a little bit brighter?" (You'll be surprised how doing something hard makes you happy... like you've achieved something.)

This is something I started doing in my first year of being a Mum.

Those first few months were a blur and, with this tiny baby in my arms, my capacity for "doing things" was reduced. I had to drop my expectations for what I could realistically achieve in one day, especially in the first few months.

But on the days I prioritised doing something that made me feel good – even if it was just for 5 minutes – I felt clearer. More like myself again. Life felt like less of a blur.

So, this is your permission to drop the laundry, eat toast for dinner, and go and take a few minutes for yourself.

Heck, maybe you'll spend that time playing Lego!

I'll be with you, in spirit. At my own kitchen table, building a police station extension.

## In closing

Lastly, my friend, please know that being human means experiencing a full spectrum of emotion.

It's OK if you feel tired, overwhelmed, sad or angry.

Be kind to yourself and take a moment to appreciate all that you are and all that you do.

With love,  
Turia x



### Turia Pitt

Turia Pitt is living proof that anything is possible. One of Australia's most admired and recognised people, Turia is a four-time bestselling author, two-time Ironman and a Mum of two boys. She spends her days teaching Mums to make time for themselves and learn how to run in her program [Run with Turia](#), exploring what we learn from hard times in her podcast Turia Pitt is Hard Work, and running around after her two boys.