



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
Term 3 Week 6

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### Term 3 (10 weeks)

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

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

12.40pm 5JF Assembly

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

Division Basketball

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

9am Book Week Parade  
in gym

Ballarat Catholic Primary  
Schools Athletics at  
Llanberris

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

Student Led Conferences

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

Fathers' Day celebrations  
2pm Snack & Chat in gym  
2.30pm Liturgy in Family  
Groups

#### 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 3NM Assembly

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

12.40pm 4CP Assembly

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Life is full of uncertainties isn't it? Just when we think we have everything sorted, things can change and we have to re-think what we are doing. This happens in all aspects of life for all of us, sometimes through health, employment, family circumstances or a myriad of other things. And it happens at school too.

I was reminded on the weekend that we are called to live by faith. In the Gospel shared on Sunday we heard the story of Peter, the humble fisherman who was called by Jesus to follow him and to help spread the word of God. A pretty big ask for someone who thought his life was all sorted until he met Jesus that day on the beach. Sometimes it would seem, we are called to change the way we think or act so that we can become more open to growth through new opportunities that emerge.

I can understand Peter's hesitation to follow Jesus. The move from the known to the unknown is a gamble. It calls for a spirit of cooperation followed by faith that in the end, all will be well. Our children are good at this, they like to embrace new ways of being with new opportunities and new discoveries along the way. For them, each day is a new adventure!

As we move through the middle of third term with winter lingering and grey skies hovering, let's all take heart in the knowledge that with faith, we can embrace new ways of being together with each other.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.



### Silver Coin Drive

Wow! We had such a successful coin drive this year with a huge total of over \$3000 being raised. Congratulations to the winning classes who will receive their reward this week: FGJ, 1EM (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August), 2GH, 3JV (Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August), 4BW, 5JF, and 6ZA (Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August). Thanks everyone for your efforts and congratulations to our winning classes.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**  
12.40pm F MM Assembly  
Senior School Sports Day  
at Llanberris

**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

### Helpers Wanted

Can you spare a couple of hours to help us out at school? While Rick our maintenance man is unwell we have been doing our best to keep up his high standards of garden maintenance. We are hoping that we can gather a small group of people who can assist with the clearing and tidying of a small garden area at the front of the school which needs a bit of attention. This will really help as we prepare for the spring growth which will begin to occur soon. 4-6 people for about 2 hours should do the job. Please contact Maureen or Anita in the office if you are able to help.



### End of Day Procedures

We would like to remind you of two slight changes that are occurring at school from this week:

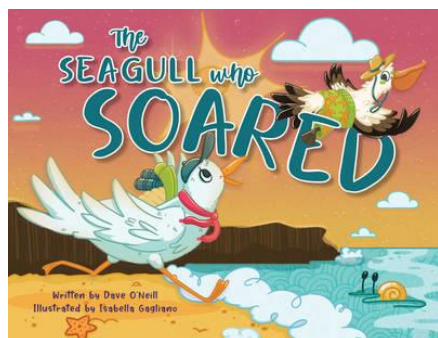
Children may continue to be dropped off at their usual time each morning. At 8.30am the children will move to the lower play area where they are supervised by a staff member until 8.45 when the classroom doors will be opened if children wish to enter, otherwise they may continue to play outside until the music plays at 8.50am.

Our school day concludes at 3.20pm. Children may be collected from the lower playground or the undercover area (Yrs. 2-6) or at the entrance to the Mother Xavier Flood building (F-1) at 3.20pm when they are dismissed from class. Our 3.15pm bell will continue to ring for the bus students as has always been the case. Thank you for your assistance with this new procedure.

**Primary School Nursing Program for Foundation Students** Student Entrant Health Questionnaires will be sent home with Foundation students and need to be returned no later than 31<sup>st</sup> August, late forms will not be accepted. The Primary School Nursing Program is a free service offered by the Department of Education and Training, to all children attending primary schools and English Language Centre schools in Victoria. Please find the Primary School Nursing Program brochure in the attachments at the end of this newsletter.

**Please find at the end of this newsletter:** Parish Bulletin; Assembly Awards; Primary School Nursing Program brochure; Parenting Ideas – Why family rituals really matter.

The link for the July 2023 edition of “Our Diocesan Community” is <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ODC-July-2023-web.pdf>.



### Children's Author visit - pre-order book

Foundation and Year 1 students will welcome local Brown Hill based children's author Dave O'Neill during Book Week for a very special visit.

Dave will run a session on storytelling and chasing your dreams as relentlessly as seagulls chase hot chips. This will include reading his debut book the Seagull Who Soared, which was released in March.

The book tells the tale of Stevie the seagull who lives on the beaches at Torquay and takes off on an adventure to find Stingray Bay (Warrnambool).

As a special offer for St Francis Primary School students - signed copies of the book can be purchased for \$15 (retail \$20) via the link below and given out on the day of the visit. Any issues with the form, simply email Dave via [daveoneill@live.com.au](mailto:daveoneill@live.com.au).

To purchase your copy prior to the visit, please go to <https://form.jotform.com/232047672241855>

*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.*

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday August 13 , 2023      Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

**Gospel reflection:** This story follows on directly from the miraculous provision of food for the multitudes, as described in last week's Gospel. Jesus sends his disciples off to cross the lake by boat while he disperses the crowd and goes up the mountain alone to pray. The disciples struggling to make headway in a boat out on the lake are symbolic of the struggles of the early church. In biblical thought wind and water out of control are images of chaos and destruction. What prompts Peter's bid to come to Jesus across the sea? Love, boldness, bravado? Perhaps all three – but also a measure of faith. Faith in Jesus enables Peter, for a time at least, to tread underfoot the watery forces of destruction. But his faith, like that of all disciples in Matthew's Gospel, is prone to doubt. Jesus' gentle word of remonstrance, after he has rescued Peter, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?', addresses all members of the Church. Peter 'models' the mixture of boldness and fear, strength and weakness, characteristic of us all. The Gospel recognises that there will be times of stress and danger when faith will be sorely tested and sometimes fail. (Adapted from Fr. Brendan Byrnes Commentary and Homily)

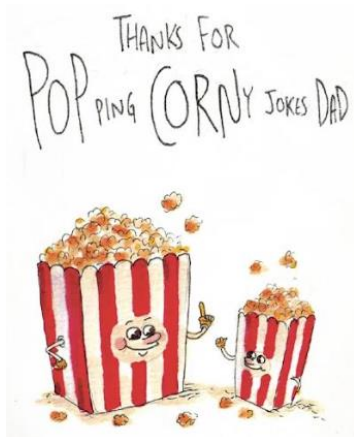
**Our Challenge:** When in life do I need to be brave and step out of the boat?

**SAVE THE DATE**

Our Father's and Special Friend's liturgy will take place on Friday September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Join us for a snack and chat in the gym at 2pm followed by liturgy in family groups beginning at 2.30pm.

Formal invitations with details of family groups will be coming home soon.



Children- Don't forget to send us through your best Dad jokes (Jokes can be recorded on a phone and emailed to Ms Meneely at [cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu](mailto:cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu))



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**



## WHY STUDENT LED CONFERENCES?

- Students develop **ownership** of their learning
- Students build **independence**
- Students take **pride** in their success
- Students identify areas for **improvement**
- Students **share** knowledge and skills learned

### 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, 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 for Week 8 & 9 on the following dates:

**1. Wednesday 30th August**

**2. Tuesday 5th September 2023**

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

PAM will open on **Tuesday 15th August at 4:00pm** for you to log in a conference time

### Student - Led Conferences on PAM - Booking Instructions for Parents/Carers

1. Log into PAM using your Username and Password

PAM can be accessed via the schools homepage: <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/news-events/parent-access-module/> or by going directly to the PAM site <https://pam.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/Login/Default.aspx>

2. Click on Student Led Conferences
3. Select student
4. Select Core Group
5. Select Teacher (If your child's class has 2 teachers, only one teacher has the times available.)
6. Select your time
7. Click Book Interview
  - The interview times will be displayed underneath your booking window. If you need to alter your child's interview time please click on the blue pen box and alter your time.
  - If the interview time you have made does not suit and you wish to delete the time, please click on the red cross box
  - There is an option to print your interview booking times by clicking the blue printer icon.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 5331 6311 should you have any queries or concerns.





## **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. We will begin our day with a parade in our gym at 9:00am. All are welcome!



Thank you to those families who purchased items from our Book Club last month.

Issue 6 catalogues will be sent home this week for you to view and discuss with your children. The process is simple: Orders from the Issue 6 catalogue close Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

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 by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

This exciting opportunity will help to keep our children reading and learning. Of course you do not need to purchase anything.

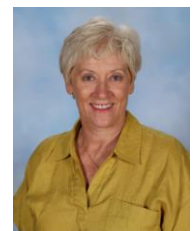
Please go to <https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/book-club/> for further details and to view the catalogue online.

**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.

Enjoy your week,



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

## Wellbeing News

Family rituals are important to the health and well-being of today's families trying to juggle busy demands of work, home, school, social lives and uncertainty.

Michael Grose states that “behaviours become habits become patterns”.

Read a book once to a child and it's just a behaviour. Read frequently and it becomes a habit ; and if it's a nightly ritual it becomes a pattern.

Your family rituals may not include reading at night, but could be watching a footy game together, cooking, gardening, board games or family celebrations. These are times that create shared memories, build family relationships and provide comfort and stability in our life.

Family rituals help to “anchor” us in times of difficulty and help give you and your children a sense of security, identity and belonging.

In the attached article, parenting expert Maggie Dent shares why family rituals are so important.

Why not start your own family ritual tonight?

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

## Sport/Physical Education News

**Interschool Sport** Last Friday the Year 5 & 6 Students travelled to Lumen Christi Primary school to participate in many fun sports and activities. Activities and sports included football, netball, basketball, soccer, hockey, dodgeball and Capture the Flag. All of the students showed great sportspersonship and had a wonderful day.

**Eureka Division Basketball** Lunchtime training is well underway and Mrs Barclay and Mr Down have the teams working on their passing, shooting and team play. We look forward to the tournament in Week 7.

**Athletics Team:** The Athletics Team for the upcoming Catholic Primary School Athletics Day was announced last week. Good luck to the following students who will be participating next Friday at Llanberris:

Asha Toohey, Sophie Beseler, Marli Ward, Nicholas Green, Sophie White, Elly Kane, Evie Staley, Lyla Harney, Abbey Dwyer, Jed Hynes, Zara Thorp, Billy Cheeseman, Hudson McGrath, Pippa Dalton, Ivy Bromley, Lily Rice, Archer Spackman, Adele Marson, Eliana Tocchet, Lachlan Patterson, Mitch Kane, Frankie Hill, Charlotte Chibnall, Ash Norris, Jake Cheeseman, Leo Thorp, Julian Simpson, Felicity McGrath, Mia van Hamond, Ivy Pearce, Olivia Green, Xavier Staley, George Britt, Nate Toohey & Tayla Hiscock

### 2023 Sports Dates

Term 3:

- 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

### Sporting Achievements

If your child has achieved recent sporting success or a significant sporting achievement, please feel free to contact myself, Nev Down or your child's classroom teacher so that we can celebrate and commend their efforts.

### 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 sensational week.



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**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.







► **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

**13 August 2023**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Truly, you are the Son of God*

# St Alipius

## parish

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

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

### MASS TIMES

### WE PRAY FOR

**Faithfully departed:**

**Anniversaries:** Con Clifford, Tom Clifford, Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Lawrence McCartin, Geoffrey McCartin

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

**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'Beirne

**Child Safety Officer**  
Emily Clarke

**Liturgy Coordinator**  
Jason Fletcher

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

**St Alipius**  
Wed and 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Counting team 2 this week – 9:30 AM

Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.


We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

### PARISH VISION

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.

### PARISH MISSION

Our mission in the Parish of St. Alipius is to actively engage and serve our combined communities, embodying the teachings of the Gospel. Strengthened 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 relationships with God, inspire transformation, and make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter, spreading God's love and compassion to all.





## PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our trivia night last Friday. Big thanks to Natalie Shannon who worked hard to prepare and host this night, which saw about 80 people have lots of fun. Thanks also to those who supplied prizes for the evening, your generosity is greatly appreciated. We raised \$1,075.



## SOCIAL GATHERING

The PPC are organising a get together for anyone who would like a night out. This night will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at Golden Point Hotel at 6pm. Come along, order yourself a meal and a drink and enjoy some good conversation as Spring begins. Names will need to be to the office by no later than Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of September to allow for booking. Anyone who would like to attend, but needs transport, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office as we will organise the transport for you. Looking forward to another great gathering.

## PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

If you would like to receive a statement for your contributions to the Stewardship Program over the past financial year, please contact the office.

## LITURGY ROSTER

Copies of the liturgy roster for St Alipius are available in the church foyer. The new roster runs for two months, rather than three. If you're unable to attend a mass that you're rostered on for, please swap with someone else or contact the Parish Office. If you would like to be emailed a copy of the roster, please let the Parish Office know what email address to send it to.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parish dinner at Golden Point Hotel**  
6:00 PM, Wednesday 13 September, 639 Main Road

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking to expand our list of liturgy ministry volunteers, especially for Sunday mass, which has a much smaller number of volunteers than the Saturday vigil mass. The Sunday roster has many of the same people volunteering for multiple tasks. Saturday has eleven people who have volunteered to bring up the gifts during the offertory, but we have only three on the Sunday roster. There are 14 readers for Saturday, compared to 9 for Sunday. We only have four people who have offered to be rostered on as a welcomer at the vigil mass, and none for Sunday, so more people willing to help with that would be greatly appreciated. Please let the Parish Office know if you'd like to join the liturgy roster. Training can be provided if you're unsure about what a role entails. It is a wonderful way to connect with the mass and our Parish community.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$994
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$368

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 WINTER APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal focuses on older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Appeal envelopes are at the ends of the pews. To support the work of our local SVdP conference place your donation envelope on 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.

### BAPTISMS

**Lacey Jayne Romania**  
Child of Matthew and Karina Romania

**Ava Jean and Ethan John Segrott**  
Children of Andrew Segrott and Rachael Houtsma

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

## 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 provided to someone who will greatly appreciate it.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Live Your Best Married Life in Love" – every relationship is a journey, and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. The Marriage Encounter weekend in Melbourne on 3 – 5 November, gives married couples time to nurture their relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from the pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. For more information visit [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au). To book, phone Mercy & James on 0409 183 676 or email [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

## ST PATRICK'S ENROLMENTS

Applications for enrolments at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, in Year 7, 2025 are now open at [www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/apply-now](http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/apply-now). An information session will be held at 5:00 PM on Wednesday 30 August in the OCA Pavilion. Register at [www.stpats.vic.edu.au](http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au).

## 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.

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The second edition of ODC 2023 is now available. Please take copies to the homebound, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., to spread the good news of the diocese.

## 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 August – **for World Youth Day**: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. Lord, hear us.

## FR FRANK SMITH FUNERAL

The Funeral Mass for Fr Frank Smith CSsR will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree at 10.30 am on Friday, 25 August.

## FREEDOM WALK

Neil Para is walking 1000 km from Ballarat to Sydney, to ask Prime Minister Albanese for fairness for refugees who've lived here in Australia for more than a decade. Neil is a refugee who fled war and persecution in Sri Lanka and has lived in Ballarat since 2013. The government's recent announcement has given permanence to 19,000 people – but what about the rest? For more details and to sign the petition, scan QR code.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Social Justice Sunday is 27 August. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Social Justice Statement, "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" will be launched on Thursday, August 17 via a live stream on Facebook [socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/07/20/listen-learn-love/](https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/07/20/listen-learn-love/)

# Battered by the waves

Veronica Lawson RSM

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 14:22-33

Right now, our planet is battered by waves of life-threatening weather events and our church knows all too well what it means to be "battered by the waves". Over the two millennia history of the church, there have been periods of discrimination and persecution against its members. Countless church members have died for their faith, while others have been and are being denied the freedom to practice their religion. There have also been times when the church has fallen far short of its own ideals and has quite seriously betrayed the gospel values it seeks to embody and proclaim. It is presently "battered" by huge even terrifying waves, largely of its own creating. Only God can bring order out of the chaos, and God works through the courageous witness and action of faith-filled disciples.

In today's gospel, Matthew tells of Jesus astride the waves like the God of Israel in Job 9:8. In Israel's mythology, the sea represents chaos. To walk on water is to have power and authority to bring order out of the chaos. Matthew presents Jesus as exercising the power of God over the potentially destructive chaos. Jesus makes his claim to divine power explicit in words that

echo God's words from the burning bush: "It is I" (literally "I am"). He tells the frightened disciples to take heart and not to be afraid. Peter, leader of the group, continues to doubt. He asks for a sign and is then prepared to take a risk in order to come to Jesus on the water. He begins to falter when he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on the threatening wind. Jesus reaches out his hand to rescue Peter. In a lovely gesture, Jesus takes him by the hand and holds him firmly in his grip. Jesus names Peter's hesitation as a response of limited faith.

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*Jesus takes him by the hand and holds him firmly.*

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Matthew weaves the story of Peter into an earlier story from Mark's gospel. We can only speculate on the reasons for this. Were Matthew's communities going through hard times? Were they battered by the waves of conflicting loyalties as they found themselves excluded from Pharisaic Judaism? Was the pressure of separation from the synagogue too great for some, even for those in



leadership? This is a telling story for anyone who exercises leadership at any level in the church. It is a reminder to us to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the source of hope in times of struggle and uncertainty and on the crucial issues that face our planetary home.

Finally, this story invites us to consider the threatening waves created by flood and fire and food insecurity. The human community which is largely responsible for the climate crisis must join hands to save what can be saved. The growing commitment to renewable energy provides a contemporary image of a saving hand reaching out to Earth communities that are in danger of being submerged by flood, overwhelmed by hunger or destroyed by scorching heat.

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
1 KINGS 19:9, 11-13  
ROMANS 9:1-5  
MATTHEW 14:22-33

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
ISAIAH 56:1, 6-7  
ROMANS 11:13-15, 29-32  
MATTHEW 15:21-28

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Hosted by F LH Theme: Hospitality**

Hospitality means welcoming other people.

We show hospitality because Jesus teaches us to include everyone and show them they are welcome.

Foundation	F LH: Sam White and Matilda Walshe F GH: Emme Cavanagh and Daulat Singh Hill	F TW: Mayomikun Baruwa & Oscar Johnson F MM: Indi Nestor and River Harney
1 JS	Cooper Roberts and Fletcher Hipke	
1 MM	Wilson Quinlan & Oscar Kersley	
1 EM	Paddy Robinson and Thiago Motta Crespo	
2 EH	Harry Logan and Lenny Ryan	
2 CJ	Max Miller and Molly Lewis	
2 GH	Harper Phelan and Ava Warr	
3 NM	Lucy Elliot and Lily Davison	
3 JV	Betsy Nicholson and Levi Crowe	
3 GW	Jagger Toohey and Lucy Bromley	
4 BW	Evangeline Tuffen & Lyla Harney	
4 HC	Nick Hyland and Sierra O'Reilly	
4 CP	Edward Lloyd and Ava Vallance	
5 JF	Stella Reus & Tom Anderson	
5 OH	Harper Lourey and Braxton Buntsma	
5 CC	Sam Hill and Adelle Marson	
6 PB	Kardia Sarra and Isa Jones	
6 MM	Olivia Green and Matt Corrigan	
6 ZA	Isaac Hatt & Sadie Wilson	
Environmental Education	Tex Brown, Freddie Dreher and Harvey Kersley 1JS for the Compassion and Kindness they continually demonstrate during their E.E. lessons and out on the yard. These boys have been terrific helpers with our 'Helping Hands Crew' and 'Waste Management Team' this term. The way they step in and lend a helping hand when they see a need is outstanding and something they should be most proud of.	
Performing Arts	Nick Hyland and Charlie Kersley (4HC) for being considerate of others during music class	
Visual Arts	Zaeli Page and Remy Hansen (FLH)	
Principal's Award	Kardia Sarra for assisting with hospitality at Hot Chocolate Mondays	



# THE PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM



## You and your child's privacy

DET values the privacy of every individual and is committed to protecting all personal and health information we collect.

In Victoria, the laws that set privacy requirements are the *Health Records Act 2001* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. These laws set out what we must do when we collect, use, handle and destroy personal and health information.

Information collected under the Primary School Nursing Program must only be used or disclosed for the purposes described in the Primary School Nursing Program Information Package. It cannot be used or disclosed for any other purpose without your consent unless it is required or permitted by law, for example where there is a serious threat to health, safety or welfare.

## How can I access this information?

You may access the information held by the school nurse or DET.

For more information about requesting access to, or correction of yours or your child's personal information that is collected, please contact the School Nursing Manager at your local DET office listed on the back page of this form. If you would like to request access to or correction of any information the school collects, please contact the school or refer to its privacy policy for further information.

## Find out more

You can find out more information about how the DET handles the personal and health information it collects from its privacy policy which is available on its website at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/privacy.aspx>



## THE PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM

The Primary School Nursing Program is a free service offered by the Department of Education and Training (DET). It is available to all children attending government primary schools, English Language Centre Schools, Catholic and independent schools, in Victoria. It is part of a range of health and support services for school students and their families. The aim of the program is to promote child health and wellbeing and to assist in the early identification of children with potential health related difficulties.

### THE PROGRAM OFFERS FAMILIES AND CARE GIVERS:

- an assessment of any concerns you may have regarding your child's health and wellbeing
- advice and information about your child's health, and referral to other services if needed
- advice, information and support for families and school communities to promote the health and wellbeing of children and families.

### THE PREP HEALTH ASSESSMENT

A health assessment is offered to all children in their first year of primary school. Your child's school will provide you with an information package containing an information brochure on the Primary School Nursing Program and the School Entrant Health Questionnaire (SEHQ). You are asked to give information about your child's health history and any concerns you may have about your child's health.

The SEHQ will provide important information about your child's health so that the nurse can make an effective health assessment. If your child needs a brief further assessment, such as a vision or hearing test, the nurse will see him or her at school.

Your child cannot receive a health assessment under the Primary School Nursing Program without your consent.

## AFTER THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT

If the nurse has concerns about your child's health after assessing your child, the nurse may contact you. The nurse may suggest referring your child to be assessed or treated by another health professional or agency. A report will be sent to you, outlining the outcome of your child's assessment, if required.

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER CHILDREN (GRADES 1 – 6)

If you or your child's teachers have concerns about your child's health, you can ask for the Primary School Nurse to review your child. Referral forms are available at your child's school or you can contact the school nurse directly at the closest DET regional office listed on the back page of this brochure.

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT FOR CHILDREN AT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE SCHOOLS OR NEWLY ARRIVED

A health assessment may also be offered to the following children:

- all children attending English Language Centre schools
- any primary school children who have recently arrived in Victoria from residing overseas.

## IMPORTANT PRIVACY INFORMATION

### Why should I give this information?

This information is important in providing support for your child. It helps:

- the school nurse understand any worries you may have about your child's health
- the school understand how your child's health may affect his or her learning.

### Do I have to provide this information?

It is your choice whether or not to provide this information.

### What will the information I provide be used for?

Information collected under the Primary School Nursing Program will be used to:

- identify your child's health needs
- tailor help based on your child's individual needs
- manage, plan, improve and evaluate the delivery of school health and educational services.

This information is also used to study the health of all children starting school in Victoria, and will be used for research and statistical purposes. When the information is used in this way, identifying information about you, your child or your family is removed to ensure your personal and health information is protected.





## PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSE MANAGER CONTACT INFORMATION

### COUNTRY AREA OFFICES

#### Ballarat Office

swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 333 232

#### Benalla Office

nevr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 333 231

#### Bendigo Office

nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 338 691

#### Geelong Office

swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 333 232

#### Moe Office

sevr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 338 738

### METROPOLITAN AREA OFFICES

#### Coburg Office

nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 338 691

#### Dandenong Office

sevr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 338 738

#### Footscray Office

swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 333 232

#### Glen Waverley Office

nevr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 333 231

#### Greensborough Office

nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 338 691

#### Keilor Office

swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 1300 333 232

## IF YOU REQUIRE URGENT SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT:

#### Lifeline

Phone: 13 11 14  
[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

#### Parentline

Phone: 1300 30 1300  
[www.parentline.com.au](http://www.parentline.com.au)

#### Beyondblue

Phone: 1300 22 4636  
[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

#### Homelessness Support

Phone: 1800 825 955  
<http://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-help>

#### Family Violence Support

Phone: 1800 015 188  
[www.safesteps.org.au](http://www.safesteps.org.au)

#### Food Security Support

[www.asklizzy.org.au/food](http://www.asklizzy.org.au/food)

#### Gambling Support

Phone: 1800 858 858  
[www.gamblershelp.com.au](http://www.gamblershelp.com.au)

#### Drug and Alcohol Support

Phone: 1800 888 236  
[www.directline.org.au](http://www.directline.org.au)

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## INSIGHTS

### Why family rituals really matter



Family rituals strengthen the sense of warm connectedness in families. This makes sense, given that the number one biological need for every human is the hunger to belong, and to be accepted, valued and loved.

The disruption of life in 2020 saw many families unable to go about their normal activities, and for many, family rituals reclaimed their valuable position. For some, it was simply going for walks together, riding bikes together, baking, or watching movies together complete with home-made popcorn.

So how can families create and maintain small rituals that make such a difference?

#### Turn routines into rituals

Bedtime routines that include such things as reading to your children, singing special bedtime songs or even just lying beside your child do far more than help them to fall asleep. When these routines are repeated, they create neural pathways which enhance loving connection. As a nanny to several precious little ones, I absolutely love being a part of their bedtime rituals.

#### Reign in the chaos

Family rituals bring a degree of predictability and certainty into our sometimes chaotic lives. They are important for teenagers as they provide a sense of control at a time of change and challenge. Families who are struggling with any uncertainty and stress should regularly connect with a much-loved board game or family movie and dive into it with enthusiasm. Leave work and worry behind and spend a couple of hours with those you love the most.

#### Create greeting rituals

Greeting and goodbye rituals within families are also important. How you welcome and reconnect to children after a day away shows them that you have missed them and still love them. With little ones, some parents leave a kiss on their child's palm. For others there are special handshakes. I can still remember my dad saying goodbye to us with the oldie but goodie "See you later alligator!" To which we naturally replied, "in a while, crocodile!" This is a ritual that happens now with my grandchildren.

As an authorised celebrant, I have conducted many funerals and one of the things that brings joy to broken hearts are the shared memories of family rituals. The repeated nature of ritual helps to anchor memories deeply in our minds. I remember a beautiful funeral for a man where everyone wore a beanie and a scarf, including his youngest grandchild. This simple act was a nod to the fact that whenever this grandfather watched football on TV, he always wore a beanie and a scarf and so did anyone else who was watching with him. A simple but powerful act.

Never underestimate the importance of family rituals in your home.



## Maggie Dent

Commonly known as the 'queen of common sense', Maggie Dent has become one of Australia's favourite parenting authors and educators, with a particular interest in the early years, adolescence and resilience. She has written seven major books including the bestselling *Mothering Our Boys* and her 2020 release, *From Boys to Men*. Maggie is host of the ABC podcast, [Parental As Anything](#). She is the mother of four sons and a very grateful grandmother. For further details visit [maggiedent.com](http://maggiedent.com)

## Experience Damascus College



Register at [damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/visit-us](https://damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/visit-us) and click 'Book a Visit'

Enrolment Applications for Year 7 2025 close Friday 2 February 2024

### OPEN NIGHT

Our Open Night is a great way for prospective families to learn more about Damascus College. There are three timeslots to choose from on the night, that will run for approximately 1.5 hours. You will hear presentations from key staff and students and participate in a student led tour of the campus, where staff and students will be situated around the campus with displays and demonstrations, to showcase the facilities and offerings available at Damascus College.

**Tuesday 17 October**  
4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

### OPEN MORNINGS

Our Open Morning Tours are an opportunity for prospective families to take a guided tour of the College led by current students. It is a unique opportunity to experience Damascus during school hours. The event runs for approximately 2 hours. Registration opens at 8.30am, with the event starting promptly at 9am. You will hear presentations from key staff and students before embarking on an engaging tour of the campus for approximately 45 minutes.

**Thursday 5 and 19 October**  
9am – 11am

**Thursday 1 February, 2024**  
9am – 11am (please note this tour is conducted by staff)

Registration for these events is essential







Vikings FC are thrilled to enter an **U12 team** in the Western United Cup this year.

The tournament will showcase the amazing talents of our female juniors on September 22-24 at Morshead Park.

We are calling on any junior female players (born in 2011 or later) to **express their interest** in joining the team.

Please get in touch with Kurt Anderson on 0408 332 366 for further details.



sebasvikingsfc  
sebasvikings.net