



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023  
Term 3 Week 7

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### Term 3 (10 weeks)

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

**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

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
Reporting & Assessment  
Day – Pupil Free Day

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

We are certainly feeling the winter chills at the moment. In the depths of winter it can sometimes seem like everything is working against us and there is no sunshine on the horizon. If this is the case for you, I encourage you to take a moment and have a look at the signs of new life beginning to emerge. The bulbs are sprouting new flowers, insects are beginning to wake up to seek pollen, the early morning birds are singing in the new day. It won't be too long now until we can celebrate the sunny days of spring again!

At school we like to think that life goes on uninterrupted regardless of the seasons but that's certainly not the case. Our students are doing such a great job of coping with wet days, soggy grounds and cold weather. Their energy is contagious and a wander through the playground reminds me that even when the days are bleak, there is fun to be had with good friends. Our staff too have the ability to lift our days. Good company and cheery conversations help to build positivity into our daily encounters. I hope that you can find the support of good friends to share a chat with on these cold days.

This week we will celebrate Book Week across the nation. Our school will highlight the importance of reading good stories together as a way of building friendships and community. The Book Parade on Friday will be something to look forward to as we come together and enjoy our favourite book characters. Come along to the parade, it's guaranteed to put a smile on the dial!

God bless,



Mark Hogbin.



### The Seeker

*The Seeker whispered, "God speak to me" And the meadowlark sang. But the seeker did not hear.*

*So the seeker yelled, "God speak to me!" And thunder rolled across the sky. But the seeker did not listen.*

*The seeker looked around and said "God, let me see you." And a star shone brightly. But the seeker did not notice.*

*And the seeker shouted, "God show me a miracle." And a life was born. But the seeker did not know.*

*So the seeker cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know that you are here!"*

*Whereupon God reached down and touched the seeker. But the seeker brushed the butterfly away and walked on.*

*Help me Lord to know the many blessings that surround me in my day, every day. Amen*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

Melbourne Cup Public  
Holiday – Pupil Free Day

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

12.40pm 4CP Assembly

**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

**Can You Help?**

Our Parents & Friends committee would love to have some helping hands to assist with hot chocolates on Mondays and hot lunches on Fridays. Please see your child's diary for a link to the roster if you can possibly spare a morning or two. No experience required, just a Working with Children card and a willingness to have a go.

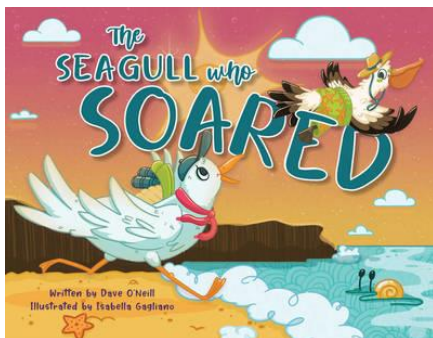
**Changes to our Staff**

We are delighted to announce that Ms. Sarah Paige has been offered a secondment to the Catholic Education Office in Ballarat as their inaugural Laudato Si Education Officer. Sarah's passion for educating about the environment and our place in caring for the earth means that she is well placed to take on this new and exciting role. Sarah will complete her time with us at the end of this term and Ms. Rose Russell will commence at our school as EE teacher for term 4 in October. Congratulations Sarah!

**After school collection**

We are continuing to monitor and review our new after school collection procedures. Thanks for feedback received to date. While we are experiencing changes Dennis our valued School Crossing Supervisor wishes everyone to know that he will continue to assist all people at the crossing, especially our wonderful children. Your patience is appreciated when crossing the road each day and your kind words and greetings are much appreciated.

**Please find at the end of this newsletter:** Parish Bulletin; Assembly Awards; Insights – Book Week.

**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>



### Book Week

The theme for this year's Book Week is:  
READ, GROW, INSPIRE

We have a wonderful display of all the books in our staffroom for teachers to read with their children throughout this special week. Our beautiful display oozes the desire to want to read!

Children's Book Council of Australia 2023 winners were announced last Friday. My Strange shrinking parents (Picture book of the year 0-18+)

Runt (Younger years 7-12)

Where the lyrebird lives (Early childhood 0-6 years)

Deep (Eve Pownall Non Fiction)

Tiny Wonders (new illustrator)

Other 'events' which children and staff will be enjoying throughout the week include trips to Sovereign Hill, visiting author Dave O' Neill and his picture story book The Seagull who soared, SFX Guess the Character competition (opens Mon- Fri), story time daily in the library first break, a special guest reader each day, exciting classroom activities and to finish off with a dress up parade on Friday. All welcome! What an exciting week we all have installed for us.

### Library Leaders

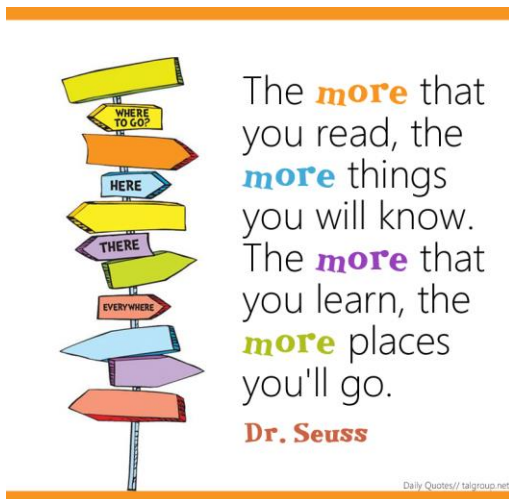
I would like to acknowledge our Yr. 6 Library leaders Jack and Georgia who do a terrific job assisting Ms. Shuttleworth with distributing our Book Club books. Many thanks children.

### Library Leaders 2023



### Assessment & Reporting - Student Led Conferences

Student Led Conferences will be a feature of our Assessment and Reporting schedule in the next few weeks. These will be held next week, on Wednesday the 29th of August and Tuesday the 5th of September. Be sure to make your Student Led Conference booking via PAM. Our teachers and children are well underway with their preparations for this valuable and informative time with you! Thank you for your continued support!



Happy Book Week to all,

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



### Wellbeing News

Book Week is one of my favourite weeks of the year! A whole week dedicated to books!

It's not only the fun of sharing books and dressing up as a literary character- to me it brings back such wonderful memories of being snuggled up and read to as a child.

One of my earliest memories is my mother reading me the whole series of Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne. I still can't help but smile when I think of Pooh getting stuck after eating too much honey! In turn, reading books at bedtime was a time of special connection with my own boys. It was a nighttime ritual that we did together and it had precious meaning for our family.

In the attached article Justin Coulson talks about why books and reading are so important for our kids. We should be celebrating books every day, not just one week a year!

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**



### Sport/Physical Education News

#### Eureka Division Basketball

On Wednesday this week, our Boys and Girls Basketball teams take to the courts at Selkirk Basketball Stadium for the Eureka Division Basketball Tournament. We wish the players and coaching staff all the very best.

**Ballarat Catholic Primary School Athletics:** Capping off a big week, we have our Athletics team heading off to Llanberris on Friday for the Ballarat Catholic Primary School Athletics. A strong squad of 35 students will compete in various Track & Field events over the course of the day. We wish all the students competing Good Luck!

Good luck to all of the students that will be playing in football and netball finals over the coming weekends in the BJFNL & CHFNL.



## 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

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 wonderful week.

Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**



## Performing Arts News

# PIANO & VOCAL SHOWCASE

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

| 29TH AUGUST 5PM   | 29TH AUGUST 6.30PM   |
|---|--|
| Bailey McCartin<br>Ted Nunn<br>Vivienne Young<br>Edie Young         | Luella Dunstan & Sierra O'Riley<br>Charlotte Bell<br>Mia Whatmough & Emily Bone<br>Leo Thorp |
| <b>JUNIOR CHOIR P - 2</b>   | <b>SENIOR CHOIR 3 - 6</b>  |
| Rahui Munokoa<br>Byron Toohey<br>Bonnie Giles<br>Thiago Mottacrespo | Chelsea Crowe & Stella Reus<br>Grace Hocking<br>Leo Thorp & Isa Jones<br>Zara Thorp          |

ALL WELCOME

ST FRANCIS XAVIER LIBRARY  
100 FORTUNE STREET, BALLARAT EAST

*We are very excited for our upcoming music evening! Along with their families, children who learn with Hattie will come together next week for an informal and supportive evening that celebrates the learning in extra curricular piano and voice lessons. All children performing are asked to wear their full winter school uniform. Please note the staggered start times as per the poster. If you have any questions whatsoever please speak with Hattie or Dan.*



Dan West, **Performing Arts Specialist**

## Father's Day Stall

The P&F will be running a Father's Day Stall next week during first break as follows:

Tuesday 29/8: Foundation & Year 1

Wednesday 30/8: Year 2, 3 & 4

Thursday 31/8: Year 5 & 6

There will be a final opportunity for those that missed out on Friday 1/9.

Gifts will be \$2, \$3 and \$5 -  
(Maximum spend of \$5 per child)

We need your help to celebrate our fathers and special people by volunteering at the Stall. We are looking for helpers on Tuesday to Thursday from 10:30am until 11:30am.

Please sign up via this link:

<https://signup.com/go/KwywRAS>

We know how much the kids love picking something for their special person!

Thanks P&F



### 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

**20 August 2023**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Let all the nations praise you*

# St Alipius

## parish

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

### MASS TIMES

**St Alipius**

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 3 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.

### WE PRAY FOR

**Faithfully departed:**

**Anniversaries:** Mavis McKeegan

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

### PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Jorge Jr De Chavez, OSJ

**Visiting Priest**  
Fr Barry Ryan

**Sacramental and Parish Coordinator**  
Cathy Prunty

**Administrative Assistant**  
Natalie Shannon

**Finance Officer**  
Bernadette Prestwood

**Child Safety Officer**  
Emily Clarke

### 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.





## SOCIAL GATHERING

Do you enjoy a night out? Do you like a nice meal with good company? If your answer to these questions is yes, then join us at 6:00 PM on Wednesday 13 September at the Golden Point Hotel in Main Road. The Parish has booked a space and invites everyone to come together on this night. Names will need to be to the office by no later than Friday 1 September to allow for an accurate 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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parish dinner at Golden Point Hotel**

6:00 PM, Wednesday 13 September, 639 Main Road

## PARISH MASTER PLAN

The Parish Finance Committee is embarking on a process to establish a master plan for our parish 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.

For those who were unable to join our recent Sunday morning sessions, please join us in the St Alipius Hall after the 6.00 PM mass on Saturday 26 August to discuss the parish's asset holdings and ideas for their future use.

## CONFIRMATION

Several children are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These children have been welcomed to masses on recent weekends and are preparing at home with their families. Please pray for these children in their final weeks of preparation. The children will be confirmed at liturgies during the week of September 4th.

## PIETY STALL

The piety stall has a range of cards and gifts suitable for Confirmation all at very affordable prices.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Supporting our parish priests   | \$878 |
| Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc. | \$383 |

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

St Vincent de Paul, Ballarat East needs your help. Can you spare a few hours a week to assist those in need? If so, please leave your details with the Parish Office.

## VINNIES BREAD RUN

Each Monday night between 7:00 PM 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.

## 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)



## 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.

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The latest edition of 'Our Diocesan Community' is available now in the foyers of our churches. Please take a copy to read and learn more about what's happening in various parts of our Diocese.

### BAPTISMS

**George Leo Broadbent**  
Child of Dwayne and Heather Broadbent

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

## 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).

## 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.

## VOICE CONVERSATIONS

A kitchen table conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn, and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months. Online sessions will be held on 17 August, 29 August, 11 September, and 28 September from 3.30-4.45 PM via Zoom. More information and registration details are available from [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/aboriginal-catholic-ministry/)

## 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.

## LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This US\$50 online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through the Diocese of Ballarat's partner, Dayton University. The next cycle begins on 28 August. There are 41 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open until 21 August. For more information phone 5337 7121 or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## OUR STORIES, OUR LIVES

'Our Stories, Our Lives, Our Mission' is a new book by Catholic Religious Australia and St Paul's Publications on building religious literacy and is a valuable resource considering Vocations Awareness Week, 6–13 August. More information is available from the Diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## TEACHING MEDITATION

Catholic Theological College is running an online information session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation at 7:30 PM on Monday, 4 September. Registration is essential. [https://divinity.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0kcu2oqTMjEt1WB9i\\_gVwXdSmk\\_4vTM\\_df#/registration](https://divinity.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0kcu2oqTMjEt1WB9i_gVwXdSmk_4vTM_df#/registration)

## 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/](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/07/20/listen-learn-love/)

# Mercy me!

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 15:21–28

The gospels are written in Greek and much of the language of the gospels has to be understood against a Greek philosophical background.

Today's gospel story culminates in the healing of a "daughter" who may be a little girl or even a young woman. Her mother, the main character in the story, is known to Matthew's community simply as a Canaanite woman, or in other words an indigenous woman. To some early Christian communities, she is Justa, so that we might reasonably call her daughter Justina.

Justa comes to Jesus as he moves from Jewish territory into, or close to, non-Jewish territory. In the language of liturgy, she laments loudly and persistently for her daughter, for Justina is "severely tormented by a demon".

For the ancient Greeks, the antithesis of demonic possession or torment is human flourishing or well-being (eudaimonia). Eudaimonia means having a good guardian spirit as opposed to a malevolent spirit that impairs a person's well-being and sense of self.

Justina's well-being is in jeopardy. Her distraught mother is an outsider to the "house of Israel" who is nonetheless familiar with

Israel's prayer of lament. She is a woman alone in a public space, risking ridicule and rejection to find healing for her daughter. Her plea, "Mercy me", reveals the depth of her identity with the suffering of her daughter.

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*We might well cry out on behalf of our planet, "Mercy me."*

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The immediate response to her plea is silence: Jesus "does not answer her a word".

Is he ignoring her cry for help? Is he simply stunned, taken aback at the vehemence of her request? Is he rendered speechless by the simple fact that she would cross the boundaries of gender and ethnicity in this way? Is he in awe at her courage and faith from the outset? All we know is that he says nothing and that the disciples tell him to send her away.

He responds by defining the limits of his mission rather narrowly: he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Justa is not deterred from her mission. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as "the children" and her



people as "the dogs". She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table".

Jesus' horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this courageous and faith-filled woman. Justa's great faith is affirmed, and her daughter is healed. Justa is vindicated and Justina is restored to a state of well-being or eudaimonia.

Justina has her counterparts across the globe, especially in these troubled times of pandemic. The challenge for us is to be Justa in our times for the sake of all in the Earth community, human and other-than-human, whose well-being or eudaimonia is impaired by illness or fear or lack of access to the means to flourish. We might well cry out on behalf of our planet, "Mercy me."

**THIS 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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
ISAIAH 22:19–23  
ROMANS 11:33–36  
MATTHEW 16:13–20

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Hosted by 5JF Theme: Respect**

Respect means considering the feelings and wishes of others, respecting myself and caring for all of creation.  
We show respect because Jesus shows us that everyone is important and because our world needs our care.

|                         |  |   |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Foundation              | Remy Hansen and Elizabeth Kelly (F LH)<br>Billie Dodd and Marco Pietrantuono (F GJ)  | Daisy Whittlam and Lillian Armstrong (F TW)<br>Annie Ludbrook and Theo McAdam (FMM) |
| Year 1                  | Rome Davis and Eliza Vallance (1 JS)<br>Harvey Slater and Harper Gull (1 EM)   | Scarlett Govan and Winter James (1MM)   |
| 2 EH                    | Savee Thuse and Ella Wilson  |   |
| 2 CJ                    | Edie Waldron and Levi Dreher   |   |
| 2 GH                    | Eddie Anderson and Kade Swayn  |   |
| 3 NM                    | Madeline Purtell and Noah Irving   |   |
| 3 JVG                   | Evie Answer and Minka Henjak   |   |
| 3 GW                    | Alby Skrokov and Chloe Wilson  |   |
| 4 BW                    | Abbey Dwyer & Aria Treacy  |   |
| 4 HC                    | Liam Fulcher and Asha Toohey   |   |
| 4 CP                    | Billy Cheeseman and Maddie Murphy  |   |
| 5 JF                    | Chelsea Crowe and Xavier Uljanic   |   |
| 5 OH                    | Eden Howard & Oscar Trigg  |   |
| 5 CC                    | Lyla Deturt and Sophie Keating   |   |
| 6 PB                    | Charlotte Chibnall and Annabella Chalmers  |   |
| 6 MM                    | Ivy Pearce and Jensen McCartin   |   |
| 6 ZA                    | Mackenzie Burbidge & Sully Boyd  |   |
| Environmental Education | <p><b>Freddie Brown 1JS, Harrison Madigan, Ted Answer and Noah McGregor 1EM</b> for the great RESPECT they demonstrate towards Mother Earth and our School Sustainability efforts by energetically assisting with our Waste Management each Wednesday without fail! The boys have become great little waste sorters and bring such outstanding teamwork skills and efforts to the role. Bravo 🙌🙌🙌</p> <p><b>Thomas Green, Elliot Fulcher FMM and Harry Toohey FLH</b> for the great RESPECT they demonstrate towards Mother Earth and our School by 'Gobata Dja' taking care of country as our little 'Helping Hands' crew, donning their gardening smocks and gloves and taking care of our garden beds at break times.</p> |   |
| Visual Arts             | Mitchell Bone & Harry Logan (2EH) for making sure our Art Room was left tidy without being asked.  |   |
| Principal's Award       | Sophie Keating For stopping to assist a student who had hurt himself on the yard at Lumen Christi sports day last week.  |   |





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## Book Week

For over 75 years, the Children's Book Council of Australia has promoted Children's Book Week®. Book week isn't just about finding a costume for the parade (and hoping that this year your child doesn't want to dress up as Captain Underpants again), it's about celebrating books. Australian authors and illustrators are particularly celebrated, as classroom teachers and librarians in schools and public libraries create displays, run activities, and tell stories relating to each year's theme. This year, Book Week is this week (Aug 19-25), and the theme is Read, Grow, Inspire.

This article isn't about Book Week though. It's about why books and reading are so important for our kids that we should be celebrating books every day, not just one week a year. In this article I'll also describe how you can help your child to get more out of their reading. And lastly, I'll give you some tips on what to do when your kids don't seem to want to read.

### The science

It is never too early to start a habit of reading with your kids. A meta-analysis (a study that synthesises the results of lots of other studies, in this case 99 other studies) found that when children are exposed to book reading from an early age, it begins a 'causal spiral'; being exposed to books stimulates language and reading development, and in turn children who are more proficient in comprehension and reading skills choose to read more. Significantly, this study looked at every age from preschool to university and found that the gap between readers and non-readers widened every year, culminating in greater academic success in university. There is also some evidence that people who read more live longer, and that reading fiction boosts social skills such as empathy.

### Getting the most out of reading

Reading is good, regardless of how it's done or what is read. But there are a few things we can do to help our children enjoy the benefits and satisfaction it offers. Here are three ideas:

- (i) Have your child read to you. Children don't even need to be able to read to do this. Babies enjoy lifting up flaps and turning pages. Toddlers love pointing at the pictures in their favourite books. Preschoolers may even memorise the words to a well-repeated story. Then as our children learn to read independently, they tend to be really excited to read to us if we can find the time to slow down and turn reading into an activity to share.
- (ii) Read to your child. In addition to bonding, reading to your child helps them to learn about expression, pacing, and the different ways we can experience books. Please remember, when you read to your child, to read slower than you think you should. And for younger

children, pause and ask them questions about how they'd feel, what the characters are feeling, and what they're thinking about the story. (It can be hard to stay awake, I know! But it's worth it.)

- (iii) Have FART time regularly. FART stands for Family All Reading Together. Perhaps once or twice a week, let everyone know it's FART time. Grab some treats. Have everyone select a book. And sit together in the living room while you read those books together, either aloud or in silence.

## What to do when your child doesn't want to read

Not everyone loves reading. However, kids who lack motivation for reading are usually struggling with a small handful of challenges. They either (i) have a reading disorder such as dyslexia, (ii) feel disconnected and want connection with someone, (iii) don't feel competent, or (iv) are feeling controlled and want more choice in what they read. Each of these will reduce intrinsic desire to read. Our role as parents is to help them overcome those boundaries. We can do this by:

- (i) Helping them find appropriate support. With time, patience, and the right structures in place, anyone can learn to enjoy reading. Being dyslexic doesn't prevent that; in fact, one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, F. Scott Fitzgerald, is believed to have had dyslexia.
- (ii) Reading together – them to us and us to them. There are few things cosier than snuggling up together with a good book
- (iii) Finding books that are at a level that stretches them but not so much that it's demotivating, and
- (iv) Offering them as much choice as possible in terms of what they read... even if that means reading Captain Underpants again.

One more important point: never bribe your kids to read, unless the bribe for reading one book is the chance to choose another one!

Reading isn't just about academics, just as Book Week isn't just about winning the award for Best Dressed. Books provide a doorway to the world; through them our kids can climb mountains, experience new cultures, and travel through time and space. As Barack Obama once said, "Reading is important. If you know how to read, then the whole world opens up to you."



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Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit [happyfamilies.com.au](http://happyfamilies.com.au).

