



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
Term 3 Week 8

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### Term 3 (10 weeks)

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

#### Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August

Piano and vocal showcase  
5pm & 6.30pm in Library

#### 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

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

Melbourne Cup Public  
Holiday – Pupil Free Day

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

12.40pm 4CP Assembly

Dear families,

We all enjoyed an active and exciting Book Week last week. The children experienced many different opportunities to share stories, hear from published authors, read together, and even dress up for the great Book Week Parade! It was a terrific opportunity to celebrate literature throughout our school.

Do you have books at home? We know that children learn to read at school and to make those all-important links between reading and writing as they move through the years. In many cases, our students come to school with rich literacy skills and we can build on those experiences formally, every day. The work done in families around building an enjoyment of literature and reading for pleasure often sets the young learner up for a lifetime of interest in literature. What a great gift!

I can remember favourite stories from my childhood, can you? I can also remember the characters in stories even when I forget what the book might have been about. You might like to take a moment this week to share your favourite stories with your children. Don't forget to ask them about theirs too. You might even have some in common.



God bless,

Mark Hogbin.



Along the track – Blessed  
Every action of ours is blessed;  
Every action a wonder  
A privilege:  
When we see  
When we speak  
When we hear  
When we sing  
When we love;  
When we remember  
When we hope  
When we see possibilities  
For this we give thanks



Amen (M. Morwood)

**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

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

6pm Community Christmas  
Gathering

**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 11<sup>th</sup> December**

9.30am Mass in the Gym

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

6pm Year 6 Graduation  
In the Gym

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Last 2023 student day  
Normal finish time.

**Our Very Own Author**

Did you know that St. Francis Xavier has its very own published Author? Ms. Bec Warr has written and illustrated a picture book called *Philly and Billy* and it was published this week. We are very excited to have such a talented writer on our team and we can't wait to have a copy of *Philly and Billy* available in our school library for everyone to enjoy. Congratulations Ms. Warr!

**Happy Father's Day!**

We wish all our dads a very happy Father's Day on Sunday. May you be surrounded by those who care for you and blessed in the knowledge that you are loved.

**End of Year Dates**

As we move to the latter weeks of Term 3 and approach spring, we wanted to confirm an important date for our school community so that you can plan ahead as needed.

**End of 2023 School Year:**

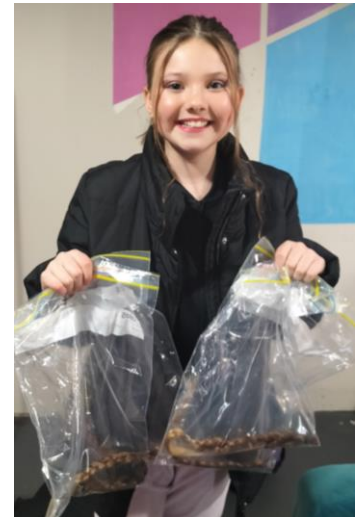
The last day of school for students in 2023 will be Friday 15 December. This sits within the DOBCEL recommendations for schools in the Ballarat Diocese. Classes will cease at the usual time on this day.

**Please find at the end of this newsletter:** Parish Bulletin; How we unintentionally undermine our child's confidence.

**Sophie Keating – Fundraising for Kids with Cancer Foundation**

Well done to Sophie who donated 30 cms of her hair to the Kids with Cancer Foundation on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

<https://fundraise.kidswithcancer.org.au/fundraisers/sophiekeating/wigs-4-kids?fbclid=IwAR357gHDYwXCu33xStutgXhAEuWoPpP0CqQaVEf58xyEMzpULF6--p0IHGM>



**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday August 27th, 2023      Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**Gospel:** Matthew 16:13-20      When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

**Gospel Reflection :** Jesus faces his disciples, and all disciples with the key question – 'Who do you say that I am?'. It is not enough to answer the question in terms of what others say about Jesus, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah or one of the Prophets.'

What really matters for discipleship is who Jesus is for each one personally. 'Who do YOU say I am?' This also raises the question of how we get to know anyone? What is needed to be able to answer this question about anyone – a friend, a spouse, a parent, a child?

**Our Challenge:** What answer would you give to Jesus' question? Who is Jesus to you?  
(Commentary excerpt from Dr Mary Coloe PBVM)



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

**Curriculum News**

**Book Week**

Book Week has now drawn to a close after a week of festivities. We participated in a variety of excursions/ incursions/ story time in the library and ended with the most spectacular Dress up parade in our gym on Friday morning. A huge shoutout to our SFX children, families and staff for the brilliant costumes on display. The gym was certainly full of positive energy as we celebrated Book Week 2023.

Our **Guess the book characters competition** was certainly a huge success. Mr Hogbin drew the winning entries.

Our winners:      Foundation - Noa Cavanagh

Year 1 /2 - Milla Rowland      3/4 - Aria Treacy      5/6 - Lilly Rice

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who had a go.

Answers will be displayed on the front office window if you would like to check.



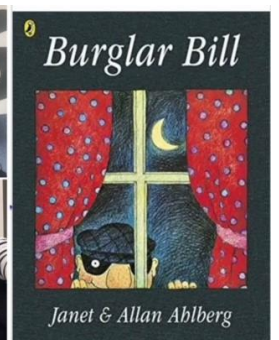
**Assessment & Reporting - Student Led Conferences**

Student Led Conferences will be a feature of our Assessment and Reporting schedule this term. These will be held this week, on Wednesday 30th August and next week, Tuesday 5th September. Be sure to make your Student Led Conference booking via PAM if you haven't already done so. Preparations are well underway with for this valuable and informative time.

Thank you for your continued support!



A large group of children, many in costumes (including superheroes like Superman and Batman, and various animals), are sitting on the floor of a gymnasium. They are arranged in rows, facing towards the right side of the frame. In the background, several adults are standing near the bleachers and the basketball hoop. The gymnasium has a wooden floor and walls, with large windows on the left side. There are banners hanging from the ceiling, including one for 'Gargan' and another for 'Mentor'. A basketball hoop is visible on the right side of the image.



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## Wellbeing News

Ask a child what they think '**brave**' means to them...and they will probably say it means **not being afraid**. But it's actually the opposite...

What most children (and even some adults!) don't realise is that courage doesn't always feel like courage. It means doing something *despite* feeling afraid. If there is no fear, there is no need for courage.

To build courage, we need to practice pushing through those uncomfortable feelings to do the right thing. It takes bravery to stand up for what you do or don't want to do, especially when you feel pressured. We want our children to be brave enough to trust their own boundaries.

If we continually step in to solve our children's school problems, smooth over their friendship issues or let them avoid their anxiety provoking situation, we send them the message that we don't think they can cope with difficult or unfamiliar situations. However, when we focus on times they have felt scared yet still succeeded in having a go at something tricky, standing up to do a speech or staying at school camp, we empower them and our belief in them helps them to grow.

Attached is an article that discusses ways we may unintentionally be undermining our children's confidence. I hope it provides some new conversation starters in your family!

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

## Sport/Physical Education News

### Eureka Division Basketball

On Wednesday last week, our Boys and Girls Basketball teams took to the courts at Selkirk Basketball Stadium for the Eureka Division Basketball Tournament. Both teams displayed great skill, teamwork and sportspersonship throughout the day and managed to both get a couple of wins. Most pleasing to hear was the support each team gave to the other. A huge thank you to Mrs Barclay and Craig Cheeseman for their outstanding coaching and to Mrs van Hamond and Mr Canny for their support and efforts on the day.

### Ballarat Catholic Primary School Athletics:

Congratulations to all of the students that participated at the Ballarat Catholic Primary School Athletics day last Friday at Llanberris. Early Spring weather meant for some wonderful efforts and achievements. Well done to all of the students that were involved and congratulations to those that have progressed through to the Division Athletics in Week 9. A big thank you to Mrs Barclay and Mrs Tocchet for supporting and assisting at the event, and a shout out to all of the families that came along to support and cheer on the children.

### Swimming Program

In week 10 of this term, our Yr 1 & Yr 3 students will be participating in a one week Aquatic and Water Safety program at BALC. We wish them well and hope they have lots of fun. Years 2, 4 & 5 will be participating in Week 1 of Term 4. Please refer to the PAM note for more details.

### Golf Tournament

Following last term's golf clinics, Tony Collier has selected the below students for the Term 4 tournament: Rhys Bell, Angus Burbidge, Jed Hynes, Evie Staley, Charlie Kersley, Nicholas Green, Billy Cheeseman, Hudson McGrath, Edward Lloyd, Alfie Sosinski, Lachlan Patterson, Adele Marson, Mitch Kane, Beau Hanson, Archer Spackman, Pippa Dalton, Stella Reus, Braxton Buntsma, Olivia Klein, Monty Harrison, Jack Elliot, Xavier Kersley, Leo Thorp, Rafter Castles, Alex Hocking, Ash Norris, Jake Cheeseman, Mackenzie Burbidge, Jack Gertz, Jack Fraser, Nate Toohey, George Britt, Ella Lunn, Zach Kennedy, Xavier Staley, Abe Sosinski, Felicity McGrath, Julian Simpson, Wentworth Campbell & Evie Knowles.

The tournament will be held at Mt Xavier Golf Club on Wednesday October 18th. More details to follow.

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

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## 2023 Sports Dates

### Term 3:

- Week 9 - Tuesday Sep 5th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris
- Week 10 - Mon Sep 11th - Fri Sep 15th - Yr 1 & 3 Swimming Program

### Term 4:

- Week 1 - Mon Oct 2nd - Fri Oct 6th - Swimming Yr 2, 4 & 5
- Week 1 - Friday Oct 6th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris
- Week 3 - Wednesday October 18th - Division Golf @ Mt Xavier GC
- Week 5 - Wednesday Nov 1st - Division Cricket
- Week 5 - Friday Nov 3rd - F - 2 Junior Sports Day @ Russell Square
- Week 7 - Friday Nov 17th - SFX Yr 3 -6 Athletics Day @ 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 an awesome 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 Ted Nunn Vivienne Young Edie Young	Luella Dunstan & Sierra O'Riley Charlotte Bell Mia Whatmough & Emily Bone Leo Thorp
<b>JUNIOR CHOIR P - 2</b>	<b>SENIOR CHOIR 3 - 6</b>
Rahui Munokoa Byron Toohey Bonnie Giles Thiago Mottacrespo	Chelsea Crowe & Stella Reus Grace Hocking Leo Thorp & Isa Jones 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

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## 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.



27 August 2023

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Lord, your love is eternal*



▶ **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

# 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

### St Alipius

Tue 2:00PM – Maureen Santamaria funeral

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 4 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:

Maureen Santamaria

Anniversaries: Eileen

O'Meara

Unwell: Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Colin McKenzie, Patricia Murry, Carole Simmons, Shelley Pawang, Noreen White

## 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 JUSTICE SUNDAY



## 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

## 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/)

## 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.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1066
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$233.20

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.

## PIETY STALL

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

## 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.

## CARING GROUP

The caring group will meet at 2:00 PM on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September in the St Alipius parish hall. All are welcome. Please bring a plate to share

## 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

Bryce Michael Vargas  
Child of James and Marianne Vargas

Layla May and Milly May Marshall  
Children of Michael and Nicole Marshall

Daisy James Stevenson  
Child of Brett and Jessica Stevenson

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

## FAITHFUL TOOLKIT

Majellan Media have launched "Faithful Toolkit" – a dynamic collection of smart apps on their website designed to nourish and foster your faith journey. Built with the wisdom of the church's teachings and augmented by the power of AI, these tools provide a new, interactive way to explore various aspects of faith. Access the kit here: <https://majellan.media/faithful-toolkit/>

## 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.

## SEASON OF CREATION

Every year from 1 September – 4 October, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow", drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/)

## CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Next weekend is the annual Ballarat Clergy Support Fund: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, and others live in supported accommodation. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. Caring for those who care for us is the Church community's responsibility.



## CSSV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Catholic Social Services Conference will be held from 21–23 February 2024, in conjunction with Catholic Social Services Australia at the Catholic Leadership Centre. The theme of the conference is "Commons, Commonality, Common Good." Early bird tickets and more information are available here: [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1101016](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1101016)

## INTERFAITH CONVERSATION

Garratt Publishing, in conjunction with Yarra Theological Union, is holding a new four-session webinar series exploring other religious traditions from a Catholic perspective – Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam. The webinars will take the form of a 'conversation' and will be hosted by a Catholic scholar well versed in inter-religious dialogue. Sessions will be held on Monday evenings 4, 11 and 18 September, and 9 October from 7.00 PM – 8.15 PM online via Zoom. The cost is \$33.00 (+ booking fee) for all four sessions. To register, visit: [www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/nostra-aetate-interfaith-conversations-for-today/](http://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/nostra-aetate-interfaith-conversations-for-today/)



# You are the Christ

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 16:13–20

"Be yourself. Everybody else is taken", sings Melinda Schneider. The lyrics of this song, composed for Melinda's dying father, affirm some fairly obvious truths.

Even though we know that "everybody else is taken", most of us spend energy trying to measure up to other peoples' expectations and fail to be truly ourselves. In our self-absorption, we can also misread others and fail to know them as they are.

Accepting ourselves and being accepted as we are is among the most precious of gifts. Jesus knew this. He was utterly true to himself, and he allowed others time to discover for themselves his real identity and the nature of his mission.

If the mission were to succeed, then his followers needed to look beyond their preconceptions about him and accept him as God's anointed, as the revelation of the living God.

Jesus' true identity is a key issue for Matthew's community, as it is for us. From the outset, Jesus is presented as the anointed of God, the Messiah, or the Christos. Before his birth, the reader knows him as "Emmanuel", God with us. What the narrator asserts at the outset, certain characters in the story come to understand. Jesus'

fearless teaching and his healing ministry bring the crowd to recognise him as a prophet and as the incarnate Wisdom of God.

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*Jesus' fearless teaching  
and his healing ministry  
bring the crowd to  
recognise him*

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The power of God at work in Peter leads him to a deep understanding of Jesus' identity. Peter has faltered in the past and will falter again, even to the point of denying any knowledge of or association with Jesus. He finally arrives at deep insight, however, and proclaims his faith in Jesus as both Christ/Messiah and son of the living God.

Insight is a gift, and God can work wherever there is openness and goodwill. Peter is presented here as having both. He is declared "blessed" on account of this gift of insight and entrusted with the "keys" of God's empire.

The specific power of binding and loosing that is given to Peter is subsequently given to the community of disciples (18:18). The saying is framed by instructions about dealing with transgressors and by the assertion



that where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, he is there in their midst.

"Binding and loosing" belong to all who gather in the name of Jesus whom Matthew presents as God-with-us, as prophet and Wisdom, as the Christ and as the revelation of the living God.

The exercise of the power "to bind and to loose" demands the same wisdom and insight as does the capacity to recognise and affirm the true identity of Jesus.

Gathering in the name of Jesus is a challenge at any time. It is a particular challenge in the face of the disillusionment and hurt caused by abuse of the most vulnerable in our midst. We pray for the wisdom to find new ways of being church and of truly dealing with transgression.

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JEREMIAH 20:7–9  
ROMANS 12:1–2  
MATTHEW 16:21–27

## HOW WE UNINTENTIONALLY UNDERMINE OUR CHILD'S CONFIDENCE

### WHEN WE CONTROL INSTEAD OF COACH

We make it all about us.

When we say: "That's not how you do it. Let me show you."

They think: "I guess Mom can do it better than me."



### WHEN WE DON'T SHOW TRUST

We don't believe our child might have the capability to do a new task.

When we say: "Go ask your Dad to help you."

They think: "My mom doesn't trust I can do it. She thinks I need help."

### WHEN WE FOCUS ON "THE RIGHT WAY"

We don't consider child's approach to a task.

When we say: "Are you sure that's how you want to do it?"

They think: "I must be doing this the wrong way."



### WHEN WE EVALUATE

We put judgment instead of fostering a child's internal evaluation.

When we say: "You didn't ask for help and look what happened."

They think: "I guess I don't need to try doing things on my own."

CONFIDENCE ISN'T A GIFT WE CAN GIVE OUR CHILDREN.

TRUE CONFIDENCE IS LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCES OF TRYING NEW THINGS, EXPERIENCING FAILURE AND SUCCESS, AND...BY HAVING THE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO COPE WITH ALL OF IT.

## WHAT TO SAY INSTEAD

- Coaching = "Here's how I do this; maybe it will work for you."
- Trust = "That's not the way I do it, but give it a try. That approach might work!"
- Not focusing on perfection = "You persisted with that project even though it was difficult."
- Focusing on progress = "You have improved your organizational skills so much."
- Process praise = "I love how you wrote so descriptively in that book report."
- Noticing = "You must feel proud; that project took a lot of work"



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## HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Mon 18th Sept - Thur 28th Sept

\*No session Fri 29th Sept due to AFL GF PH



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