



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 16th October 2023
Term 4 Week 3

P.O. Box 2027
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Term 4 (12 weeks)

Mon 2nd Oct - Wed 20th Dec

Wednesday 18th October
Division Golf at Mt Xavier
Golf Club

Friday 20th October
2.15pm in gym
Grandparents' and
Grandfriends' Day

2024 Foundation Transition

Monday 23rd October
Last day for Issue 7 Book
Club Orders

Thursday 26th October
SFX Disco Night

Friday 27th October
12.40pm 2CJ Assembly

Free Dress Day – raising
money for Mercy Works

2024 Foundation Transition

Wednesday 1st November
Division Cricket

State Athletics at Lakeside
Stadium

Friday 3rd November
12.40pm 3NM Assembly
F-2 Junior Sports Day at
Russell Square

Monday 6th November
Reporting & Assessment
Day – Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 7th November
Melbourne Cup Public
Holiday – Pupil Free Day

Friday 10th November
12.40pm 4CP Assembly

Friday 17th November
12.40pm F MM Assembly

Yr 3-6 Athletics Day
at Llanberris

Tuesday 21st November
2024 Foundation
Information Night

Wed 22nd – Friday 24th Nov
Year 5 Kangaroobie Camp

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

There is a lot happening in our world at the moment. Sometimes it can be hard to keep up with global events which all impact on our lives in so many ways.

We were all shocked last week to hear of renewed fighting on the Gaza Strip. The images of suffering and hurt are powerful and so distressing. I find it hard to comprehend how we can use religion as an excuse to cause such harm. I realize that the historical nature of occupied territories and links to national identity and homeland are strong and complex, but surely respect for human life and dignity is more important. Sometimes I am just left wondering.

Over recent weeks we have been following the Papal Synod on synodality. Pope Francis has called faith leaders from around the world to gather in Rome to plan future growth of our universal church. The ability to listen might create the change required for future growth. Hopefully, the same might apply for some of the conflicts that are occurring at the moment.

Let's pray for peace. Let's pray for wisdom and let's action our prayers through the ways that we choose to exist in this world together.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



A Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Friday 24th November

12.40pm F GJ Assembly

Tuesday 28th November

2024 Foundation Transition

Thursday 30th November

6pm Community Christmas
Gathering

Friday 1st December

12.40pm 2GH Assembly

St Francis Xavier Feast Day
celebrations

Wednesday 6th December

Year 4 Camp

Monday 11th December

9.30am Mass in the Gym

Wednesday 13th December

6pm Year 6 Graduation
In the Gym

Friday 15th December

Last 2023 student day
Normal finish time.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.



Revised End of Day Procedures

Thanks to all families who have supported us through the changes to our end of day procedures which were instigated last term. When we made the changes we said that we would take on feedback and refine the process in time. With this in mind from Monday 16 October we will move to the following procedure:

3.15pm bus bell will ring for bus students to move to the bus area

3.20pm end of day bell will ring and all classes including F-1 will move with their teachers to the undercover area for collection. Students will assemble in class lines. Students in Yrs. 4 – 6 will gather under the verandah at the rear of the gym and will join any remaining students in the undercover area at 3.30pm. Students may be collected from 3.20pm in either the undercover area or the gym verandah according to their year level.

Congratulations Mr Ferguson

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Ferguson who were married in Paris in the recent school holidays. We wish you a lifetime of happiness for many years ahead.



*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.*



Please find at the end of this newsletter: Parish Bulletin; Assembly Awards.

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THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 15, 2023 Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus again used parables in talking to the people. "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to tell the invited guests to come to the feast, but they did not want to come. So he sent other servants with this message for the guests: 'My feast is ready now; my bullocks and prize calves have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!' But the invited guests paid no attention and went about their business: one went to his farm, another to his shop, while others grabbed the servants, beat them, and killed them. The king was very angry; so he sent his soldiers, who killed those murderers and burnt down their city. Then he called his servants and said to them, 'My wedding feast is ready, but the people I invited did not deserve it. Now go to the main streets and invite to the feast as many people as you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, good and bad alike; and the wedding hall was filled with people.

And Jesus concluded, "Many are invited, but few are chosen." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

Gospel reflection: The kingdom of Heaven is here right now on earth! We are all invited by God to be a part of this kingdom and it is a place where everyone is welcome.

How can we answer God's invitation and make the kingdom of heaven a reality on earth?

We can listen to God's word and try to follow what God asks us to do in our lives. God asks us to be kind, to be welcoming and invite others to share in what we have, to bring peace, to stand up for what is right, to care for and respect one another and to love our neighbour, wherever they are in the world.

By answering God's invitation we can help to reflect God's kingdom here on earth. We will help other people to see that we care for everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, and the world will become a better, fairer place for all people to live.

Our Challenge: What can I do to bring God's kingdom to earth? *(Adapted from CAFOD website)*



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Wellbeing News

Butterfly Foundation's Body Confident Children and Teen webinar

Body Confident Children and Teens for Parents 17th October 7 - 8.15pm (AEDT) via Zoom

Topics covered in Butterfly Foundation's Body Confident Children and Teen webinar include: Body image influences | The role of body image in problematic eating and exercise behaviours | How to positively role model | Responding to appearance talk and appearance-teasing | What to do if concerned.

Register

https://events.butterfly.org.au/portal/event/?id=EP_BCCT_Parent_Webinar2583081573&Name=17/10/23%20BCCT

BRAVEHEARTS VISIT

On Tuesday October 17, the children in Foundation, Year One and Year Two have the opportunity to experience Bravehearts' personal safety education program Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show. The Ditto show is a live, interactive 40 minute performance starring Bravehearts' mascot 'Ditto'. It includes song, dance, and easy-to-remember messages about personal safety.



The show is underpinned by the following six principles of personal safety:

- Differentiating 'yes' and 'no' feelings
- Recognising the bodies 'warning signs'
- Identifying 'private parts' and 'privacy'
- Helping children identify language and feelings associated with secrets
- Reinforcing that there is no secret that children cannot tell someone

Parents and carers are WELCOME to attend!

The Foundation children will attend at 12.20pm and the Year One and Two's at 1.45pm.

If you would like to learn more about how to talk to your child about personal safety, download Bravehearts' FREE PERSONAL SAFETY PARENTS AND CARERS GUIDE from the Bravehearts website. Just go to:

bravehearts.org.au/personalsafety.

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Golf Tournament Good luck to the students participating in Wednesday's Division Golf Tournament at Mt Xavier Golf Club. Fingers crossed for some good weather and we know that you will have an enjoyable day. We look forward to hearing how it goes.

Junior Sports Day On Friday November 3rd (Week 5), we look forward to the Foundation - Yr 2 Junior Sports Day. This event is a wonderful day filled with excitement, fun and lots of great activities. Please keep an eye out for the PAM notification regarding this event.

2023 Sports Dates

Term 4:

- Week 3 - Wednesday October 18th - Division Golf @ Mt Xavier GC
- Week 5 - Wednesday Nov 1st - Division Cricket
- Week 5 - Wednesday Nov 1st - State Athletics @ Lakeside Stadium
- Week 5 - Friday Nov 3rd - F - 2 Junior Sports Day @ Russell Square
- Week 6 - Friday Nov 10th - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6) v Emmaus @SFX
- 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 a sensational week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**



▶ **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

15 October 2023

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I shall live in the house of the Lord

St Alipius

parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tue 6:30 PM Rosary for Jack Patton
Wed 10:00 AM (Jack Patton's funeral)
Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)
10:30 AM (2nd & 4th)
Rosary – Tuesday 6:30 PM
Ss Peter and Paul's
Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)
10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)
Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 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: Jack Patton, Gary Wemdlly

Anniversaries: Fr. Denis Dennehy, Carmel Mitchell

Unwell: Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Patricia Murry, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

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.



MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Our annual Remembrance Mass, celebrating the lives of those who have passed away in the last 12 months will be at 6:00 PM on Saturday 28 October at St Alipius. These people will be remembered at all masses that weekend. If you have lost a loved one in the past twelve months, but they weren't buried from our parish, please contact the parish office to have them remembered at this mass. A cuppa will follow the 6:00 PM mass at St. Alipius and the 10:30 AM mass at Buninyong. Please spread the word.

HALL UPDATE – THANK YOU

On behalf of the parish, we would like to extend our gratitude to Dallas and Kevin Wilkinson who have generously purchased new vertical blinds for the large windows at the east end of our church hall. These blinds were installed recently following a working bee that Dallas organised. Thanks to all who helped on this day, this end of the hall is looking fantastic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mass of Remembrance
6:00 PM, Saturday 28 October, Parish Hall

Melbourne Cup Luncheon
11:00 AM, Tuesday 7 November, Parish Hall

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

After the great success and fun that was had at last year's Melbourne Cup Luncheon, we have decided to hold the event again. You are invited to join us for a luncheon to celebrate the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday 7 November from 11 AM in St Alipius Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person. Lunch of chicken, salad and dessert will be supplied. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be supplied. Please confirm numbers with the parish office by 31 October. Prizes for the best male and female fascinators. Sweeps will be available. If anyone can bring a salad or a dessert, please let the office know.

WELCOME

Welcome and Thank Fr Matthew Thomas for joining us and saying our weekend masses with us while Fr Jorge is away.

REMEMBRANCE BOOKS

Remembrance books can be found in the foyers of both churches. These books have been placed there to allow parishioners to record the names of loved ones who have passed away at any stage. People whose names are recorded in these books will be prayed for during masses throughout November.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$972
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$375.70

We invite anybody who would like to join the program to please contact the parish office.

LITURGY NEWS

Those rostered on for roles at weekend masses will receive a reminder email from the office on Wednesdays.

SVDP NATIONAL CONGRESS

In late October, the St Vincent de Paul Society will hold a three-day National Congress in Sydney. As part of the preparations for this event, all conferences have been asked to share their stories and mission with their local community. Please check out the Ballarat East Conference displays – "The Hands Behind the Help" in the St Alipius and Buninyong foyers.

NATIVITY SCENE EXHIBITION

The diocesan archive is presenting an exhibition of Nativity scenes from 20 November until late January 2024 and would like to include pieces from different parishes within the Diocese. If you have a Nativity scene you would like to put on display either in the archives or via the online display, please contact Samantha Fabry at archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission has released presentations for the diocesan launch of the Social Justice Statement 2023: **Listen Learn Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**. This event is pre-recorded and in digital format so that parish and school communities along with individuals can access these resources at their convenience. Visit this link for more information: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/

PAPAL ENCYCLICALS

Pope Francis released 'Laudate Deum', his apostolic exhortation on the climate crisis. Officially titled, 'Laudate Deum: To all the People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis', the exhortation is a sequel to his exhortation, 'Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. Laudate Deum and further resources are available from www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/laudate-deum-apostolic-exhortation-of-pope-francis/



In his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si', Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

BAPTISMS

Sam Anthony Fletcher
Child of Ross and Claire Fletcher

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

SYNOD OF BISHOPS PRAYER

The Vatican is asking all baptised people, regardless of whether they will be in Rome, to participate in October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops with their prayers. More information is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/

SYNOD SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on social media: Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550920686593, Instagram: www.instagram.com/16ordinaryqs/, Twitter: https://twitter.com/i/flow/login?redirect_after_login=%2F16SynodAssembly

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

Pope's intention for October – For the Synod: We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit toward the peripheries of the world. Lord, hear us.

MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre & Museum Open Day is on Saturday, 28 October. Visit the Heritage Centre – a building initially purpose-built as a place of providence for women on the grounds purchased by Saint Mary MacKillop in 1901. Museum tours every hour from 10:00 AM (last tour at 3:00 PM); Mary's Little Lon Walking Tour at 11:00 AM (approximately 1½ hours); open access for visitors 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Book a tour at <https://www.mmhc.org.au/victorian-seniors-festival-at-mmhc/>

The Mary MacKillop Museum will present a selection of museum objects, in particular those that highlight the changes to the Sisters' Habit over time and Mary's canonisation. For some objects, it will be the first time they have been on display within the Temporary Gallery.

Consider supporting a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a 2024 Josephite Calendar or Christmas present from the Museum Gift Shop. The shop stocks communion and confirmation gifts, devotional items, Vatican pieces, rosary beads, holding crosses, candles, cards, statues, crucifixes, books, and Peruvian handmade items.

When staying in Melbourne book a well-appointed 1 or 2-bedroom apartment at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in the heart of East Melbourne. Includes free parking and Wi-Fi. Phone Kate – 9926 9300.

2024 CONFERENCE TICKETS

The 2024 Catholic Social Services National Conference, "Commons, Commonality, Common Good" will be held from 21–23 February 2024 at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne. For early bird tickets, scan or click the QR code.



Sharing in the Banquet of Life

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 22:1–103

The increasing wealth of the few and the growing divide between rich and poor, particularly in the developing world, are challenging us all to consider our attitudes to the planet's resources and to the economic systems that maintain that imbalance.

The economic divide is highlighted by the vulnerability of those rendered poor or even homeless in our world.

Today's gospel brings a warning. Like the invited guests in Matthew's parable of the wedding banquet, we are in danger of turning our backs on a gracious invitation or "call" not only to share in but also to ensure that all God's creatures might share in the fruits of the earth.

The king's invitation to successive and diverse groups recalls Israel's prophetic tradition where God's ultimate reign is imaged as a feast of the best food and wine, not just for a privileged few, but for all.

Many other aspects of the parable are quite troubling. Its focus is on the human community. Privileged humans are the first to be invited: the invitation to the less privileged comes only after those on the initial guest list have refused to come. This aspect of the story hardly reflects the values of God's empire or reign.

Furthermore, the violent retaliation of the spurned host is hard to reconcile with an image of God's reign.

This is also true of the treatment of the guest without a wedding robe in a situation where none of the guests has had the opportunity to procure the right attire.

We are in danger of turning our backs on a gracious invitation

It becomes clear that this is not a story to be taken literally. Rather, it invites the reader to critique interpretations that see the king's behaviour as a reflection of how God deals with God's creation.

So, what might this story be telling us?

If we look again at the despotic aspects of the king's character, we might find there a reflection of our own capacity to look after ourselves at the expense of the vulnerable people in our world and of the other-than-human.

We might find an image of our nation's long-term redirecting of the



foreign aid budget towards keeping refugees from settling in our land.

On the other hand, if we put ourselves in the place of the original audience, we might find ourselves quite amazed at the inclusiveness of the king in a world where the people on the street would never have been invited to such a wedding banquet.

If we think about the wedding garment as symbolic of a "right" disposition or attitude in relation to the host, the company, and the riches to be shared, we might be drawn to handle Earth's precious resources with a little more care for the common good of all the inhabitants of our planet.

Our gospel tradition tells us that God's empire will be realised only when all have the opportunity to share in the feast of life and when other-than-human Earth inhabitants have the resources that enable them to flourish.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ISAIAH 25:6–10
PHILIPPIANS 4:12–14, 19–20
MATTHEW 22:1–10

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ISAIAH 45:1, 4–6
THESSALONIANS 1:1–5
MATTHEW 22:15–21

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 13th October 2023 Hosted by 6MM Theme: Compassion

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

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

F LH	Olive Anderson & Cruz Raine
F TW	Patrick Leneghan & Ruby Plover
F GJ	Khloe Nield & Alfie Waldron
F MM	Matilda Wilding & Polly O'Loughlin
1 JS	Asher Sutcliffe and Eddy Heinrich
1 MM	Mila Quandt & Nicolas Taylor
1 EM	Arlo Troon & Lilly Bye
2 EH	Jameson Cambell and Alora Warren
2 CJ	Maeve Tongs and Jack Quinlan
2 GH	Charlie Quarrell and Byron Morton
3 NM	Ella Crumpton and Jackson Roberts
3 JV	Finya Najera-Hinko and Sonny Troon
3 GW	Evangeline Speirs and Macklin Smith
4 BW	Angus Burbidge and Cooper Manning
4 HC	Margot Castles and James Hocking
4 CP	Myles Youl and Beatrice Heywood
5 JF	Archer Spackman and Emma Locke
5 OH	Flynn Boyd and Morgan Morley
5 CC	Lachlan Patterson and Mila Shillito
6 PB	Xavier Kersley and Charlotte Bell
6 MM	Maebh Arnts and Henry Robb
6 ZA	Louis Britt & Nate Toohey
Environmental Education	Edward Lloyd (Grade 4) and Alfie Brennan (Foundation)
Performing Arts	Tom Kierce (4CP) for his excellent focus and efforts in Music
Visual Arts	Campbell Delahunty & Emma Locke (5JF)
Principal's Award	Matthew Corrigan

QUERIES: CALL DOM 0417 967 621



SUPER SPORTS!

BACK AT SFX PS FOR TERM 4!

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM

WEDNESDAYS: MULTI-SPORTS 3:25PM-4:55PM
(TENNIS, CRICKET, FRISBEE, SOCCER & BASKETBALL)
2 WEEKS OF EACH SPORT. PREPS TO GRADE 6

**SPOTS STILL
AVAILABLE!**

**SIGN-UP AT ANY TIME & ONLY PAY FOR
THE REMAINING WEEKS OF THE TERM**

LEARN NEW SPORTS & SKILLS IN TERM 4
Have loads of fun with your friends while playing a
range of dynamic & active sports throughout term 4

**OUR SESSIONS RUN AT SFX PS
PARENTS PICK-UP AT 4:55PM**



**\$23 + GST
PER
SESSION**

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The SOVEREIGN KNIGHTS

BASKETBALL CLUB IS
LOOKING FOR PLAYERS



Welcoming players from 5-19 years

Develop a range of physical and mental skills, lasting friendships and be a valued part of your team and our club.



Contact us today for more
information on how to get involved!
admin@skbc.org.au

Must not be registered
with any other club



VR4808952

Training is Wednesday or Thursday nights depending on your age group, at Phoenix College.