



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 30th October 2023
Term 4 Week 5

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Term 4 (12 weeks)

Mon 2nd Oct - Wed 20th Dec

Wednesday 1st November

Division Cricket

State Athletics at Lakeside Stadium

Thursday 2nd November

6pm & 7pm in Library
Guitar Showcase

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 Kangaroo Camp

Friday 24th November

12.40pm F GJ Assembly

Tuesday 28th November

2024 Foundation Transition

Wednesday 29th November

Yr 1 Camp Experience

Thursday 30th November

Yr 1 Camp Experience

6pm Community Christmas Gathering

Friday 1st December

12.40pm 2GH Assembly

St Francis Xavier Feast Day celebrations

Tues 5th & Wed 6th Dec

Year 4 Cave Hill Creek Camp

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Over the past several months there has been a series of monumental meetings held in Rome as the Synod on Synodality has commenced shaping possible futures for the Catholic Church. Under the guidance of Pope Francis, we have seen unprecedented discussion, reflection and debate about what it means to be a living faith today.

As I read about what has been discussed and how topics such as lay personnel, women in the church, acceptance of all and diversity are brought to the table I am somewhat surprised at how brave our Pope is to tackle the issues which seem to have held us back for so long.

Yesterday's Gospel reading spoke about loving our neighbor. This powerful story of how people tried to trick Jesus into debates about leadership teaches us so much today. When Jesus told those present to love others and to love our God with all our heart and soul, he was bravely calling his followers to stand up and be examples of faith in action. As Pope Francis closed the first session of the Synod over the weekend he asked those present to be willing to act with love and to trust in the loving nature of God. He pointed out that this may in fact, be the greatest endeavour in what he calls 'perennial reform'.

When I read of this kind of leadership I feel inspired to do my best. When I listen to the weekly Gospel I am challenged to strive further into my faith. Perhaps that's the message of the Synod today that we can all act with love (Mercy) and through our actions, create the change we would most like to see.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



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.

School Disco

What a fantastic evening we had last Thursday as we celebrated the school Disco together! The children came along ready to dance the night away and our Parents & Friends committee made sure that everyone celebrated a night to remember. Thank you to our P&F who made this event happen for our children and to our wonderful staff who gave of their own time to show their support. Well done everyone!



Junior School Sports



Our junior school students (F-2) will come together on Friday to enjoy their special School Sports Day at Russell Square. This is a great day of fun and participation for our youngest students. Parents and friends are most welcome to come along and enjoy the day with us. Children will need to meet their teachers at the venue by 9.30 am and we plan to conclude by 2.30pm when children may be taken home. Students may wear a shirt in their house colours to this special event. See you at the Sports!

School Closure Day

Don't forget that our school will be closed on Monday 6th November for staff to work on assessment and reporting across our school. This will be accompanied by the public holiday on Tuesday 7th November when we celebrate Melbourne Cup Day across the nation.

Please find at the end of this newsletter: Parish Bulletin; Assembly Awards; How to have a great relationship with our kids' teachers.



St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 29, 2023 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. "Teacher," he asked, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

Gospel reflection: A commandment is a type of rule that God has given us and Jesus says the greatest and the first commandment is that we should love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind.

In his second commandment, Jesus asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

When Jesus asks us to love our neighbour, do you think he just means the person who lives next door? Who else is our neighbour?

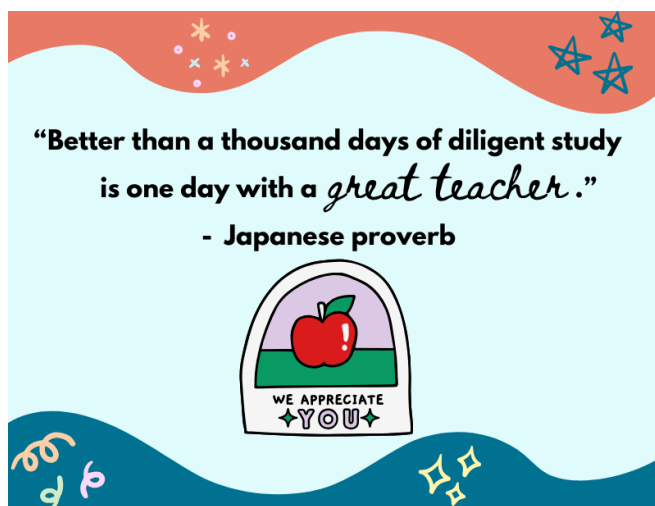
Our neighbours are the people sitting next to us right now, as well as all the people in the same street, at school and at church, in our town and in our world. After all, we're all part of the same big global family and we're all loved by God. Jesus wants us to treat other people as we would want to be treated, to make sure all people are treated fairly, and have what they need. We can all put our love into action to support our neighbours around the world and to help them get the things that they need.

Our Challenge: What will you do to help your neighbours and show your love for them in the coming week?

(Adapted from CAFOD website)



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader



Last Friday we acknowledged World Teachers day. Thank you to our staff who are committed to their profession and work tirelessly for the best education for each child in their care. We appreciate you.

Term Four – Teaching & Learning

Our Term Four teaching and learning is in full swing as our teachers and children aim to consolidate their 2023 learning and ensure all children are set up for success in 2024. We continue to remain committed to utilising the Stepping Stones Maths curriculum, as well as Mental Maths to ensure all children develop the skills and understandings necessary to excel as mathematicians in our SFX environment and beyond. As a school we continue to strive for excellence in the teaching and learning experiences we provide our children each day!

Assessment & Reporting

This term, teachers will continue to report student progress via our Seesaw Digital Journal platform. The Assessment Tasks shared on Seesaw will showcase your child's achievements and inform you of their next steps in learning. Our teachers are also busy writing Semester Two formal reports ready to share with you later in the term. Each child will receive a written report along with a range of progression points that will indicate their achievements in alignment to the Victorian Curriculum.

Seesaw sends us a report on our usage. Below is Oct 15-22 (Week 3) of this term.



Week of October 15 - October 22 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



218
New Items



245
Likes



104
Comments



460
Family Visits

Enjoy your week,



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

Wellbeing News

By the time your child graduates high school, they will have spent about 17,640 hours at school. That's a lot of hours! In fact, on a typical school day, our kids spend 2-3 times as many hours with their school teacher than they spend with their parents and caregivers!

Last Friday we celebrated International Teacher's Day, with the theme "hat's off to Teachers".

In the attached article, Justin Coulson gives us some great tips for building and maintaining a positive relationship with your child's teacher.

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Junior Sports Day

This Friday November 3rd, 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. Once again our Yr 6 Sports Captains will take on leadership and teaching roles and will conduct various activities for the students. Please check the PAM note for further details.

Division Cricket

On Wednesday we have the Girls and Boys cricket teams playing in the Eureka Division Cricket Tournament at Wendouree. Congratulations to all of the students that were selected to represent SFX. Both teams have been practising their batting and bowling and we hope the day goes well for you all.

State Track & Field Championships

We wish our five students (Jed Hynes - hurdles, Mitch Kane - high jump, Archer Spackman - 800m, Felicity McGrath - 800m and Nate Toohey - Discus) who are off to Melbourne on Wednesday for the State Athletics Championships all the very best in their events. We are all proud of you for making it this far and can't wait to hear how you go. We know that you will represent our school and yourselves well.

Sporting Schools - after school program

Students participating in Term 4:

Monday - Badminton

Lilly & Harley Bye, Levi & Chelsea Crowe, James & Mitchell Cyples, Gabe Dunne, Daulat Gill, Nicholas, Olivia & Thomas Green, Sam Hill, Maebh & Mollie Arnts, Lucinda Leanonard, Harriet & Emma Locke, Harry Logan, Frederick & Audrey Lynch, Thiago Motta Crespo, Rahui Munokoa, Lenny Owins, Marco Pietrantuono, Lilly Rice, Evangeline Spiers, Sofia St Louis, Savee Thuse & Xavier Uljanic.

Thursday - Soccer

Ted Answer, Alfie Brennan, Hazel, Lachlan & Josie De Lorenzo, Louis Evans, River Fedke, Xavier Foster, Edward Giblett, Edie & Bonnie Giles, Ted Glesson, Winnie & Monty Harrison, Jax Lodge, Augie Mason, Murphy Noonan, Wilson & Jack Quinlan, Nevon Thuse, Ella Uljanic, Jagger, Cruise & Tilly Van Langevelde, Sophie, Connor & Lachie White.

2023 Sports Dates

Term 4:

- Week 5 - Wednesday Nov 1st - Division Cricket @ C.E. Brown Reserve
- 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

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.

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**

Performing Arts News

A poster for a 'GUITAR SHOWCASE' at 'SFX LIBRARY' on 'THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2'. The poster features a large blue guitar graphic on the left. The title 'GUITAR SHOWCASE' is in large white letters on a dark blue background. Below it, 'SFX LIBRARY' and 'THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2' are in white. The poster lists two columns of names for performances at 6PM and 7PM.

6PM	7PM
PADDY LUDBROOK	MALO HANSEN
EDDIE ANDERSON	MITCHELL BONE
BERTIE STANLEY	THOMAS HISCOCK
FREDDY LYNCH	TED NUNN
NOAH CHIBNALL	SAM NORRIS
NIC GREEN	HARRY HATT
ED LLOYD	GEORGE PEARCE
EMERSON ROLFE	COOPER MANNING
OSCAR TRIGG	REUBEN MOLLOY
MONTY HARRISON	MURPHY NOONAN
LACHLAN PATTERSON	COOPER DOWNES
BEAU HANSEN	HENRY ROBB
CAMPBELL DELAHUNTY	JACK GERTZ
TOM ANDERSON	JENSEN MCCARTIN
	ISAAC HATT

Our next music event is this week!

On Thursday November 2 we are hosting a small, supportive and informal evening to showcase the emerging musical skills of children who learn guitar with Tim Smolenaers at St Francis Xavier.

There will be two short performances, one commencing at 6pm and another at 7pm. Families that have children involved in this event have been contacted via seesaw with confirmed times.

With 29 children involved in this event, we hope you can join us at either 6pm or 7pm on November 2 to celebrate your child's learning in music!



Dan West, **Performing Arts Specialist**



▶ **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

29 October 2023

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Love your neighbour as yourself

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM

Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)
10:30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)

10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

Mass and prayer resources

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Counting team 6 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: James (Jim) Clementson, Anne Gilmartin

Anniversaries:

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

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

We welcome all those who have joined us at masses this weekend in memory of a loved one. We continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you can join us for a cuppa after the 6:00 PM and 10:30 AM masses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Filipino Community All Saints Day Mass
4:00 PM, Wednesday 1 November, St Alipius

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 11:00 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.

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS

The Filipino community of Ballarat invites everyone to All Saints Day mass at St Alipius at 4:00 PM on Wednesday 1 November. Hope to see you all there.

REMEMBRANCE BOOKS

Remembrance books have been placed in the foyers of both churches 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.

WOMEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

Anima Women's Network is hosting a day retreat entitled "Preparing our Hearts for Christ" at St Alipius Hall from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday 11 November. The day includes Mass, Confession, a talk by Anna Krohn, lunch, and a lino print Christmas card workshop with Ballarat Artist Marie Mason. The cost is \$35 plus booking fee:
www.trybooking.com/CMNFK

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,087
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$525.40

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

CEMETERY MASSES

All are welcome to celebrate mass at Pootilla Cemetery on Sunday, 12 November at 9:30 AM and Gordon Cemetery on Sunday, 19 November at 11:00 AM.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

National Mental Health Month is an initiative of the Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA) to advocate for and raise awareness of Australian mental health. It is an important time when the Australian community comes together to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all. Mental Health Australia invites organisations to participate in the "Look after your mental health, Australia" campaign which will run throughout October. Scan or click the QR code for more information.



ST BRENDAN'S DUNNSTOWN

All are invited to celebrate the 'End of an Era' at St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown from 2:00 PM on Saturday, 25 November. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to anyone that you think may be interested.

More information is available from this website:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/celebrating-the-end-of-an-era-at-st-brendans-primary-school-dunnstown/

ACRATH 2024 CALENDAR

The calendar features stories and education on modern slavery and human trafficking, links to raise awareness, yearly projects, and advocacy work. It is an education tool for schools, parishes, workplaces, and families and helps raise funds to support ACRATH's work. Order at
<https://acrath.org.au/2024-acrath-calendar/>

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Catholic Theological College online information session at 7:30 PM Monday, 30 October. Register via <https://ctc.edu.au/information-session>.

BAPTISMS

Navi Nicaulo Casino
Child of Marco and Shamae Casino

Thomas Ray Phillips
Child of Aaron and Marnie Phillips

Eleanor Lorna and Audrey Hope Robson
Children of Jarryd and Jessica Robson

Poppy Thompson
Child of Alan and Sarah Thompson

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

MARIST HOUSE FOR STUDENTS

Marist House is a residential program for university students studying in Melbourne. It provides a safe, stable, and supportive environment. It is hosted by a resident community of Brothers. Situated in Fitzroy it is very accessible to many universities and tertiary colleges. Enquiries for 2024 are most welcome by contacting Br Frank, ph. 0407943473. For more information scan or click the QR code.



CARITAS GAZA APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. *"This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated the needs of the people in Gaza and the West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict."* Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia. With your support, Caritas can support partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal by scanning or clicking the QR code.



LITURGY FORMATION

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is hosting a Liturgy Formation Session at St Brigid's Church Ballarat Gathering Space on Sunday, 5 November. Bishop Paul Bird CSSR will celebrate Mass at 10:30 AM with the formation program beginning at 12:00 noon on the topics of Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion and scripture reflection. All are welcome to attend. The program for the day and registration information is available from the diocesan website.

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-formation/. Register by clicking or scanning the QR code.



FAITH AT WAR EXHIBITION

The Ballarat Catholic Diocesan Commission Archives have an exhibition that explores priests from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat who served during WWI, WWII, in Vietnam and Afghanistan. Priests could serve as Chaplains in the Australian Army, Australian Royal Air Force, or the Australian Royal Navy, or at RAAF bases at Ballarat, Hamilton, and Nhill. The "Faith at War" exhibit will remain on display until Monday, 13 November. You can visit the archives by appointment Monday to Friday or view the display online via the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/stewardship/diocesan-historical-commission/faith-at-war-and-the-priests-who-served-from-the-catholic-diocese-of-ballarat/. To visit the archives please contact the archivist by email archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au

ACU PUBLIC LECTURES

In the lead-up to the 60th anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II, 4 Dec 1963), the ACU Centre for Liturgy presents two exciting public lectures by international liturgical scholars. Renowned liturgical scholar Professor Teresa Berger (Yale University Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School) will deliver a lecture live via Zoom on Monday, 6 November at 10:00 AM on the topic of: "Liturgy's Imagined Futures: Beyond Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy." Acclaimed liturgical historian and theologian Rev Professor John F Baldovin SJ (Boston College) will lecture live in person on ACU's Melbourne Campus on Sunday, 3 December from 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM on the topic of "A Liturgical Reform in Peril? Sacrosanctum Concilium sixty years on." Fr Baldovin's public lecture will also be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person. For more information and to register, scan or click the QR code.



Intensity of Love is the Issue

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 22:34–40

This Sunday marks the final day of the 2023 Session of the Synod on Synodality.

The Synod is about “enlarging the space of our tent” and discerning the call of the gospel in our times. It returns us to the foundations of our faith, to our communal and individual commitment to follow the way of Jesus of Nazareth.

Today's gospel has Jesus affirming the most central of Jewish traditions, namely the command of Deuteronomy 6 known as the Shema (so-called from the first word in the statement meaning “hear”).

The words of the Shema are recited repeatedly every day by every faithful Jew. Although not a prayer in itself, the Shema is an integral part of Jewish liturgy and prayer. It is a creedal statement that continues to function like an overture to Jewish life and practice.

The doorpost at the entrance to a Jewish home generally features a tiny rectangular box known as a mezuzah. It contains a scroll bearing the text of the Shema. Those who enter touch the mezuzah with the greatest reverence.

When I first encountered this practice, I was deeply affected by the power of

the symbol to link one with the deep story of Judaism.

In Matthew's story, Jesus the Jew provides an honest response to the less-than-honest questioning of an expert in Jewish law. He overlooks the hostility of the lawyer and evokes the text of the Shema.

Jesus thus invites the lawyer to return to the heart of their shared tradition. He links the teaching of the Shema on wholehearted love of God with a second commandment taken from Leviticus 19, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”.

You shall love your neighbour as yourself

The lawyer's unfair “testing” of Jesus is evidence that this is precisely what he fails to do: he addresses Jesus as teacher, a term of respect, and yet fails to show him the respect due to him as neighbour.

For Jesus, the Law and the prophets can be summed up in the commandments to love God with all of one's being and to love one's neighbour as oneself.



Not just love, but intensity of love is the issue here. One is to care for others as one cares for oneself.

We saw such intensity of love in those who gave their lives to save those infected with Covid-19. Front-line health workers were three times more likely to contract the infection than others and yet few hesitated to turn up day after day to be there for their patients. WHO estimates that some 180–200K health professionals lost their lives to the virus.

The commitment of those workers functions like the mezuzah in our lives: it draws us back into the heart of the gospel tradition and calls us to a deeper, more intense love.

It might also help us to deal with the insincerity of those who seek to score points and undermine the dignity of others of those who work for justice.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
EXODUS 22:20–26
THESSALONIANS 1:5–10
MATTHEW 22:34–40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MALACHI 1:14–2:2, 8–10
THESSALONIANS 2:7–9, 13
MATTHEW 23:1–12

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 27th October 2023 Hosted by 2CJ Theme: Justice

Justice means making things fair for everyone by making positive changes when we notice injustice.

We act for justice because Jesus shows us how to include others and to use our actions to make change.

F TW	Harvey Mason and Hazel Martin
F GJ	Zoe Cooper and Lachie White
F MM	Elliot Fulcher and Thomas Green
Year 1	1JS: Matilda Bell and Paityn Grant 1EM: Violet Toohey and Sutton Answer 1MM: Sophie Crumpton and Rory Dunne
Year 2	2EH: Lola Miles and Charlize Simpson 2GH: Flynn McKay and Lawrence Wilson 2CJ: Isabella Carrick and Noah Osciak
Year 3	3NM: Sadie Buntsma and Darci Prebble 3GW: Olivia Farrell and Sienna Morton 3JV: Sadie Ruxton and Remi James
4 BW	Sienna Morton and Olivia Farrell
4 HC	Sophie White and Noah Chibnall
4 CP	Elizabeth Baruwa and Hudson Shorter
5 JF	Noah Sheehan and Xavier Uljanic
5 OH	Sofia St Louis and Olivia Klein
5 CC	Elliana Tocchet and Mabel Reus
6 PB	Jake Cheeseman and Olena Vallance
6 MM	Milla Howlett and Toby Watson
6 ZA	Abbie Gervasoni & Augie Mason
Environmental Education	Violet Wilson and Betsy Nicholson
Performing Arts	Oscar Trigg (5OH) for supporting other children while they worked on their music projects.
Visual Arts	Laura Bodnar (5JF) for showing the value of Justice by the way she works in groups and through helping to keep the Art Room tidy. Levi Dreher & Ben Walshe (2CJ) for being Justice filled members of our Art class! They are great listeners, enthusiastic artists and are so helpful too!
Physical Education	Eddy Heinrich (1JS) & Eliza Vallance (1JS) for being very helpful and making sure things are fair and equitable.
Principal's Award	Lilly Rice from Year 5 (Class 5JF) who was observed at after school sports helping another student who was upset. Lily spoke to the coach to make them aware. She then agreed to share her sports equipment and be their partner so they could join in and have fun. It was really lovely to see such a beautiful act of kindness.



World Teacher's Day

How to have a great relationship with our kids' teachers

By the time your child graduates high school, they will have spent about 17, 640 hours at school. That's a lot of hours. In fact, on a typical school day, our kids [spend 2-3 times](#) as many hours with their school teacher than they spend with us, their parents and caregivers.

Our teachers work hard. On average, Australian teachers work 45 hours a week, with many even working on weekends to keep up with the workload. Yet 71% of teachers feel as though their work is unappreciated, and that their profession is not respected. I don't know about you, but anyone who spends twice as much time with my kids as I do on a regular basis deserves to feel all the appreciation in the world. And while buying a #1 Teacher mug or a box of chocolates as a gift on World Teachers Day certainly helps, there are things we can do all year round to have a great relationship with our kids' teachers, and help them to feel supported and appreciated:

Communication

Having open and frequent communication with the teachers goes a long way towards establishing a supportive relationship. This includes taking a proactive approach at the start of the year, where you should share with the teachers any relevant information that may affect your child's performance or behaviour at school. This includes medical conditions, learning difficulties, and even special interests. Then throughout the school year, keep the teacher updated about any changes in your family's or your child's circumstances. Communication can occur through emails or phone calls on an as-needed basis, but also make sure to attend parent-teacher conferences, school events, and any other meetings organized by the school. Frequent contact fosters open communication. Finally, if your child is facing any academic or behavioural challenges, collaborate with the teacher to address any difficulties and identify strategies that you can employ together to support your child's learning.

Involvement

Show interest in your child's education by asking them about their day and experiences in class. When you demonstrate an interest in their education, it sends a positive message. If you can, make time to get involved in the school community. Volunteer in your child's classroom as a parent helper, participate in school events, or join the parent council. Getting involved both supports your child's education and eases the burden on your child's teachers. Finally, support classroom rules and expectations. Don't undermine your child's teachers by disrespecting them at home. Encourage your child to take responsibility in the learning process, and follow the guidelines set by their teachers.

Respect

I wish this didn't need to be said, but sadly it does: Don't verbally threaten, intimidate, or get physically aggressive with your kids' teachers. It's never ok. Respect goes beyond that though. Treat teachers with kindness and appreciation for their work. Take time to acknowledge and appreciate their efforts and dedication. Be grateful for the time they invest into your children. Make sure you see your child's teacher as a whole person (hopefully as an adult you no longer believe that teachers sleep at the school!), with responsibilities and interests beyond teaching. Avoid contacting them outside of school hours and be patient in awaiting their responses.

Teachers do one of the most important jobs in our society. They are shaping the next generation of leaders, thinkers, caregivers. Let's do what we can to thank them for everything they do for our kids.




AUTHOR

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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 7 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.





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