



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Term 4 Week 8

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### Term 4 (12 weeks)

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

2024 Foundation  
Information Night

#### Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov

Year 5 Kangaroo Camp

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

12.40pm F GJ Assembly

Year 6 Market Day

1.45pm – 3.15pm  
on the Lower Oval

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

2024 Foundation Transition

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Year 1 Camp Experience

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

Year 1 Camp Experience

6pm Community Christmas  
Gathering

Last day for Book Club 8  
orders

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

12.40pm 2GH Assembly

St Francis Xavier Feast Day  
celebrations

#### Tues 5<sup>th</sup> & Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Dec

Year 4 Cave Hill Creek Camp

#### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Mass in the Gym

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

6pm Yr 6 Graduation in Gym

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

Last 2023 student day  
Normal finish time

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

We were very excited to be finally able to enjoy our Senior School Sports day on Friday. This day had been postponed twice due to inclement weather so to have a day of bright sunshine and gentle breezes meant that we could relax and enjoy the day.

Just two weeks ago we held our Junior School Sports Day under similar conditions. It was terrific on both occasions to see so many families joining us to cheer the children on. Days like these are so important to the ways in which we build community in our school. When we can gather together and have a chat we learn so much about each other.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November we will gather as community once again. This will be our traditional Christmas Carols evening at school and the festivities will kick off at 6.00pm. This year we will be incorporating the Foundation Nativity play into the evening which will add something very special to the night. Please try to support this event as a family if you can. Come along and join in the festivities on the school oval where carols will be led by the students and food vans will provide dinner. Or bring along your own picnic if that works for you. See you there!



God bless,

Mark Hogbin



### Foundation Information Evening

We look forward to welcoming our new Foundation families for 2024 to school tomorrow evening for their Foundation information evening. There is a lot to learn as everyone prepares for school next year!

### Year 5 Camp



Our Year 5 students will be heading off to camp this week. We wish them well as they explore the great outdoors together. School camp is a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company as well as a chance to learn new things. We hope that you can enjoy the challenge Year 5 and build lots of positive memories!

### Orientation Day

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November we will hold Orientation Day when our new Foundation children come to our school and our Year 6's move on to their new schools. We will also be promoting all the other children into their new classrooms with their new class teachers. This day provides a great opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with their new class friends and class teacher for 2024. Parents and carers will receive notification of classes for 2024 on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November on PAM from 12.00pm.

### St. Francis Xavier Christmas Carols

Don't forget our annual Christmas Carols event is coming up soon. We will gather on the oval from 6pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November for a relaxed evening under the stars as we celebrate the upcoming Christmas season together. Each Year Group will lead the community in carols ranging from traditional carols to more modern Christmas songs. We ask that children wear their summer school uniform on the night. Food vans will be available and our super Christmas raffle will be drawn. See you there!

**Please find at the end of this newsletter:** Assembly Awards; Mind your language – how what you say creates your child's mindset.

**EMPOWERING DREAMS, ONE STALL AT A TIME!**

# YEAR 6 MARKET DAY!

 **1:45PM - 3:15PM**

**MARKET STALLS, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2023**  
Meet at the Lower Oval  
**St Francis Xavier Primary School**  
100 Fortune St,  
Ballarat East VIC 3350

**All proceeds go to three charities that assist underprivileged individuals.**



**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 19, 2023 Children's liturgy Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

The kingdom is also like what happened when a man went away and put his three servants in charge of all he owned. The man knew what each servant could do. So he handed 5,000 coins to the first servant, 2,000 to the second, and 1,000 to the third. Then he left the country. As soon as the man had gone, the servant with the 5,000 coins used them to earn 5,000 more. The servant who had 2,000 coins did the same with his money and earned 2,000 more. But the servant with 1,000 coins dug a hole and hid his master's money in the ground.

Some time later the master of those servants returned. He called them in and asked what they had done with his money. The servant who had been given 5,000 coins brought them in with the 5,000 that he had earned. He said, "Sir, you gave me 5,000 coins, and I have earned 5,000 more." "Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

Next, the servant who had been given 2,000 coins came in and said, "Sir, you gave me 2,000 coins, and I have earned 2,000 more." "Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

The servant who had been given 1,000 coins then came in and said, "Sir, I know that you are hard to work for. You harvest what you don't plant and gather crops where you haven't scattered seed. I was frightened and went out and hid your money in the ground. Here is every single coin!" The master of the servant told him, "You are lazy and good-for-nothing! You know I harvest what I don't plant and gather crops where I haven't scattered seed. You could have at least put my money in the bank, so I could have earned interest on it." Then the master said, "Now your money will be taken away and given to the servant with 10,000 coins! Everyone who has something will be given more, and they will have more than enough. But everything will be taken from those who don't have anything. You are a worthless servant, and you will be thrown out into the dark where people will cry and grit their teeth in pain."

**Gospel reflection:**

In some versions of the story instead of talking about gold coins, it uses the word "talents". A talent was a word for money in Jesus' time. This story is sometimes known as the "Parable of the talents". Jesus is telling us that it is important to use the gifts that God has given us. We are all good at different things. We all have different skills and talents. Some of us are good at singing, at sport, dancing, drawing, baking or building Lego. Some of us are good at speaking out when we see that something is wrong or unfair, some of us are good at helping others.

Whatever your talent is, Jesus is saying that it is important not to hide our talents from others – to just keep them to ourselves and never let them grow. Instead, it is by going out into the world, by sharing our talents and using our skills to help others that we serve God.

**Our Challenge:** How will you share the special gifts God has given you?



**Free Dress Day Reminder:**

**Friday November 24 is a Free Dress Day.**

Please bring along your gold coin donations to support the amazing work of our local Ballarat East St Vincent De Paul group.

Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**



### Assessment & Reporting – Term Four

#### End of Year Reports via Parent Access Module (PAM)

Your child's School Report will be available for download from the Parent Access Module (PAM) site on Wednesday 13th December. These reports have been well-prepared, well thought-out and represent your child's Semester Two achievements. Each report has been prepared by your child's class teacher, then read and commented on by a buddy teacher from within the school and finally read again by the Leadership Team. I commend the teachers for their efforts, professionalism and personalised comments. Please make some time to read the report and initiate discussion with your child/ren about what their teacher has written. And, most importantly, enjoy and celebrate your child's report and their 2023 school year!



## Parent Access Module Login

Please login with your credentials, as supplied by your school.

☐ Keep me logged in

[Forgot Password?](#)

[Sign In](#)

### Preparing for 2024

In the next few weeks teachers will be handing over important information to your child's 2024 class teacher to further enhance your child's transition to their new learning environment. Each child's Student Profile is updated, with professional discussions and learning taking place in these sessions in preparation for 2024. We thank our children, teachers and families for their positivity and commitment to ensuring our children transition with success and a positive mindset. Class placements will be sent out on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November in preparation for our whole school transition day on Tuesday 28th November from 9:30 am-12:30pm.

Enjoy your week,

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



## Wellbeing News

Last week, I was privileged to sit in on leadership speeches as many of the Year Five children outlined their hopes and dreams for our school in 2024. What impressed me most was their positive outlook and growth mindset. They frequently referred to "growing in confidence", "further developing their skills", "learning from their mistakes" and "persisting when things were difficult".

*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.*

A child with a fixed mindset believes they are fundamentally limited- that who they are today is pretty much who'll they'll be in the future. They'll ask others for validation if they are musical, or how smart they are and school becomes one long test to discover the answers to these questions.

A child with a growth mindset understands they have the capacity to develop their abilities. For them learning becomes a vehicle for creating and developing those abilities. You'll hear this child say things like "I want to become really good at maths, so I'm going to work hard to make that happen."

As parents we play an important role in creating the experiences that develop our child's mindset. What we repeatedly say, value and reward all shape our child's mindset.

In the attached article, James Anderson explores the idea of Growth Mindset and how we can empower our children to see life through this lens.

Kind regards,

Christine Meneely, **Wellbeing Leader**

### Sport/Physical Education News

**Regional Cricket** A super effort from our Boys Cricket team at last week's Greater Western Region finals at Wendouree. The team played an all round team game in their first pool match which meant they qualified for the semi finals. We played a very strong Colac team in the semi's and were beaten but a successful day was had with many outstanding individual efforts. A shout out to all of the families that came along to support and a big thank you to Mr Marshall for umpiring and coaching the team.

**SFX Yr 3 - 6 Athletics Day** A fantastic day was had by all in attendance at last Friday's Yr 3-6 Athletics Day. It had been a long time coming with a couple of earlier postponements, but perfect weather was with us on this occasion. It was an amazing sight to see all of the students in their House colours, running, jumping, throwing, smiling and having fun throughout the day. It was also fantastic to see the team spirit in action with all students supporting each other and cheering everyone on.

A massive thank you to all of the families and friends that came along to support and make it a real community event.

While participating throughout the day, students were gaining points for their House. The results of the day were:

Xavier (Red) - 1031

Villa (Blue) - 998

Gargan (Green) - 987

McAuley (Yellow) - 963

**Thank you** Thank you to all of the students, staff, parents, families and friends that supported and were involved with the various sports events throughout 2024. This year was by far the biggest we have had in terms of representation of SFX at the different levels of sport. It has also been extremely successful not just in terms of results but the number of students representing the school and the feedback we have received on our sportspersonship and teamwork.

I congratulate and thank all of the students that represented our school and themselves so well in 2023.

We look forward to next year and all of the exciting opportunities there will be for the students in so many different sports.

**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 fantastic 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

**19 November 2023**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Enter into the joy of the Lord*

# 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

Friday 9:30 AM

Saturday 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weeks)

10:30 AM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)

Rosary – Tuesday 6:30 PM

### 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 2 this week – 9:30 AM

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

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

## WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed: Phillip Crosbie, Antonio Rizzo

Anniversaries: Adelfa Contiga

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, 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.



**WORLD DAY  
OF THE POOR**

## FR JORGE FAREWELL

Father Jorge's final mass with us will be on Christmas Day. He heads off on Boxing Day for the long drive across the Nullarbor to his new parish in Western Australia. Everyone is invited to join Fr Jorge for a farewell mass at 6:00 PM on Saturday 9 December at St Alipius, followed by a BBQ in the Parish Hall. Please bring a salad and/or dessert to share.

## CHURCH WORKING BEES

To prepare our churches for Christmas, the Parish Pastoral Council has organised a working bee at each church. Tasks include cleaning, weeding, and setting up Nativity scenes. If you can spare some time, please join us after 10:30 AM Sunday mass at St Alipius on 26 November, and at Ss Peter and Paul's on 3 December.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Anointing Mass

2:00 PM, Friday 1 December, St Alipius

**Farewell Mass and BBQ for Fr Jorge**  
6:00 PM, Saturday 9 December, St Alipius

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, so masses that weekend will be as follows:

**Saturday 23 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent vigil**  
6:00 PM – St Alipius

**Sunday 24 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 AM – Ss Peter and Paul's  
10:30 AM – St Alipius

**Sunday 24 December – Christmas vigil**  
6:00 PM – Children's mass at St Alipius  
7:30 PM – Ss Peter and Paul's  
9:00 PM – St Alipius

**Monday 25 December – Christmas Day**  
9:00 AM – Ss Peter and Paul's  
10:30 AM – St Alipius

## LITURGY ROSTER

The St Alipius liturgy roster for December and January will be emailed to volunteers this week. For those not on email, hard copies will be provided in the sacristy. Please remember to diarise when you are scheduled and arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of mass to sign in and check that all volunteers have turned up. Thank you.

## ALTAR SERVERS

The Children's Mass at 6:00 PM on Sunday 24 December provides a wonderful opportunity for any children in the parish who are interested to participate in the mass as an altar server. If you have children who are interested, please let the parish office know. Training will be provided, and altar servers will have an opportunity to serve during Advent masses with coaching, in preparation for the Children's Mass.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,011
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$373.20

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

## ANOINTING MASS

Parishioners are invited to attend our anointing mass at St Alipius at 2:00 PM on Friday 1 December, followed by a cuppa in the hall. A small plate to share following mass would be welcome. If transport is required, please call the parish office on 5332 6611.

## VICAR GENERAL UPDATE

Fr Kevin Maloney is retiring from the role of Vicar General due to health concerns. Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Marchello Colasante to be the Diocese of Ballarat's new Vicar General. Fr Marcello will continue to serve as parish priest for Ballarat North and Wendouree.

## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The call to serve the poor has been greatly emphasised under the papacy of Pope Francis, who established the World Day of the Poor in 2017. The Holy Father's message for 2023 is "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tob 4:7). The Church is encouraged to "go forth", beyond its own walls, to encounter poverty "in the multiple meanings in which it manifests itself in today's world." You can read the Pope's message at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## YCW CRICKET CLUB

All past players, supporters and families are invited to a luncheon at Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at 12pm. Numbers are needed by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of November. For enquiries or to book please call Terry on 0401 730 670 or John 0409 864 080.

## 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).

Pope's intention for November – For the Pope: We pray for the Holy Father. As he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Lord, hear us.

### BAPTISMS

Marley Grace Dutton  
Child of Tyler and Cara Dutton

Charlotte Louise Porter  
Child of Nathan and Joanne Porter

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

## SYNOD REFLECTION

Reflecting on last month's Synod on Synodality assembly, Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB described "being a synodal Church" as an experience that "we have to live in order to understand it". Read more at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/)

## 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/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/celebrating-the-end-of-an-era-at-st-brendans-primary-school-dunnstown/)

## DEACON ORDINATION

Seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained as a Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 16 December at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. All are welcome to attend.

## CARITAS GAZA APPEAL

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs. 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.



## NATIVITY DISPLAY

To spread a Christmas message of peace, love and family, this year's "Making a Scene at Christmas" display will be spread across two locations: a shop in the Bridge Mall from Tuesday, 5 December – Friday, 22 December and at the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat archives by appointment between 20 November – 22 December, and 4– 20 January 2024. Over 500 Christmas nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see handcrafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); and nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Everyone is welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation. Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information, please contact Fiona Tonkin at [Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

## KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE

Presented by Dr Susan Connolly RSJ, "Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins" at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, 28 November via Zoom. To book scan the QR code or visit [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1141646](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1141646)



## DAY OF THE POOR PRAYER

Loving Father, your risen Son sent us out into the world as ambassadors for the kingdom of God; inspire us with your Spirit of compassion, justice, and truth to declare the Good News to those who are poor, to work for the relief, defence, and liberation of all who are trapped in oppressive circumstances. We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## YCW CRICKET CLUB

All former players, supporters and families are invited to a get-together and lunch at Robin Hood Hotel at 12 noon on Sunday 3 December. Numbers are needed by Sunday 26 November. For further enquiries or to book please call Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.

# Contemplating the Eternal Verities

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 25:14–30

In answer to my greeting, "G'day Muff, what are you up to?", my polymath brother-in-law, David (nicknamed Muff), would invariably reply, "Just contemplating the eternal verities!" The ensuing conversation would confirm the veracity of his response: contemplating the eternal verities was a way of life for my brother-in-law.

As the end of the church year approaches, the liturgy presents us with texts that invite us all to consider the big questions of life and death, including the day of reckoning that will inevitably confront each one of us.

Matthew's parable of the talents is part of a discourse about the final realities. It is sandwiched between the parable of the ten lamp-bearers, five of whom are unprepared for the bridegroom, and the end-time judgement of the nations.

The previous story concluded with the warning: "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." This is usually interpreted as a reference to the future coming of Christ.

Today's story continues this motif. It opens: "For it is as if a man going abroad summons his slaves and entrusts his property to them...."

Once more, we find slavery taken for granted. Once more, we might take this as a reminder to commit

ourselves to the elimination of all power over others.

The slaves are entrusted with phenomenal wealth: ten talents, five talents, and one talent respectively. A talent was a measure of weight, one silver talent being the equivalent of 1000 days' wages for an ordinary labourer. The scenario is dramatically far-fetched, as is often the case with parables.

### *Parables are open to multiple interpretations*

The slaves are given amounts "according to their ability". They receive no instructions, but later events indicate that the master expects a good return on his money, despite the prohibition on usury in that society.

The first two slaves deliver and are invited into "the joy of the master", another possible reference to the end time when God will embrace those who are faithful to their mission.

The third slave does what was expected in that culture: he buries his talent. He also provides a reasonable rationale for his action: the master is a hard man who inspires a fear-ridden response. The master does not resile from this description and expels "into



outer darkness" the one who challenges his behaviour.

Is the master an image of God? Some elements in the story point in this direction. Other features, such as the concentration of wealth in one person and the treatment of the fearful slave, inhibit an unequivocally affirmative answer to this question.

In face of present inequities even within the most affluent countries, we may find ourselves in sympathy with the third slave insofar as he challenges the violent and exploitative actions of the master.

Parables are open to multiple interpretations and the eternal verities cannot be encapsulated in one story or one image. They bear ongoing reflection and call us to responsible action for the sake of the equilibrium or balance that Pope Francis advocates.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS  
33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
PROVERBS 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–6  
MATTHEW 25:14–15, 19–21

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
CHRIST THE KING  
EZEKIEL 34:11–12, 15–17  
1 CORINTHIANS 15:20–26, 28  
MATTHEW 25:31–46

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Hosted by F MM Theme: Excellence**

Excellence means being the best person we can be.  
We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

F LH	Jasper Rolfe and Elizabeth Kelly
F TW	Connor Allen & Mayomikun Baruwa
F GJ	Zahli Kingston & Ted Gleeson
F MM	Maya Mookhoek & Flynn Williams
1 JS	Ollie Geaghan Oakley Smith
1 MM	Charlie Irving & Pippa Bourke
1 EM	Ted Answer and Vivienne Young
2 EH	Myah Rivett and Malo Hansen
2 CJ	Jett Raine and Pippa Gleeson
2 GH	Willow Prato and Bertie Stanley
Years 3-6	<b>No Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 Assembly Awards this week due to 3-6 Athletics Day</b>
Environmental Education	Evy Faull and Olive Anderson from FLH Campbell Delahunty from 5JF
Visual Arts	Harriet Howard and Harriet Walshe (FMM) Hudson Shorter (4CP)
Physical Education	Mitchell Kane, Abbey Dwyer
Principal's Award	Kardia Sarra & Mackenzie Burbridge for leading our school in song this week when Mr. West wasn't available

## INSIGHTS

### Mind your language. How what you say creates your child's mindset.



One of the big ideas in education over the past 10 years has been Professor Carol Dweck's work on Growth Mindset. However, despite (or perhaps because of) the hype, much of Dweck's work has been misunderstood, or misapplied. Too often we've tried to teach about growth mindset, instead of teaching for a growth mindset. Importantly, the role parents play in helping develop a growth mindset in their child has been largely overlooked.

In this article I share a simple way you can help your child develop a more growth-oriented mindset.

#### About Mindsets

Your child's mindset is how they view their most basic abilities, like their talents and intelligence, and it has a profound impact on their learning.

A child with a fixed mindset believes they are fundamentally limited. Who they are today, is pretty much who'll they be in the future. For them, school and learning is a way to discover those abilities. They'll ask if they are musical, or how smart they are. For these children, school becomes one long test to discover the answers to these questions.

A child with a growth mindset understands they have the capacity to develop their abilities. For them learning becomes a vehicle for creating and developing those abilities. You'll hear this child say things like "I want to become really good at maths, so I'm going to work hard to make that happen."

#### Why parents matter

Contrary to what social media might say, you can't just tell your child to have a growth mindset. Their mindset is rooted in a lifetime of experiences.

As parents we play an important role in creating the experiences that develop our child's mindset. What we repeatedly say, value, and reward all shape our child's mindset. And I should know because I got it wrong.

#### What I did wrong

When my daughter was young, I encouraged her to try lots of different activities. She tried music, art, gymnastics, singing, the Maths Olympics. You name it, we tried it. And that's fundamentally a good thing.

The problem wasn't what I was doing. It was the messages I attached to it. Sometimes when she wasn't keen to try a new activity, I'd say something like "Come on sweetheart, give it a go. You never know, you might be good at it!"

# parenting \* ideas

Can you hear the fixed message in there? "You might (already) be good at it."

I turned trying something new into a test to find out if she was good at it. I promised her the possibility of instant success. To make things worse, if she didn't have instant success, I'd often console her with something like "Well, don't worry. You can't be good at everything."

In other words, she'd failed that test. Now it was on to the next test to see if she was good at that instead. The unintended lesson: If you're not immediately good, give up.

## Why did I do that?

If you just had an "ouch" moment, you're not alone. Parents say these types of things all the time. We say them out of love, and with the best of intentions.

When we see our child upset or struggling, our natural reaction is to want to protect them from that discomfort. But what I did was to provide my daughter with an excuse for struggle by saying "you're not that type of person."

Perhaps you've provided your child with a similar excuse by saying something similar like "I was never good at that either." The underlying message being "we aren't the right type of person to be good at that—we don't have those abilities."

## A nudge in the right direction

To help us be better parents and nurture a more growth-oriented mindset in our children, we need a little nudge. A reminder that helps us counter any unconscious bias and ensure we create more growth-oriented messages for our children.

I've created lots of these nudges, for all types of situations. The one relevant to this situation is to remember that "Learning is about creating, not discovering."

## Learning is about creating, not discovering.

In the context of trying new things, this nudge reminds us that we're not trying to find out if my daughter has those abilities. We're trying to decide if she wants to develop those abilities. So, now I might say:

"Darling, getting good at something takes time and the right type of effort. You need to decide if this is something you're prepared to invest the time and effort into getting good at."

The nudge helps us repeat this message over and over, slowly creating a more growth-oriented mindset. They become more empowered and see life as being in their control. They recognise they can become whoever they want, or need, to become.

It's like George Bernard Shaw said, "Life is not about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."



### James Anderson

James Anderson is an international speaker, author and educator. In an educational landscape focused on teachers, James' work focuses on learners. His signature work defines *Learnership™* – the skill of learning. He answers the question: What does it mean to be a *skillful* learner? For further information visit [www.jamesanderson.com.au](http://www.jamesanderson.com.au). You can also listen to James and Dr Justin Coulson discuss *Learnership™* on the *Happy Families* podcast episode [#529 \(The Growth Mindset\)](#) and [#559 \(How to Create Skillful Learners\)](#).

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