



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 4th March 2024
Term 1 Week 6

P.O. Box 2027
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Term 1 (9 weeks)

Mon 29th Jan – Thu 28th Mar

Wednesday 6th March
9.30am Open Day

Friday 8th March
9am in the Library
Sounds-Write
Information Session for
Foundation-Year 2 Families
2.40pm Assembly led by 5CC

Wednesday 13th March
Last Day for Book Club
Issue 2 Orders

Friday 15th March
2.40pm Assembly led by 4GH

Friday 22nd March
12.40pm Assembly led by
3JV

1.45pm-3.15pm
Colour Explosion Run 4 Fun

7pm Mix and Mingle
at The North Star

Wednesday 27th March
9.30am & 6pm Open Day

Term 2 (11 weeks)
Mon 15th Apr – Fri 28th Jun

Monday 15th April
Student Free Day

Friday 26th April
Student Free Day

Term 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 15th Jul – Fri 20th Sep

Mon 15th July
Student Free Day

Tuesday 16th July
Student Free Day

Term 4 (11 weeks)
Mon 7th Oct – Fri 20th Dec

Monday 4th November
Student Free Day

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Are you familiar with *The Villa Way*? Your children are!

The Villa Way is a whole of school approach to positive behaviours. Our students learn about *The Villa Way* with their teachers and we practise it every day in classrooms and on the playground. The Villa Way sets the scene for positive interactions and it reflects the core values of our school.

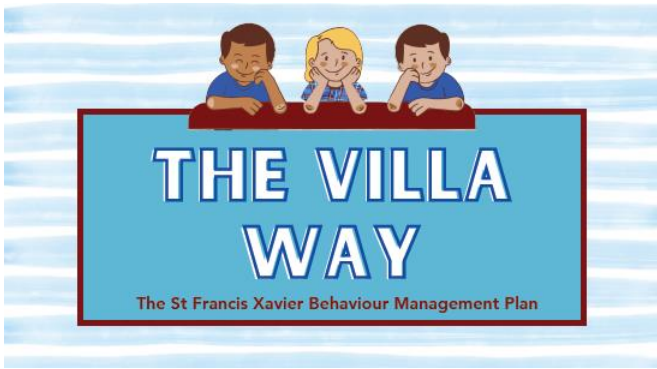
By linking *The Villa Way* to our school values we make sure that when it comes to being a member of the St. Francis Xavier community, we 'Walk the Talk'. By focusing on the values of Justice, Hospitality, Respect, Excellence and Compassion we live the mission and vision of our school every day. Supporting *The Villa Way* each week, we focus on one core value and students who exhibit this value throughout the week are awarded a special certificate at School Assembly where they are acknowledged by their peers for their efforts. This is something to feel very proud about!

We know that living life according *The Villa Way* is going to be challenging sometimes. It's not easy to always think of others when things aren't going our way. This is what learning is all about. Trying our best, practising and remembering how to co-exist with others is a skill that needs to be taught, and we are glad to be able to teach such values in positive and meaningful ways.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin





School Traffic in Fortune Street

Please note that our school is open from 8.15am each morning and classes cease for the day at 3.15pm. We understand that traffic can be extremely busy at these times so we ask all drivers to be mindful of pedestrians. The children are great at obeying the traffic safety rules and we want to support them in their learning and keep everyone safe always.

Traffic Movement Instructions:

- When turning at the top of Fortune Street to come back down to park - please go to the 2nd group of trees beyond the double lines and opposite the golf club (marked with a LARGE X). Please go up to the cross in a single line and then proceed back down Fortune Street.
- Double Lines are painted on Fortune Street adjacent to the St. Francis Xavier school grounds. Double Line rules state that is illegal to:
 1. Overtake
 2. U-turn
 3. Right turn across the double lines from the left lane into a car park

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.

The Double Lines have been introduced to ensure that the SFX Community is kept safe and that sensible driver behaviour is maintained.

Road Rules

- As a pedestrian only ever cross Fortune Street at the School Crossing.
- Please observe ALL 'No Standing,' 'No U-Turns,' 'One Way' and 'Bus Zone' signs.
- The Fortune Street Bus Zone is for BUSES ONLY. Parking in the bus zone will incur a parking fine.
- For the safety of all – please use the designated areas for parking.
- Police and Council patrols happen randomly and without notification.

By following the road rules we not only ensure safety for all but we also model to our children the importance of being responsible citizens. Let's make sure that we all arrive at and leave from school safely each day.

Senior School Sports Day

We had a great day at the Senior School Sports last week. The children enjoyed their time together as they competed to gain points for their team. Thank you to all families who were able to support the day. Of course, we also say a big Thank you to our staff who made sure that the day went off with minimal interruption. Mr. Carroll and the team did a great job of coordinating events. After punching in all the statistics we can confidently announce that Red house were our big winners on the day by just 2 points over Blue house with Yellow and Green houses coming in at third and fourth places respectively. Well done everyone!

Summer School Uniform

A reminder that summer school uniform needs to be worn every day at school. We also have a dedicated Sports uniform for when your child has their PE class each week. Children are required to only wear school coloured ribbons in their hair and jewelry beyond sleeper earrings and a watch is not permitted while at school. Thanks for your assistance with this. We are proud of our school and we encourage all students to reflect this in their attire each day.

Extreme Weather Conditions

While we are now entering into the season of Autumn when things begin to cool down a little, it is worth knowing how our school responds to extreme weather conditions. On days of extreme heat, cold, rain or wind we might ask children to modify their play practices. This can mean, playing in designated areas, inside or altering play times. We will always try to provide some time outdoors if we can so that the children can run and stretch while always being mindful of weather conditions.



Colour Run



Our Parents & Friends are very excited to be able to conduct a Colour Run at school on 22 March. This is a fundraising event and we are hoping to use all funds raised this year to replace the old Adventure Playground with a new and improved model. With a target of \$50,000 we know that we are being ambitious but let's aim for the stars and see how we go! You can sponsor your child in the Colour Run by accessing the QR code and donating to the cause anytime between now and the big day. Dig deep and let's see what we can achieve together!

Mix & Mingle Evening

Our traditional Mix & Mingle evening will be held on 22 March. Once again we are hoping for a great turn out of new and not so new parents so that we can meet and greet each other in a social setting. See you there!



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday March 3, 2024 Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Not long before the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem. There he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple. He also saw moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he took some rope and made a whip. Then he chased everyone out of the temple, together with their sheep and cattle. He turned over the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins. Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves, "Get those doves out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace." The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire." The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "What miracle [c] will you work to show us why you have done this?" "Destroy this temple," Jesus answered, "and in three days I will build it again!" The leaders replied, "It took 46 years to build this temple. What makes you think you can rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as a temple. And when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered what he had told them. Then they believed the Scriptures and the words of Jesus.

(Gospel passage taken from Contemporary English Version)

Gospel reflection:

The Temple was where people went to say prayers, but some people were buying and selling things instead. They were trying to make money from people's faith in God. They stopped the Temple being a quiet place where people could talk to God, and turned it into a market. Jesus drove the traders all out of the Temple.

Jesus was standing up for what he believed in. He saw something that he did not think was fair or right and so he acted to change the situation.

Can you think of some things that you have seen that are unfair or which are not right?

Do you think it is fair that some people work very hard but do not earn enough money for the things that they need or do not have enough food to eat?

CARITAS is an organisation that works to try and make the world a fairer place for everyone, especially people who are poor around the world. We can help these people by donating some money in our classroom CARITAS box for lent.



Our Challenge: What will you do this week to make the world a fairer place and how will you stand up for what you believe in?

Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Getting to know your child as a Learner

A very big 'Thank You' to all the families who were able to come along for our Getting to know your child as a learner meetings. Getting to know children as learners is a crucial aspect of each child's educational journey and building strong relationships is the foundation for understanding their unique learning styles, interests, and challenges. Here at SFX we value the partnership between school and home to help create a supportive and enriching environment for your child. Any insights which you shared about your child's interests, strengths, and areas where they may need additional support will greatly contribute to our efforts in fostering their academic and personal growth. If you were unable to make the sessions please be in contact with your child's teacher for a chat.

Seesaw:

Assessment and reporting are integral to our planned approaches to teaching and learning and assist the improvement of student learning outcomes for all here at St Francis Xavier primary school. ALL classes use the Seesaw digital portfolio platform.

This digital portfolio is a collection of student assessment tasks, learning samples and learning experiences that are associated with the Victorian Curriculum standards and school continuums. Each learning piece in the portfolio is

selected because it is an authentic representation of what has been learned and will therefore demonstrate current knowledge and skills. Please look regularly at your child's Seesaw portfolio as many new pieces appear as the term moves along. We receive weekly a summary of usage from Seesaw, this is what Feb 18th - 25th looked like.



Week of February 18 - February 25 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



351
New Items



105
Likes



71
Comments



205
Family Visits



NAPLAN 2024

NAPLAN is not far away for our Year 3 and Year 5 students. Please put these dates into your calendar. NAPLAN for our children will be from 13th March - 25th March. Next week the classroom teachers will be providing the children with practice sessions so they are very familiar with the layout and expectations of what they will need to do on the scheduled test days. If you are aware that your child will not be at school during this time please let your teacher know ASAP.

	Wednesday 13th March	Thursday 14th March	Friday 15th March	Monday 18th March	Tuesday 19th March
9.10am - 10.30am (Block 1)	Year 3 Writing	Year 5 Reading	Year 5 Numeracy	Year 3 Numeracy	Catch up session
11.50 am – 1:00pm (Block 2)	Year 5 Writing	Year 3 Reading	Year 3 Conventions of Language	Catch up session Yr 5 Writing	Yr 3 Writing Catch up sessions (Other)
1.50pm - 3.00pm (Block 3)		Year 5 Conventions of Language		Catch up sessions (Other)	Catch up sessions (Other)

Student Led Conferences Weeks 8 and 9 Term 1

Bookings will be out soon for our upcoming Student Led Conferences watch this space!

Enjoy your week,

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



ATTENTION FOUNDATION TO YEAR TWO FAMILIES: SOUNDS~WRITE INFORMATION SESSIONS



As part of their Literacy instruction during previous years at St Francis Xavier Primary School, our Foundation to Year Two children have already participated in their first Sounds~Write sessions. This is our systematic synthetic phonics program of choice here at SFX.

I would like to invite you to attend an Information Session explaining how Sounds-Write works. The meeting will take place at **9:00 am THIS FRIDAY, 8th March in the Library**. Families are encouraged to complete [this two-minute Google Form](#) to indicate intention of attendance. Should you wish to attend but the scheduled time is unsuitable, there is also an option in the Google Form for you to indicate your chosen convenient time slot. Depending on demand, there is an option for an additional information session to be scheduled. In the meantime, please refer to the information below for some tips to support your child with their home reading.

Your children will have been bringing home some decodable texts. These help them to practise their reading skills. The words in these texts include spellings that your children are learning to read. Please encourage your child to say the sounds and read the word. During home reading, children are encouraged to read all of the words on their own. Sometimes, they may need some thinking time to work it out but all children will get there. If your child does need help, please encourage them by prompting as the teachers do in class with the phrase, **“say the sounds and read the word”**. Should your child become stuck, please don't tell them the whole word, but rather you are encouraged to tell them the sounds (for instance, /s/ /t/ /o/ /m/ /p/ so they can attempt to say the whole word 'stomp'). To help your student become a fluent reader, please encourage them to read the same text at least three times; lots of repeated reading will increase their reading speed!

This term, your child will also bring home their Reading Trek Log Book. You are encouraged to record your child's reading activity each day and support your child to bring this back to school in their reader bag. Please see the image on the following page for an example. Home reading experiences of Picture Story Books and other rich literature are encouraged for enjoyment. These are not required to be recorded in the Reading Log.

Additionally, it is encouraged to ask questions about the books that your child reads to you, as this will help them with their understanding. Thank you for helping your child to read and spell and I am looking forward to supporting you with the magic that is your child's literacy journey!

See you in the Library this Friday morning!

Warmest,



Emma Egan, **Literacy Leader**

St Francis Xavier has been humming over the past two weeks with the 'Getting to Know Your Child as a Person and Learner' meetings. It has been delicate work, but hearing both teachers and parents sing praises about how SFX values fostering these connections, it is truly amazing.

As a parent, you're the 'master of the game', the one who holds the secrets when it comes to your child. You're the champion. Your child's teacher is eager for the sparks to fly as they dive into getting to know your child. Together you're set to make a long partnership, to nurture your child's growth and happiness.

Exchanging notes on your child's passions and hurdles sets the stage for a harmonious parent-teacher duet. Viewing each other as partners in education lays the groundwork for happy communication and trust down the long road of your child's schooling journey.

It's crucial for the teachers and our school to be tuned into anything that might be impacting your child's wellbeing, whether it's a health concern, the last time they faced social challenges, or changes in the family dynamic, such as dealing with loss and parting ways.

SchoolTV has many articles under the Positive Parenting Series with great tips on building respectful relationships. Parent-teacher bonds are a relationship that demands changing efforts from both sides. But when we sync up, the rewards for your child socially and academically are gorgeous.



Click on the link to discover SchoolTV today! [SchoolTV](#)



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



FRIENDSHIP & BELONGING

Learning how to make new friends and keep them involves a number of skills every young person needs to understand and develop. For some these skills will come very naturally, allowing them to easily move between different friendship groups, sharing their experiences and opening up to new people. For others, this can be much harder to navigate. Belonging to a group that is like-minded with similar interests is highly beneficial to a young person's wellbeing. It gives them a sense of security helping them feel valued which in turn builds their confidence.

Positive friendships are an important part of the journey to adulthood. Adult carers can support their child or teenager by providing guidance in the many social and emotional skills required for a healthy relationship. This will

help them to obtain, retain and maintain friendships. However, not all friendships are regarded as positive. Sometimes young people develop negative or toxic friendships. Therefore it is also important for them to learn how to identify, avoid or deal with such a friendship.

In this edition of SchoolTV, adult carers can learn how to support their young person's friendship so that they experience a sense of belonging.

Here is the link to the **Friendship & Belonging** edition of SchoolTV
<https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/friendship-belonging>

Christine Meneely, **School Counsellor**

WORKING PARTY for PADDOCK PLAY



The staff and families at St Francis Xavier School have continually recognised the importance of extending learning philosophies beyond the classroom and into the outdoor environment. We are considering creating a loose parts play area within our school in the top paddock. This type of paddock play encourages students to use their imagination to play with different sets of resources including, pool noodles, tyres, milk crates, tarpaulins, wooden planks and various other objects. Although these might seem unusual play items, the idea is that they can be used in many different ways, allowing children to make anything from a pirate ship or castle to a bootcamp course or cubby house.

This type of play is an opportunity for children to:

- * Play freely with friends
- * Investigate
- * Discover
- * Explore
- * Create
- * Use lots of trial and error to learn for themselves
- * Learn to make their own judgments about adventurous play and recognising safe limits

We would like to form a working party to help us research, plan and implement this type of play. If you would like to be a part of this group or even have an interest or curiosity, we would love to hear from you. Please email cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au or catch me for a chat!

Sovereign & Eureka Swimming Meet We were proudly represented at last Friday's District Swimming Event at Eureka Pool by Milla A, Mila S, Lachlan P, Braxton B, Hugh F, Mitch K, Amelia S, Olivia F & Levi C. All students swam their best and it was great to see them supporting each other and the team spirit they showed, especially in the relay events. A special mention to Amelia who finished 2nd overall in her Backstroke event and has qualified for the Regional event in Horsham in 2 weeks' time.

Midlands District Primary Schools Swimming Sports - 9 yrs & Under 25m Encouragement Meet *CHANGE OF DATE
Please note that due to operational issues at the Ballarat Aquatic & Lifestyle Centre, organisers have had to change the date of this Meet to **Thursday 14th March**. All times for the Meet remain the same.

Yr3 - 6 Athletics Day

After inputting all of the data from our recent Athletics Day, the results are in. It was very tight and confirmed that it was a close battle all day. Well done again to all of the students for having a go, trying their best and having fun!

Gargan - **Green** - 747

McAuley - **Yellow** - 759

Villa - **Blue** - 803

Xavier - **Red** - 805



Term 2 After School Netball

SFX is looking forward to entering teams in the BNA Primary School after school netball season in T2.

- Season is 9wks long starting Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th April
- Teams are entered under the SFX name and coached/managed by parents
- There is a Yr 3/4 and a Yr 5/6 competition
- Term 2 is participation only, no finals
- Great for beginners and/or for those with experience

Please see PAM notification for more details.

Expressions of interest close Monday April 8

Kilometre Club

All students are invited to join our Kilometre Club which will continue this Wednesday. The Kilometre Club will be conducted every Wednesday morning, during the first break. Students and teachers meet outside the gym on the top oval for an 11:05am start. The Kilometre Club will consist of a continuous 20 minute walk, jog or run around a 250m loop.

Teachers and Students who wish to participate are reminded to bring their runners and a drink bottle each Wednesday.

We look forward to seeing lots of students there.

2024 Sport Dates

Please see below a list of the dates we currently have for various sporting events for Term 1.

Term 1:

- Week 6 - Friday Mar 8th - Regional Swimming @ Horsham (qualifiers from District swimming)
- Week 7 - Thursday Mar 14th* (please note change of date) - Midlands District Primary Schools Swimming Sports - 9 yrs & Under 25m Encouragement Meet

Term 2:

- Week 3 - Mon Apr 29th - Division Cross Country @ Fed Uni (selected students from Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 5 - Friday May 17th - Division AFL @ Sebastopol (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 6 - Wednesday May 22nd - Division Soccer @ Wendouree Rec Reserve (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 - Monday May 27th - Regional Cross Country @ Warrnambool (qualifiers from Division XC)
- Week 7 - Friday May 31st - Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 @ EMMAUS
- Week 8 - Friday Jun 7th - Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)

Have a brilliant week everyone.



Shaun Carroll, *SFX Sport Coordinator*

Community News



AFL PLAY **FOR the KICKS**

come find your awesome

WENDOUREE AUSKICK CENTRE

C.E Brown Reserve

Starting from Monday 15th of April/5.00pm

nab AFL Auskick play.afl/auskick 

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Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 1st March 2024 Hosted by 6PB Theme: Respect

Respect means considering the feelings and wishes of others, respecting myself and caring for all of creation.

We show respect because Jesus shows us that everyone is important and because our world needs our care.

F LH	Maple T & Toby W
F TW	Parker D & Alina O
F GJ	Elle N and Callum P
F MM	Ella F and Tommy J
1 JS	Harry T and Zach W
1 MV	Birdie T and William A
1 EM	Thomas G and Maya M
2 JS	Eliza V and Thiago M
2 CK	Noah M and Imogen S
2 RR	Paddy Q and Vivienne Y
3 JE	Ned K and Addilyn P
3 JV	James C and Maddison L
3 DW	Eddie A and Daisy H
4 BOK	Sibella M and Olive L
4 ML	Darci P and Levi C
4 GH	Evie A and Minka H
5 JW	Maeve W and Nick H
5 MM	Abbey D and Edward L
5 CC	Sophie W and Billy C
6 PB	Chelsea C and Lachie P
6 MM	Lilly R and Braxton B
6 ZA	Jack L & Olivia K
Visual Arts	Scottie T & Jude T (FTW)
Technology	Lily D & Cleo R

3 March 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

God loved the world so much



▶ **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
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Monday 10.30 am (Funeral Mass for
Laurie Mullane)

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

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

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

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed:

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Pam Hill, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Eleanor McMahon, Shelley Pawang, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Administrator
Fr Concord Bagaoisan, 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.

**PROJECT
COMPASSION** 

PROJECT COMPASSION

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa, and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations. Learn about these women and how Project Compassion helped them here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10823301/video/885560092>

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by calling 1800 024 41, visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or scanning this QR code.



UPCOMING EVENTS

First Reconciliation
Tues 12th, Wed 13th, Thurs. 14th March @ 6pm

Saturday March 16th 7pm – Parish BBQ
(Church grounds)

Monday 25th March 11.30 am – Mass of the Oils
(St. Patrick's Cathedral)

REPORT FROM PPC MEETING

Last Thursday evening we held our first Parish Pastoral Council meeting for 2024. The council is a parish body which serves as an advisory group to the parish priest. Many different items are discussed at each PPC meeting and parishioners are always welcome to put forward matters which they would like to be discussed by this group. At this recent meeting we tabled discussions about the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults, social activities and the fact that the St. Alipius parish will be 170 years old in 2024. More detailed information about some of what came out of our discussions can be found on today's bulletin. If there is something you would like to add to the agenda of our PPC in the coming months, please contact the parish office.

MASS OF THE OILS

The Mass of the Oils will be held at 11:30 AM on Monday 25 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch, displays and music afterwards in the Hall. All welcome. This year the Mass of the Oils will be live streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivlKiHSS?feature=share>

MERCY PLACE VOLUNTEERS

Mercy Place is seeking volunteers for a range of roles. Volunteers might spend time one-on-one with residents, taking them for walks in the garden, going on bus trips, reading a book or newspaper, helping them in the garden, or just having a chat. The hours are organised to suit the volunteer. If interested, please see the flyer in the church foyer for more information.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1061
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$258.20

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

COMMISSIONING MASSES

On Pentecost Sunday, the Parish will commission new and recommission existing liturgical ministers, including readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, PowerPoint operators, musicians, sacristans, and welcomers. Information on how to sign up to continue or start volunteering in one or more of these ministries, and what the tasks involve, will be provided over coming weeks. This week we share with you a brief summary of the role of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

LAY MINISTER OF COMMUNION

In the early days of the church, sharing in the Eucharist was an important part of their liturgies, but the practice fell away over the centuries until it became rare for the people attending mass to receive communion. Pope Pius X was instrumental in returning the rite of receiving communion to be a central part of our celebration of mass, which was further promoted after Vatican II, where receiving the Lord's body and blood was described as "that more perfect form of participation." In his 1973 document, Boundless Love, Pope Paul VI provided measures for non-ordained Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to distribute communion, including at mass and taken to the sick. Communion ministers commit to ongoing formation and liturgical, spiritual, and practical training. They are usually commissioned for a fixed term and only for their specific community. Communion ministers should have qualities of humility, hospitality, gratitude, and reverence.

SOCIAL GATHERING

You are invited to join us after the 6pm mass on Saturday March 16th for a bbq. Meat will be supplied and salads are welcome if you would like to bring one. BYO drinks. We hope to be able to gather on the lawn between the church and presbytery, but can adjourn to the hall if the weather is not appropriate. On this evening, leading up Easter, we will have a project compassion box available and encourage those attending the BBQ to drop a few coins in to it. We hope to see many parishioners gathering on this night.

PALM SUNDAY PEACE WALK

The focus of the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace this year is on the impact of war where people have been forced to flee to seek places of refuge within their own country (internally displaced) or as refugees and asylum seekers to other countries. The program will commence at 10:30 AM at the Parliament Gardens, Spring Street/Albert Street, Melbourne, with an interfaith segment and prayers for peace, followed by speeches/presentations from 11:00 AM and the Palm Sunday 'Walk for Refugees' concluding by noon.

BAPTISMS

Ruben William, Sophia Rosemary
and Patrick Gordon Elliot
Children of Kristen McKinley and Troy Elliot

Eloise Paige and Grace Kathryn Hardwick
Children of Emma and Briddon Hardwick

Wilbur Thomas Bourke
Child of Christopher and Michelle Bourke

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

EASTER CHOCOLATE

Catholic Earthcare asks us to purchase brands that use sustainably sourced cocoa. Look for logos like these on the packaging.



PRIEST'S RETREAT

The priests of the diocese will come together this week for a retreat. We ask you to keep them in your prayers. Please note that this means there will be no morning Masses from Tuesday to Friday.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Michael Myers, Professional Standards Coordinator for our diocese, is asking parishes to have their employees and volunteers complete an **online training course for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**. Some members of our parish community were called on to complete this last year, but found it to be difficult to work with. For this reason the course has been updated. The aim of this course is to increase awareness of those in our parishes who are vulnerable for one reason or another. The course would possibly take an hour of your time and if need be, support will be provided by the parish office to enable completion. Anyone who is required to have a WWCC or a police check within the parish will be asked to do this course, so the list will be extensive. The diocese have asked us to provide a list of workers/volunteers' email addresses for the purpose of providing the link and password to all who will be doing the course. If for some reason you don't want to the parish office to pass on your email address to the diocese, please contact us ASAP. If we don't hear from you, you will receive an email from the diocese at some point in the coming weeks. We urge parishioners who fall into this category to do what they can to complete this course as safeguarding the vulnerable must be a top priority for us. Please contact Cathy at the parish office if you would like more information.

150 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Copies of the anniversary prayer, written in acknowledgement of the 150 years of the Ballarat Diocese are available in the church foyers.

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 March – For new martyrs: Let us pray for those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

Keeping Everything in Balance

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

3rd Sunday in Lent: John 2:13–25

Today's gospel passage foreshadows the death of Jesus.

As a devout Jew, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem at Passover. His final going-up will be the occasion of his death and resurrection.

The Jerusalem Temple, Judaism's most holy place, is the site of a dramatic incident, an event that is recounted in all four gospels. The Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) locate it towards the end of the gospel. They present it as a catalyst for the intensification of hostility between the temple authorities and Jesus.

John's gospel, in contrast, places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The tension between Jesus and the temple authorities that is to culminate in his death in all four gospels is thus present from the outset in John.

Jesus acts decisively, even violently, to draw attention to the primary function of God's "house".

He creates an effective weapon, a whip of cords, and comprehensively clears the temple precinct of merchants, sheep, and cattle.

He overturns the tables of the money-changers, orders the dove-sellers out and tells them all, in words that evoke the prophecy of Zechariah (14:21), to stop making God's house "a marketplace".

Zechariah had declared that, in the end times, there would no longer be traders in God's house.

There was legitimate commercial activity associated with temple worship, such as the purchase of animals and doves for sacrifice, a practice we might now critique, and the changing of money to pay the Temple tax.

The traders seem to have forgotten that this activity was a means to an end and not an end in itself.

Jesus acts decisively

In John's account, the disciples understand" partially: they interpret Jesus' actions in the light of Psalm 69:9: "It is zeal for your house that has consumed me".

"The Jews" request a "sign ... for doing this". In other words, they ask Jesus to demonstrate the source of his authority for his actions.

His response is a challenge: "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up".

"The Jews" misunderstand. This provides Jesus with the opportunity to play on the word "temple": the temple is not only a material edifice that took forty-six years to build. It is also, metaphorically, his body that will be



destroyed and raised up "in three days".

The narrator provides the explanation and indicates that the disciples will eventually understand and come to believe.

It is important to note that John writes with the wisdom of hindsight. It is also important to note that the designation "the Jews" is neither a reference to the people of Judaea nor to the dispersed Jewish people. In John's gospel, it refers to those who reject Jesus as the Anointed One of God, the Christ.

As we travel the journey to Jerusalem this Lent, we are invited to keep everything in balance and to remember that God, and not the opponents of Jesus, will have the final word in this drama.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
EXODUS 20:1–17
1 CORINTHIANS 1:22–25
JOHN 2:13–25

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 CHRONICLES 36:14–16, 19–23
EPHESIANS 2:4–10
JOHN 3:14–21

Mix and Mingle Night: Lock in your babysitters Friday the 22nd of March at The North Star starting at 7pm. Tickets are \$25 which includes finger food, music and entry into the door prize.

Tickets will be available on the Flexischools this week so keep an eye out. Always a great night out and a chance to meet our teachers and other parents at the school.

Easter raffle donations: A reminder that we're organising an Easter Egg Raffle. But to make this event a cracking success, we're kindly asking for your egg-cellent donations!

Whether you're able to spare a few chocolate eggs, Easter treats, or even some festive goodies, every donation makes a huge difference! Simply drop off your donations at the school office during regular hours.

Easter Egg Raffle Tickets: Hop into the Easter spirit with St. Francis Xavier Primary School's egg-citing raffle! Grab your tickets via the QR code or the link below.



[Fundraising Raffle to Support St Francis Xavier Ballarat East rafflelink.com.au](https://rafflelink.com.au)

Tuition Raffle Tickets: Unlock the chance to save big on school fees!

Enter the 2024 SFX Tuition Raffle for a shot at winning \$1500 off your fees!

Grab your tickets at the links below.



[Fundraising Raffle to Support St Francis Xavier Primary School rafflelink.com.au](https://rafflelink.com.au)

Colour Run: Did you hear the exciting news? We are hosting a Colour Explosion School Run 4 Fun with @Australian

Fundraising! 🏃🏻‍♀️🤪 FRIDAY March 22nd. Our fundraiser is NOW open. Make sure you keep an eye out for your child's sponsorship booklet in their diary to get started. Here's to a

colourful 2024 🌈! There are many wonderful

prizes students can earn through their individual fundraising. If your child makes a profile before Wednesday

they WIN a Monty scented pencil 🙌.



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.

Zooper Doopers for sale at second break on Mondays.
50 cents each.

Volunteer helpers needed:

If you are able to assist, please go to <https://signup.com/go/CEdCHSb>
or scan the code below with your smartphone camera. Thank you.



The cut off for orders is 10am on Thursday.
If you are a new parent, please make sure to download the Flexi Schools app to ensure you can access and manage your child's lunch preferences.