St Francis Xavier Primary School



Newsletter

Monday 11th March 2024 Term 1 Week 7 P.O. Box 2027 Ballarat East VIC 3354 Phone: 5331 6311 Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 1 (9 weeks)

Mon 29th Jan - Thu 28th Mar

Wednesday 13th March

Last Day for Book Club Issue 2 Orders

Friday 15th March

2.40pm Assembly led by 4GH

Wednesday 20th March Student Led Conferences

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

Student Led Conferences

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,

It's not very often that our Pope addresses the children of the world. Last week he did. In his letter Pope Francis wrote about the importance of taking small steps to make a better world. He wrote: "Our world will change if we all begin with the little things. Without being ashamed to take small steps, one at a time". What a valuable reminder that even the smallest among us can make the biggest difference!

Each week at school we focus on one of the core values of our school. This value is highlighted at Monday morning assembly and continues to be a focus in each classroom. On Friday when we gather for our class assembly, we recognise students who have displayed that value throughout the week. They are applauded for their efforts and they have every right to feel very proud. Over the course of the year these values of Justice, Hospitality, Respect, Excellence and Compassion are re-visited many times so that the message becomes loud and clear.

Pope Francis wrote in his letter to the children of the world that they are a "Source of joy for your parents and your families, but also for our human family and for the Church, in which each of us is like a link in a great chain stretching from the past to the future and covering the whole earth". What a great image to carry as we continue our time of Lent.

God bless,

aff

Mark Hogbin



Labour Day Holiday

Did you enjoy your extra-long weekend? I'm sure that you did! We hope that you were able to use the time to rest a little and recharge for the last three weeks of term.

Foundation Classes

It was lovely to welcome our Foundation student to full time classes last week. It's full steam ahead now for the rest of the school year!







Our Goats and Duck – Update:

Remember our goats? They are now living very happily with one of our school families and have new friends.

Many thanks to the Faull family for adopting them!





Our resident duck 'Quack Quack' found a beautiful new home with our very own Mrs Hayward! He has made new friends on the pond and is very happy! (You can almost see the smile on his beak!)

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday March 10, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Gospel: John 3:14-21

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour. (Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection:

God does not just love you or me, God loves everybody. God loves all people whether they are rich or poor, no matter where they live or where they come from, no matter whether they are healthy or ill, no matter the colour of their skin. We are all God's children. We are part of one global family.

God asks us to share this love and to also care for others no matter who they are or where in the world they live. God calls us to care for our global family and to share generously with them all that we have been given. When we do this we are sharing God's love.

Our Challenge: How do you think you could share God's love with others over the coming week?



Sacrament of Reconciliation This week we pray for many of our Year 4 children who will be making their Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Alipius Church on Thursday evening. In the Catholic tradition, reconciliation is all about right relationships and forgiveness. As a part of their Religious Education, the children have been invited to think about how we treat others with our words and our actions. We know sometimes we don't get it right and we miss the mark of what we are aiming to be. (The word 'sin' is the word the Church uses- it comes from ancient Hebrew and means 'missing the mark'). We wish the children and their families all the best at this special time

Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Curriculum News



<u>NAPLAN 2024</u> NAPLAN is this week for our Year 3 and Year 5 students. If you are aware that your child will not be at school during this time please let your teacher know ASAP.

Please make sure your child/ren are ready:

Great night sleep, breakfast and arriving at school prior to the bell.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

NAPLAN Testing Timetable 2024							
Ballara Escr	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 open on PAM 9:00 am this Tuesday 12th March

Week 8: Wednesday 20th March 3:30 onwards Week 9: Wednesday 27th March 3:30 onwards



Enjoy your week,

Jane Clark, Deputy Principal / Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News



RESILIENCE

Resilience is one of those skills that all kids need and should have. It refers to their ability to cope and adapt in situations when confronted with challenges such as adversity, trauma, tragedy, or even stress. It is essential to their mental health and wellbeing as part of their journey to adulthood. It is a skill that can be learned from an early age through the

support of an adult role model.

However, being resilient does not mean your child won't experience any difficulties, but it will better equip them to manage those situations. Over-protective parenting can be viewed as being unhelpful towards the building of resilience. Although this may be a natural instinct, potentially experiencing failure is all part of the process. Encouraging children to take healthy risks will help them trust their capacity to deal with uncomfortable situations and increase their capacity for courage.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will gain an understanding of how to support their child's brave behaviour to help them adapt and build resilience. Here is the link to the Resilience edition of SchoolTV https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/resilience

Christine Meneely, School Counsellor

Sport/Physical Education News

Term 2 After School Netball

St Francis Xavier is planning on entering team/s into the Darroch Afterschool Netball Competition at Llanberris Netball Stadium. These games will be run on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons (game times expected to be 4pm, 4:50pm & 5:40pm) commencing April 23/24. The competition will run for 9 weeks (no finals in T2). Teams are entered under the SFX name and coached/managed by parents. There is a Yr 3/4 and a Yr 5/6 competition for each night.

For more information and to register your child/s interest please refer to notification on PAM.

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.

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.

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.

2024 Sport Dates

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

Term 1:

- Week 7 Thursday Mar 14th* (please note change of date) Midlands District Primary Schools Swimming Sports - 9 yrs & Under 25m Encouragement Meet
- Week 8 Friday Mar 22nd Regional Swimming @ Horsham (qualifiers from District swimming)

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 great week everyone.

Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

Community News



Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 8th March 2024 Hosted by 5CC Theme: Justice We make fair choices. Justice means being the best person we can be. We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLH	Georgia L and Fergus T	4GH	Bridie M and Henry F
FGJ	Sophie Q and Kit B	4ML	Xavier M and Ella C
FTW	Bob N and Sophie M	4BO	Emily B and Jackson R
FMM	Lucinda B and Jack H	5CC	Henri G and Harley B
1JS	Emme C and Charlie R	5MA	Angus B and Isla T
1EM	Matilda W and Odie B	5JW	Harriet L and Sierra O
1MV		6PB	Stella R and Harriet L
2RR	Freddie B and Hazel D	6ZA	Ivy R and Harper L
2CK	Jimmy F and Harvey K	6MM	Chloe F and Henry W
2JS	Jude R and Arlo T	EE	Last week: Lucy E, Mollie A, Zarli B and Betsy N
3JE	Mackenzie D and Ailbe K	PA	
31V	Savee T and Jett R	VA	Hudson R & Noah O
3DW	Levi D and Ella W	PE	Edie W and Riley P
_		Technology	Zara T & Myles Y



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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

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.orq.au www.ballarat.catholic.orq.au/parish/ballarat-east/

10 March 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent God loved the world so much

Stalinis Darish

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 7

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: Samantha Murphy

Anniversaries: Anne Bernadette Cheeseman

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Luka Fletcher-Leskarac, Hudson Leskarac, 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.

International Women's Day



SOCIAL GATHERING

The Parish Pastoral Council invites all parishioners to a BBQ after 6:00 PM mass on Saturday 16 March. We hope to gather on the lawn between the church and presbytery but can adjourn to the hall if the weather is inclement. Meat provided. Please bring a salad to share if you'd like to. A Project Compassion will be available for attendees to donate a few coins if you can.

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Reconciliation
6:00 PM Tue 12, Wed 13, Thurs 14 March, St Alipius

Parish BBQ

After 6:00 PM Mass, Sat 16 March, St Alipius Hall

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$980
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$508.20

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

PROJECT COMPASSION



Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Together, we can

help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. 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.

PRIEST APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the allocation of priests throughout our local parishes. Effective Wednesday 10 April, Fr Concord Bagaoisan will be moving to the Redan, Sebastopol, and Linton parishes, with Fr Eladio Lizada as assistant priest. Fr Justin Driscoll will be joining us as parish priest of Ballarat East, Bungaree, and Gordon. He will be supported by Fr Matthew Restall as assistant priest. Fr Marcello Colasante will be the parish priest at Wendouree, Creswick, and Daylesford. At the cathedral, Ballarat North, and Beaufort, Fr Ed Moloney will be the administrator, with Fr James McKay, and Fr Francis Kureeckal as assistant priests. We thank Fr Con for his time with us and look forward to welcoming Fr Justin and Fr Matthew in April.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The theme for International Women's Day 2024 is "Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress." Based on the priority theme for the United Nations 68th Commission on the Status of Women, "Count Her In" will examine the pathways to greater economic inclusion for women and girls everywhere.

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, continuing with sacristans.

SACRISTANS

A sacristan arrives about 45 minutes before the start of mass to open the church, turn heaters/fans and lights on, prepare the altar, sacred vessels, bread, and wine, and organise the lectionary. If there is a baptism, they also prepare the water, candle, and other items.

After mass, they clean the chalice and trays, put items away, switch off the lights and heaters/fans and lock the church.

EASTER CHOCOLATE

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

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The latest edition of e-News is available to view at hwww.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/. You can subscribe to be emailed future editions.

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

A copy of the annual report from the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/

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/SdivIIKiHSs?feature=share

BAPTISMS

Averie Jayne Wakefield Child of Liam Wakefield and Jasmine White

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

INT'L WOMEN'S DAY PRAYER

God, whose love, and goodness gather us in: we pray for women all over the world, especially those challenged by poverty and other injustice. Stir us to know women's dignity. Quieten us to listen to women's voices. Awaken us to see women's realities. Strengthen us to stand for women's rights. Fill us with hope to make a better future together. Amen.

www.caritas.org.au/resources/library/internationalwomen-s-day-reflection/

LAUDATO SI'

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

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission, in collaboration with Caritas (Diocese of Ballarat), Earthcare Ballarat and the Pastoral Ministry Office, encourages us to "Walk, cycle, or use public transport."

Choosing active transport like walking and cycling can not only dramatically reduce your carbon footprint, but you could end up saving money and staying fit at the same time! When walking or cycling is not an option, swapping the car for a bus or train can also make a significant dent in emissions.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Every relationship is a journey, and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend gives married couples time to nurture their relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from the pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. 12–14 April in Melbourne. Website: www.wwme.org.au. Information and bookings: phone Mercy & James at 0409 183 676 or email wicbookings@wwme.org.au.

MARY WARD FOR SAINT

Mary Ward supporters are seeking support for their cause for the canonisation of the foundress of the Loreto Sisters (IBVM). To sign the petition, scan or click the QR code.



PALM SUNDAY RALLY & WALK

At 2:00 PM on Sunday 24 March, a 90-minute Palm Sunday Rally and Walk will commence at the McDonald Bandstand, opposite the floral clock, between Pipers and the playground at Lake Wendouree. Guest speakers include Sr Brigid Arthur, co-founder of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, and a person who was a refugee. The talks will be followed by a short, loop walk to and from the Olympic Rings with a stop at the Peace Mile marker to reflect upon world peace.

LENTEN RESOURCES

Lent prayer resources are available from the diocese www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/

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.

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.

God's Saving Love for the Earth

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

4th Sunday in Lent: John 3:14-21

The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who comes to him "by night".

It features a number of typically Johannine themes: life, eternal life, believing, seeing, God's love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, the world, truth.

John loves to play on words. Without losing sight of the material reality underlying each image, we need to keep asking: how is this word or expression to be understood in this particular context?

In John's gospel, the characters often misunderstand and this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper or different understanding of his words.

As 21st-century readers, we operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place. Hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories.

The first two verses of today's reading evoke the ancient Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9).

According to the story, the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack thereof. They blame both God and Moses.

Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed a considerable number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God.

God instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who "see" or "look upon it" find life.

So will Jesus be lifted up

Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent.

The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life.

In John's gospel, seeing is often equated with believing and believing leads to "life".



The bottom line is God's saving love for "the world", for the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human.

Most of the themes in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of "love". God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world.

Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus while judgment is the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God.

Later in this gospel (12:33), Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
1 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23

EPHESIANS 2:4-10 JOHN 3:14-21 NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

> JEREMIAH 31:31-34 HEBREWS 5:7-9 JOHN 12:20-30

P&F News

<u>Mix and Mingle Night:</u> 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.

<u>Easter raffle donations:</u> 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.

<u>Easter Egg Raffle Tickets:</u> 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.



<u>Fundraising Raffle to Support St Francis Xavier</u> <u>Ballarat East</u>

rafflelink.com.au

<u>Tuition Raffle Tickets:</u> 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.



<u>Fundraising Raffle to Support St Francis Xavier</u>
<u>Primary School</u>
rafflelink.com.au

<u>Colour Run:</u> 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 <equation-block>

prizes students can earn through their individual fundraising. If your child makes a profile before Wednesday they WIN a Monty scented pencil.

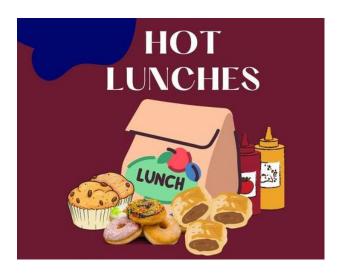


Zooper Doopers for sale at second break on Mondays. 50 cents each.

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.