



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024  
Term 2 Week 2

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### Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Jun

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>-Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
Year 4 Camp

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
Public Holiday ANZAC Day

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
Student Free Day

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Apr-Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Book Fair Sales in Library  
8.30-9.00am each day  
3.00-4.00pm each day

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**  
Book Club 3 orders close

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
Mothers/Special Friends Day  
2pm Afternoon Tea  
2.30pm Liturgy in Family  
Groups

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by IJS

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>-Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May**  
Year 6 Camp

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FLH

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
6MM

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
5MM

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
King's Birthday Holiday

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
4ML

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
3JW

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
Assembly led by FMM

### Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jul – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Sep

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

This Thursday marks a very special day in the calendar across the nation. ANZAC Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day on which we remember Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of Anzac, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

2024 has already seen its fair share of conflict on both a global and local scale. Daily media reports of political unrest seem to demand our attention and we can sometimes be left feeling helpless. Let's remember though, that with faith, anything is possible. Don't be afraid to take a moment to pray for peace in a troubled world. Who knows how our prayers might be answered?



God bless,



Mark Hogbin

### *A Prayer for Peace*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:*

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> & Tues 16<sup>th</sup> July**  
Student Free Days

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July**  
Start of Term Mass

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 2CK

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 1EM

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FTW

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**  
Book Week Parade  
2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August**  
Fathers/Special Friends Day  
Liturgy

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 4BO

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 3DW

**Term 4 (11 weeks)**  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
Start of Term/Mercy Day  
Mass

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 2JS

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 1MV

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 5JW

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
Student Free Day

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
Melbourne Cup Holiday

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Nov**  
Year 5 Camp

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

*(Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)*



### School Closure Days

Please note that in Term 2 we have set aside two school closure days for Staff Professional development. The first was held last Monday when our staff attended the Auslan conference which supports our Language program. The second day will be this Friday (26 April) when we work with the team from Catholic Education Ballarat to learn about the new Personal Development program for all schools across the diocese.

### Year 4 Camp

Our Year 4 students head off to camp tomorrow. We wish them well as they explore the great outdoors. While we will miss you at school students, we wish you well and look forward to hearing of your adventures when you return.

### Staff Changes

- 1) We said farewell to Mr. Matthew Manzl on Friday as he completed his time at our school. Matthew is now preparing to head off with his family to begin a new adventure in New Zealand. Matthew is well known to many members of our school community as a caring teacher and a friend to all. We wish you well Mr. Manzl!
- 2) We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Madelyn McMorrow to our school this term. Madelyn will be teaching Yr. 5 for the remainder of the school year and has already spent a productive week with Mr. Manzl getting to know the children. Welcome Mrs. McMorrow, we can't wait to learn more about you as you settle in to life at Saint Francis Xavier.
- 3) We welcome back Mrs. Michelle Jans to our staff team this term. Michelle knows our school well and we are delighted to be able to have her back on the team. Welcome home Michelle!

# Enrolments for 2025 Foundation for current families

**Enrolment for 2025 Foundation students is now open**  
**Enrolment closes Thursday 23 May 2024**

**The application process for 2025 Foundation (Prep) Enrolments for current St Francis Xavier families in one step:**

**Complete your enrolment** by filling out the “City of Ballarat Expression of Interest for Enrolment” form found [here](#).

<https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/enrolments-application-form/>

You will be able to nominate St Francis Xavier as your first preference and nominate the child you are enrolling is a sibling.

New Families to St Francis Xavier are also required to complete the “City of Ballarat Expression of Interest for Enrolment” online and attend an Open Day Tour by booking at <https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/open-days/>

Please note: You are not required to complete a hard copy Enrolment Form. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

## Religious Education News

**THIS WEEK’S GOSPEL- Sunday April 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)**

**Gospel:** John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd. *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:** Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, who carefully looks after his sheep. When he says sheep, Jesus means all people around the world.

Jesus wants us to follow his example. He asks us to care for all our brothers and sisters around the world, no matter who they are or where they come from. He doesn’t want us to run away when things are difficult. He wants us to stand up for what we believe in and know to be right.

Sometimes it can be very difficult to stop someone or something that we do not like or that we know is wrong. We might be afraid that we will be hurt or laughed at.

There are many things that happen in the world that are not right. There are people around the world who have been forced to leave their homes because of fighting. There are people who do not have enough food to eat or clean water to drink. There are children who have to work and earn money to help support their families instead of going to school. Do you think this is fair? How does this make you feel?

**Our Challenge:** How will you stand up for what you know is right and show your love for your global family this week? *(Adapted from CAFOD website)*



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

### Curriculum News

Welcome back to Term 2. Once again we have so many wonderful events, activities and learning that will be taking place this term.

One of our desired outcomes from our Annual action plan is:

**To significantly improve student outcomes in Reading and to ensure continuity and progression from Foundation to Year 6.**

One way to promote the love and enjoyment of reading is to provide our children with a variety of texts.

Exciting news! Our Book Fair Garden - Catch the Reading Bug is coming to St Francis Xavier primary school. Join us from -

Monday 29th April until Thursday 2nd May in our school library. Catch the reading bug and discover the latest and greatest children's books while supporting our school. Let's cultivate a love for reading together!

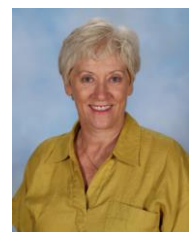
Tuesday 23rd April and Wednesday 24th April

Children will visit the library with their teachers for book viewing and filling out their Wish Lists during this week.

Monday 29th April - Thursday 2nd May

Book Fair selling opening hours      8:30 - 9:00 am each day      3:00 - 4:00 pm each day

Enjoy your week and thank you in advance for your support with our Book Fair.



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

**BOOK FAIR NOTE for parents and families** – If you decide to buy from our Book Fair, you might like to save time by pre-paying using the QR code or the Scholastic website (details below and on your child’s wish list) and then handing your receipt number form to our Book Fair cashiers so you can collect your purchases. Thank you.

## Scholastic Book Fair Payment



**Student Wish List** Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

I previewed the books at my Scholastic Book Fair. Here are some of the books that interested me:

TITLE	LOCATION	PRICE

Parents: if you are unable to attend the Book Fair, please see over for a pre-payment option. Thank you for supporting our Book Fair! Every purchase benefits our school!

You can make a secure credit card payment online. Please ensure your child presents this at the Fair to collect their books.

**RECORD YOUR PAYMENT RECEIPT NUMBER BELOW**

Please go to: [www.scholastic.com.au/payment](http://www.scholastic.com.au/payment)

You will receive an 8-digit receipt number with your credit card payment. Please record this number below and provide details of the credit card holder.

RECEIPT NUMBER	AMOUNT PAID
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
First Name: _____ Surname: _____ School: _____ Suburb/State: _____ Daytime Tel: _____	

Please fill out details clearly in either blue or black pen. Thank you for supporting our Book Fair! Every purchase benefits our school!



### Cross Country

Congratulations to the 43 students from Yr 3 - 6 that have been selected in the SFX Cross Country team for the upcoming Eureka Division Cross Country at Fed Uni.

### Sporting Schools - After School Sports Program

This term we are providing 2 programs as part of the Sporting Schools initiative.

The programs are Softball (Monday) and Basketball (Thursday) and are open to all students from F - Yr 6. Kelly Sports are conducting the Monday program and Basketball Ballarat are conducting the Thursday program. For more information and to register your child/ren please refer to the notification on PAM.

### Term 2 Calendar:

- 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 - Friday May 24th - 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 v STM @ SFX
- Week 8 - Mon Jun 3rd/Tue 4th/Wed 5th - Golf Clinics (all students Yr 4/5/6)
- Week 9 - Friday June 14th - Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)

Have a fabulous 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  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

21 April 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

*I am the good shepherd*

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballarata-east/)

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Tuesday Funeral Mass – Sr Mary Madden RSM 10:30 AM

Wednesday Funeral Mass – Marg Maunsell 11 AM

Friday Funeral Mass (Buninyong) – Bill Gove 10:30 AM

Saturday, 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>)

### 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)

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:** Bill Gove, Sr Mary Madden RSM, Marg Maunsell

**Anniversaries:** Mary Murphy, Mary Hall

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

## PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Justin Driscoll

**Assistant Priest**  
Fr Matthew Restall

**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.



## 150 ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Next weekend parishes throughout the Diocese of Ballarat will be acknowledging the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Diocese.

This year is also the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St Alipius church building. Ballarat's inaugural bishop's first official task was opening the St Alipius church that we now gather in, which replaced a wooden church and before that a canvas one, which was erected on the site in 1853. 100 years ago, the current church was extended, and the wooden sacristy and chancel were rebuilt in bluestone. The belltower and cast-iron fence were also added then.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrating 150 years of Diocese  
Masses on 27-28 April

Liturgy Committee Meeting  
5:30 PM, Tuesday 23 April, Presbrytery

Baptism Preparation Session  
10 Am or 5:30 PM, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Mary Glowrey  
Room – St Patricks Cathedral

## DIOCESAN TIMELINE

As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, a timeline of significant dates and events over the past 150 years has been published on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/history-2/>

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1083
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$478.40

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

## ANZAC DAY MASS

ANZAC Day Mass on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> at St Patrick's Cathedral at 9.15am. This will proceed the march to the Ballarat Cenotaph. The Buninyong ANZAC Day service will commence at 10.15am in the Memorial Park.

## MASS COUNTS IN MAY

The annual count of attendees at masses throughout the diocese will occur over the four weekends in May.

## PRAYERS FOR ANZAC DAY

The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference has shared these prayers with us for ANZAC Day:

We pray for all airmen, sailors and soldiers who served and bravely lost their lives in battle during times of conflict, especially members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. May they rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory on the last day. Let us pray to the Lord.

We remember all families, parents and children who lost loved ones through war. May the light of God's hope and strength comfort them. Let us pray to the Lord.

## VOCATION SUNDAY

Vocation Sunday is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. It is an opportunity for all to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. "Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:35–38). We remember young women and men throughout our country and diocese and pray that they may be open to hearing and responding generously to the Lord's call to marriage, single life, priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life, or secular institutes.

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Holy Spirit of wisdom and divine love, awaken in the hearts of the young, your knowledge, understanding, and counsel. May they discover the vocation wherein they can best serve God to be of service to their sisters and brothers. In flame all young hearts with courage and grant them your peace. Mary, mother of our saviour, and our mother, pray for us.

## VINNIES MAGAZINE

Scan or click the QR code to read the Autumn edition of "The Record" from the St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia.





## THANK YOU

Each year we invite Dom Jans to decorate the Easter Candles for our parish churches. In doing this Dom is carrying on the work of her father, Henk de Jong who made and decorated our candles for many years. Everyone would agree that once again, our candles look beautiful. Dom, thank you for all the hours you have put into the preparation of these candles prior to our Easter masses, we are very grateful that you continue to be willing to share your talents with us.

## DAMASCUS REUNIONS

Damascus College warmly welcomes past students and staff of Sacred Heart College, St Martin's in the Pines, and Damascus College to our 2024 Class Reunions.

Class of 1974 (50 years) – Saturday, 21 April

Class of 1984 (40 years) – Saturday, 18 May

Class of 1994 (30 years) – Saturday, 18 May

Class of 2004 (20 years) – Saturday, 25 May

Class of 2014 (10 years) – Saturday, 25 May

An all-year St Paul's Reunion will be held in 2025.

For further details and booking links for each class reunion, please visit:

[www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events) Scroll to 2024 'CLASS OF' Reunions and click the + to view details and book your ticket. Enquiries: [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au)

## BAPTISMS

Ziggy Rae Bux  
Child of Tyler and Hayley Bux

Saige Alice, Summah May & Jaxon Peter Hine  
Child of Darryn & Julie Hine

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

## ST. ALIPIUS SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT

St. Alipius School invites you to 'Trivia with a Twist' on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the McInerney Centre, St. Alipius Primary School. Time 6:30 pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are \$10. BYO Drinks and Nibbles. Contact the school for tickets.

## 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 April – For the role of women: Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

## MEMORIES

L-R: Daryl Harrington, Brian Morgan, Paul Harris, Barry Hood (Rockett's drummer on stage), Frank Burke, John O'Brien, Jim O'Meara, Leo McMahon, Jim Murphy.



## SNAPSHOT OF OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

Parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon

Total Population

Ballarat East (inc. Buninyong)	31,686
Bungaree (inc. Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown)	1,756
Gordon (inc. Ballan & Springbank)	6,197

Catholic Population

Ballarat East (inc. Buninyong)	7,095 (22.4%)
Bungaree (inc. Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown)	638 (35.7%)
Gordon (inc. Ballan & Springbank)	1,871 (30.3%)

Sunday Mass attendance in 2023

Ballarat East (inc. Buninyong)	230
Bungaree (inc. Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown)	40
Gordon (inc. Ballan & Springbank)	106

Baptisms in 2023

Ballarat East (inc. Buninyong)	84
Bungaree (inc. Clarke's Hill & Dunnstown)	6
Gordon (inc. Ballan & Springbank)	30

# Embracing the Whole Earth

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Fourth Sunday of Easter: John 10:11–18

We do not often think of ourselves as sheep, and yet that is what we are called in today's gospel.

The liturgy for Good Shepherd Sunday invites us to reflect on Jesus of Nazareth as the noble or good shepherd of the believing community and his followers as "sheep".

"Shepherd" in its literal sense is not part of our 21st-century vocabulary, and yet we use it metaphorically, both as a verb and as a noun. Its verbal form connotes care and compassion, protection, guidance, and tender relationship.

In John's gospel, Jesus rightly claims for himself the title "good shepherd". He contrasts the good shepherd or leader with the leader who fails to care for the flock. Knowing one's sheep, staying with them in the face of mortal danger and being prepared to die for them are marks of the good shepherd.

There are echoes here of Ezekiel 34 where the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor describes the leaders of Israel in their relationships with the people.

There are likewise echoes of a description of the emperor Tiberius in whose reign Jesus was executed, precisely because he did not abandon his "flock".

The Roman historian Suetonius has this to say of Tiberius: "To the

governors who recommended burdensome taxes for his provinces, he wrote in answer that it was the part of a good shepherd to shear his flock, not skin it" (Suetonius, Life of Tiberius 32.2).

In the pre-industrial biblical world, the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor was heard by an audience that enjoyed a much closer relationship with sheep and their human carers than do most people today.

In my country, for instance, there are 70 million sheep and 26.82 million people. In other words, the ovine inhabitants of Australia significantly outnumber the human.

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### *He did not abandon his flock*

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Yet most of our highly urbanised human population knows its sheep only in their disembodied forms. The human-ovine relationship is, for the most part, reduced to that of consumer and consumed.

Sheep are valued, not for their intrinsic goodness as creations of a loving God, but rather as commodities that provide food and clothing for the human population.

We now know that modern domesticated sheep evolved from



creatures that pre-date modern humans. We might take time to consider the implications of this for our relationship with the other-than-human inhabitants of our planetary home.

Our reflections might include some consideration of the wisdom or otherwise of continuing to breed these creatures for human consumption, often at the expense of the environment.

Good Shepherd Sunday provides us with an opportunity to move beyond our human-centred views of the world and our human-centred interpretations of our sacred texts.

We might hear a call to value the realities that underpin gospel images such as the Good Shepherd/sheep metaphor. We might also hear a call to expand our appreciation of all the inhabitants of our planet. To be good shepherds in our time is to embrace the whole Earth Community with reverence and compassion.

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4:8–12  
1 JOHN 3:1–2  
JOHN 10:11–18

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 9:26–31  
1 JOHN 3:18–24  
JOHN 15:1–8

Get ready to kick off the ultimate Auskick Extravaganza! The Western Bulldogs Ballarat Team is gearing up to bring the party to Wendouree Auskick Centre on Monday April 22nd. Get ready to dive into the action with their inflatable AFL Games – it's guaranteed to be an absolute blast! Don't miss out on all the fun – sign up for Auskick today and secure your spot in the excitement!



**AFL PLAY**

**FOR the KICKS**

**come find your awesome**

**WENDOUREE AUSKICK CENTRE**  
C.E Brown Reserve  
Mondays from 5.00pm -  
Registrations are still open!

**nab AFL Auskick**

[play.afl/auskick](https://play.afl/auskick)





## Basketball Ballarat Term 2 Community Programs

Basketball Ballarat provide children with a fun and safe basketball experience that will serve as an introduction to a lifetime involvement in the game. A wide variety of introduction to basketball programs are ran by Basketball Ballarat, allowing children to start learning basketball as young as 2 years old.

Basketball Ballarat's introduction to basketball programs:

- Aussie Hoops – perfect for children aged 4 – 11 years
- All Abilities Rookie Hoops – perfect for children aged 5 – 18 years whom are living with a disability
- Mini Miners – perfect for kindergarten aged children, 2 – 4 years
- Next Level – suited for domestic players 2011-2013 born

Registrations are now open for all community hoops programs, with the programs starting the week beginning May 6th

For more information and to register: Community – Ballarat Basketball

For further details please contact Zack Cummins via email [programs@ballaratbasketball.com](mailto:programs@ballaratbasketball.com) or call reception on (03) 5338 1220.

