



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Term 2 Week 3

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### Term 2 (11 weeks)

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

#### 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 1JS

#### 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

#### 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

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Did you know that Catholic education in this diocese is 150 years old? This year we acknowledge 150 years of educating children across an area that stretches from the Murray River to the sea. Our diocese consists of 52 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and 1 university. To borrow from the words of Bishop Paul Bird: "We seek to nurture the gifts of each student and build a community inspired by the teaching and example of Christ."

Our school plays an important part in the story of Catholic education in Ballarat. With our formation in 1902 by the sisters of Mercy we have offered an outstanding education to many generations of students. We might not have the Sisters of Mercy teaching in our school today but our core values of Hospitality, Justice, Excellence, Respect and Compassion mirror the values of the Mercy order to whom we are so grateful. Without the work of those who have gone before us, both lay and Religious, we wouldn't be the school we are today, and that's something we can feel very proud about.

Where to from here? As I meet the children in our yard each day or watch their learning in the classrooms I often wonder who my replacement might be. The future teachers, administrators, Religious and Principals are currently playing in our school yards today. With this in mind, I believe that the future is full of promise. How exciting!

God bless,



Mark Hogbin

Community  
Remember Revitalise  
Hope

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat



DIOCESE OF BALLARAT CATHOLIC EDUCATION LIMITED

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*  
Romans 12:12

**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.**

**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

**Thankyou!**

Thanks to all families for your support of our school closure day last Friday. We spent time working with staff from the Catholic education office to learn about the new diocesan Human Development program; *Fullness of life*. This program will be incorporated into the learning and teaching agenda for third term for all students from Foundation to Year 6.

**Congratulations Mrs. Clark**

Each year during Catholic Education Week the Director for Catholic Education likes to acknowledge staff in our schools who have reached the milestone of 30 years in Catholic education. This year we acknowledge Mrs. Jane Clark who can boast 30 years of educating children in our diocese. Well done Mrs. Clark, we are so proud of you and we are blessed to have you on our SFX team!

**Project Compassion**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the \$1,276.95 we were able to forward to Project Compassion.

**Security Notice**

Please note that we are in the process of updating security in the front office area of the school. You might notice some changes occurring to our entry in coming weeks as we work to ensure the safety of all members of our school community.

**Winter School Uniform**

It's time to start thinking about winter school uniform now that the weather is becoming much cooler. Week three of second term is traditionally our transition week with the expectation that students will be wearing their winter school uniform each day. If you would like to access the second hand uniform shop for a winter uniform, please call in at the office and our staff will help you out. I would like to remind all families that our winter school uniform includes black footwear with the exception of sports days when children may wear runners with their sports uniform.

**Mother's Day & Special Persons Stall**

The Parents & Friends Committee has been very busy preparing for our Mother's Day/Special Persons Stalls which will be held in the undercover area at first break on the following days:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Foundation and Grade 1

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Grade 2, 3 and 4

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Grade 5 & 6

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Catch up all grades

The gifts are priced at \$2, \$3 and \$5 per child. Lots of great gifts to choose from for Mum/special person.

**School Fees**

A reminder that in accordance with DOBCEL school fee policies, we are nearing the half way point of the year. By the end of first semester we expect that families should be approaching the 50% rate for payment of fees. If you require information regarding your statement of fees, or if you are experiencing unforeseen hardship please make contact with Ms. Kerrie McTigue our business manager as soon as possible.

# 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 28, 2024      Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)      Gospel: John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you. Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:** Jesus is teaching his disciples and he calls himself the “true vine”.

Jesus calls us his branches because he supports us, like a tree trunk supports its branches. Jesus wants us to stay close to him and follow his teachings-this means being the best we can be, loving each other, and loving our beautiful world. Our world is changing, because we humans have treated the planet badly and our climate is heating up. Everyone is affected, but the poorest people suffer the most.

In poor countries, many people rely on what they can grow for food. The rain is not coming when it should anymore, so it is very hard to grow crops. People are going hungry and thirsty. We all have a part to play to protect our world, so that it stays a beautiful place for us all to live in safely.

**Our Challenge:** There are many ways that we can show love for our neighbour and care for our world. Can you think of some, so that you will be like the strong, healthy branches on the vine that Jesus talks about?



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader



## SFX Book Fair 2024: Catch the reading bug

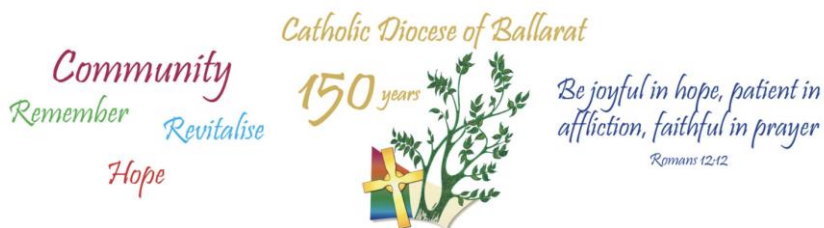
*St Francis Xavier primary school is so excited to let you know that we are having a Book Fair.*

*Where: SFX School Library*

### SALES

*When: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 8:30am- 9:00am and 3:00pm- 4:00pm  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 8:30am- 9:00am and 3:00pm- 4:00pm  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 8:30am- 9:00am and 3:00pm- 4:00pm  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 8:30am- 9:00am and 3:00pm- 4:00pm*

*Come along for a view and chat with your child about their "Wish List".  
All monies made will go back into our SFX library.*



Enjoy your Catholic Education week.

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

### Sport/Physical Education News

#### Cross Country

Good luck to all of the students participating in this week's Eureka Division Cross Country at Fed Uni. We know that you will try your best and enjoy the day!

#### 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 and conducting the Thursday program. For more information and to register your child/ren please refer to the notification on PAM.

#### Ballarat Marathon Running Festival

Well done to the students and staff who participated in the Ballarat Marathon Running Festival over the weekend. It was great to see the community spirit in action.



**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 wonderful week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

**Price Increase on Stewarts Bakery Items:** Please note on Flexischools Stewart's Bakery items have had a small (10 cents on most items) price increase due to Stewarts increasing their prices.

**Mother's Day Stall:** Next week we will be holding stalls for children to purchase gifts for Mother's Day. We still require a few more volunteers to help with the stalls, please sign up here.

<https://signup.com/go/BasFdUG>

**Hot lunches:** Each Friday we require a minimum of 5 volunteers to help pack our hot lunches for an hour, 11am to 12noon. Please sign up here if you are free to help.



[Hot Lunches](#)

[signup.com](http://signup.com)



▶ **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

28 April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

*I am the true vine*

# 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 & Wednesday 9:30 AM

Thurs & Fri 9.15 am (this week only)

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)

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: John McRory, John Mildren OAM

### Anniversaries:

**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.

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Baptism Preparation Session**  
10 AM or 5:30 PM, Thursday 2 May  
Mary Glowrey Room, St Patrick's Cathedral

**Caring Group**  
2pm, Friday 3 May  
Parish Hall

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

Counting was not completed this week. Details for the two weeks will be made available in next week's bulletin.

## FR MUGAVIN GOLDEN JUBILEE

All are welcome to Mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Fr Paddy Mugavin at 10:30 AM on Sunday, 19 May at St Mary's Church, Hamilton. Morning tea / light lunch provided.

## JOIN THE MERCY ASSOCIATES

Women and men are invited to join this group, which seeks to "Preserve, Nurture and Reimagine the Mercy charism", established by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. Members are offered some social and spiritual activities throughout the year. If you are interested, email [mercypassociates@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mercypassociates@ismapng.org.au).

## 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.



## PRAYER FOR 1 MAY

God our Father, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## MASS COUNTS IN MAY

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

## 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 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

**Ken Thomas Ryan**  
Child of Thomas and Hayley

**Hugo Jeffrey & Raffie Neville Perry**  
Children of Nicholas and Sharni

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

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

This week, schools around our diocese will celebrate Catholic Education Week. This will be done in different ways across our schools, in recognition of the work of our students and staff. We congratulate each school in our parish for the work that they do. Catholic Education Week will conclude next Friday evening with a Mass for teachers at Damascus College. Among other things, this Mass celebrates 30 years' service of staff in our diocese.

## TAP AND GO DEVICES

This weekend we will be introducing Tap and Go devices into our churches at Ballarat East and Buninyong. These devices allow us to tap our cards in order to make a donation to the presbytery account, which supports the priests of the diocese. We would have originally recognised this as our first collection. You will need to choose an amount and tap your card to make your donation. Feedback is welcome.



## ACKNOWLEDGING 150 YEARS OF THE BALLARAT DIOCESE



Across the Diocese this weekend, parishes will acknowledge 150 years since the Diocese of Ballarat (and Sandhurst) were created on March 30<sup>th</sup> 1874. In 1844 the first Mass had been celebrated in Port Fairy, the first in what would become the Diocese of Ballarat. Archbishop Polding (Sydney) visited Portland in November 1844.

In 1848, James Alipius Goold was appointed Bishop of Melbourne – the Diocese had two churches, Melbourne and Geelong and a Chapel at Portland. In October 1851 the first Mass in the Ballarat district was celebrated by Fr Patrick Dunne at Brown Hill in a borrowed tent. In 1872 the Sisters of Mercy made a foundation in Warrambool. In March 1874 when the Diocese of Ballarat was created, Michael O'Connor, a Parish Priest in Rathfarnham (Dublin) was appointed the First Bishop. With the creation of the Diocese, the following 11 parishes, established as parishes of Melbourne, were transferred to the Ballarat Diocese: Portland (est. 1847), Port Fairy (est. 1849), Warrambool (est. 1853), Colac (est. 1853), Ballarat St Alipius (est. 1852), Hamilton (est. 1856), Ararat (est. 1858), Maryborough (originally Carisbrook est. 1859), Creswick (est. 1861), Inglewood (est. 1865), Mortlake (est. 1869).

Since 1874, many churches, parishes and schools were opened and many religious orders arrived. Across our Ministry District this included the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy to Ballarat East (from Warrambool) in 1881, the creation of the Parish of Bungaree in 1890 and the arrival of the Diocesan Sisters of St Joseph to Bungaree in 1891. In 1980, the Parish of Gordon with the communities of Ballan, Mt Egerton and Springbank) was transferred from the Archdiocese of Melbourne to Ballarat. The foundation stone for St Patrick's Church Gordon was blessed by Bishop Goold on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1872, with Gordon becoming a parish in December 1875.

Catholic Schools have been a feature of the Church in Australia with 2<sup>nd</sup> Catholic school in Victoria opened in Portland in May 1849.

The early Catholic schools were all staffed by lay people. St Alipius Primary School first opened its doors to the children of the Ballarat East goldfields on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1853 – the 13<sup>th</sup> non-government school formally registered in the state of Victoria. There had also been a Catholic school at Buninyong in the early 1850's. St Agnes School at Ballan opened in 1858 until 1863 when it was destroyed by fire. At Springbank (Ormond) a Catholic school was built in 1865.

150 years since the creation of the Diocese of Ballarat, from the Murray to the Sea, we acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our history.

### 150 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have received all the gifts we enjoy.

As we mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat, we give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us.

We recognise the communities who have lived on this land from ancient times. We honour the Aboriginal peoples, here for tens of thousands of years. We honour those who came from overseas and settled here before our diocese began. Yet our anniversary shines a special light on our years as the Diocese of Ballarat, a community of communities from the Murray to sea.

We remember those who have gone before us, those who laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and our social services and health care.

We acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our history. We celebrate the achievements, and we ask pardon for the failures to live our Christian faith to the full.

May this anniversary year be a season of renewal for our diocese. Inspired by the Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist, may we follow the example of Jesus and the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

May we reach out in humble service, welcoming all and caring for all creation. May we grow in love day by day. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### DIOCESAN TIMELINE

As part of the 150th 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/>

### CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will gather next Friday, May 3 in the parish hall at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat. Please bring a small plate to share.

# The One Vine or Vineyard

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Fifth Sunday of Easter: John 15:1–8

Life's experiences teach us that, as members of the Earth community, we cannot make it on our own. We need one another, other living beings, the sun, the soil, the water, and everything else that formed from exploding stars in the distant past.

The gospel reading reminds us that as baptised Christians we are not just intimately interlinked but that the source of our unity is the Risen Christ. As limbs and leaves and sap of the same vine, we simply cannot survive in isolation.

The vine image picks up one of the most potent biblical images for God's relationship to the people of Israel. It is an image of life and growth, of colour and vibrancy. It holds the promise of a life-sustaining grape harvest that is ultimately transformed into wine, the biblical symbol for joy.

Our gardener God brought Israel "the vine" out of Egypt (Psalm 80:9). For the prophet Isaiah, Israel is also a vineyard planted and nurtured by God (5:1-7; 27:3). For Jeremiah, Israel is the choice vine "of fully tested stock" planted by God (2:21).

The Johannine Jesus makes the claim: "I am the true vine/vineyard" and God is the "vinegrower".

Jesus wants to distance himself from the ostentatious artificial golden vine

that adorned the entrance to the sanctuary. He goes further: "I am the vine/vineyard and you are the branches".

The potency of this image resides in the fact that a vine without branches is inconceivable. It draws us into the mystery of the mutual interchange of life between us and the risen Christ, into the mystery of God. It also invites us to acknowledge our interconnection with the whole of the Earth community, to nurture the wonderful biodiversity of our planet, and to accept the inevitability of "pruning" if we are to "bear fruit" and "become disciples".

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*I am the vine, and you are  
the branches*

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"Pruning" can take various forms. A chance encounter, a sudden inspiration, a word from a friend, an unexpected illness, a confronting story: any such experience can bring us to our senses and serve as a "pruning" device.

The first reading for today recounts the story of Saul of Tarsus who is "pruned" quite dramatically through his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus.



He is transformed from persecutor to defender of Christ and Christ's followers. Saul becomes a disciple and "bears much fruit". The Greek-speaking

Christian Jews are suspicious, even murderous when he tries to preach the gospel among them. Peace ensues, however, and the movement takes hold in the regions where Jesus had first preached the gospel.

It is worth reflecting on the cultural diversity that characterised earliest Christianity and the tensions that had to be resolved between different language groups or groups of different ethnic origin for the gospel to flourish and bear fruit.

John's gospel is written against the backdrop of such "pruning" within the early communities. Sometimes the requisite "pruning" is hearing respectfully a point of view that differs from one's own.

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

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

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

ACTS 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48  
1 JOHN 4:11–16  
JOHN 15:9–17



# OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS AFTER SCHOOL *care program*

We cater to the needs of all children and offer a range of activities including sports, games, arts and crafts, cooking, creative and expressive arts such as drama, singing and dancing, board games and puzzles and much more. We also provide healthy and delicious snacks.

For more information call 0491 743 126  
or visit [yballarat.org.au](http://yballarat.org.au)



# Kinship Carer Support Groups

All Carers are welcome to come and have a chat in a safe and supportive environment.

## Daylesford - Thursday

- 10.30 am - 12.00 pm
- Address will be advised after registration
- 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 29 August, 31 October and 28 November

## Ararat - Tuesday

- 10.30 am - 12.00 pm
- Ararat Hotel, 130 Barkly Street, Ararat
- 6 May, 11 June, 6 August, 3 September, 8 October and 12 November

## Bacchus Marsh - Monday

- 10.30 am - 12.00 pm
- Baby Black Cafe, 10 Church St, Bacchus Marsh
- 20 May, 17 June, 29 July, 19 August, 16 September, 14 October and 18 November

## Ballarat - Wednesday

- 10.30 am - 12.00 pm
- Clothesline Cafe, 202 Humfray Street South, Ballarat
- 15 May, 26 June, 24 July, 14 August, 11 September, 23 October and 20 November



To register or enquire about any of Cafs Kinship Carer Support

Groups please contact:

Sallie MacDonald  
sallie.macdonald@cafs.org.au  
1800 692 237

[cafs.org.au](http://cafs.org.au)

cafs  WE CARE

Calling all young  
**SUPERHEROES**  
and their families



Unleash your creative powers at our  
Superhero crafternoon hosted in  
partnership by Satellite Foundation  
and Grampians Mental Health  
and Wellbeing Connect.

Join us for a superhero crafternoon  
and sausage sizzle!

**Saturday, 4th May 2024**  
**11:00am to 2:00pm**

**Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre at Delacombe**  
**18 Nandiriog Drive, Delacombe VIC 3356**

Scan the QR or contact us to sign up:  
@ [hello@satellitefoundation.org.au](mailto:hello@satellitefoundation.org.au) ☎ 1800 973 444

Register Now!



Presented in proud  
partnership with:





Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre's second 'Trash & Treasure' Market is scheduled for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 9:00am to 12:00pm, at the Community Hub at 12 Holly Grove Wendouree (just off Grevillea Road at the Recreation Reserve). The Market is FREE entry to the public.

We invite stall holders to have a stall, however, we are not currently permitted for marquees or food vans to attend, this may change in the future though.

We have stalls available for this market as follows:

Indoor Stalls \$20 each, Outdoor Stalls \$10 each, Car Boot Stalls \$10 each

Trestle table hire \$5 each, Chairs available for use at no cost (indoor stalls only).

Stall set-up will start at 8:00am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

If you have any questions, or would like to book a stall, please give us a call on 5303 0507 or register your interest online at [Trash & Treasure Market - May 2024 \(socialplanet.com.au\)](https://socialplanet.com.au) and we will be in touch soon.

*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.*