



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 6th May 2024
Term 2 Week 4

P.O. Box 2027
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Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 15th Apr – Fri 28th Jun

Friday 10th May

Mothers/Special Friends Day
2pm Afternoon Tea
2.30pm Liturgy in Family Groups

Friday 17th May

2.40pm Assembly led by IJS

Wed 22nd-Fri 24th May

Year 6 Camp

Friday 24th May

2.40pm Assembly led by FLH

Friday 31st May

2.40pm Assembly led by
6MM

Friday 7th June

2.40pm Assembly led by
5MM

Monday 10th June

King's Birthday Holiday

Friday 14th June

2.40pm Assembly led by
4ML

Friday 21st June

2.40pm Assembly led by
3JW

Friday 28th June

Assembly led by FMM

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 15th Jul – Fri 20th Sep

Mon 15th & Tues 16th July

Student Free Days

Friday 19th July

Start of Term Mass

Friday 26th July

2.40pm Assembly led by 2CK

Friday 2nd August

2.40pm Assembly led by
1EM

Friday 16th August

2.40pm Assembly led by
FTW

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Parenting is a challenging task, isn't it? Our children don't come with an instruction book and as parents we have to learn as we go. Anyone paying attention to the media over the last few weeks will know that there are many opinions flying around about how best to parent our young children today.

I was thinking about this as I heard the gospel reading on Sunday. Saint John's account of the teachings of Jesus told us that God is Love. He also wrote that we are called to love each other so as to remain in God's love for all eternity. It left me wondering about how we show love to our children in a way that teaches them to accept and respect others.

We know that as parents we can't always give in to our children's demands. We know that love doesn't mean blindly accepting inappropriate behaviour. Love might mean guidance when we need it, or a quiet word when our children are heading down the wrong path. If love is acceptance then guidance might also play a part. Growing in love, as the gospel tells us is to bear the fruit that will last. Perhaps that might be my goal as a parent today.

Let's all continue to nurture our families in love. Be mindful of what you hear or read in the media. Let's learn from it but not be distracted into thinking that it's all too hard. In the words of Saint John the gospel writer; "My commandment is this: Love each other as I have loved you".

God bless,



Mark Hogbin



A Prayer for Mothers

Lord God,

We lift up all mothers to You.

Grant them the strength to face the daily challenges with courage and the wisdom to guide their children towards a life of faith and service.

Encourage them when they are weary and inspire them when they feel overwhelmed.

Show them your love every day, as they show their love to us.

Amen.



Friday 23rd August
Book Week Parade
2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

Friday 30th August
Fathers/Special Friends Day
Liturgy

Friday 6th September
2.40pm Assembly led by
4BO

Friday 13th September
2.40pm Assembly led by
3DW

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

Friday 11th October
Start of Term/Mercy Day
Mass

Friday 18th October
2.40pm Assembly led by 2JS

Friday 25th October
2.40pm Assembly led by
1MV

Friday 1st November
2.40pm Assembly led by
5JW

Monday 4th November
Student Free Day

Tuesday 5th November
Melbourne Cup Holiday

Friday 8th November
2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Friday 15th November
2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Wed 20th & Thurs 21st Nov
Year 5 Camp

Hot Chocolates

We had to cancel our planned launch of Hot Chocolates today due to illness in the team. This was unfortunate because the Hot Chocolates are a firm favourite as the cooler weather sets in. Hot Chocolates are also a great fundraiser for our school contributing towards our goal for a new play space this year. We would love to hear from any parents and friends who would be able to assist with Hot Chocolates on Mondays. If you can assist, please let our office team know and they will pass on your details. Hopefully we will be back on track next week!

Pick up & Drop off Procedures

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.

Mother's Day & Special People Celebrations

Please join us at 2.00pm on Friday as we celebrate the Mothers and Special People in our lives. Afternoon tea in the Gym will be followed by liturgies in family groups with the children.

Enrolments for 2025 Foundation for current families

Enrolments for 2025 Foundation students close 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 May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B) Gospel: John 15:11-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This, then, is what I command you: love one another." (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

Gospel reflection: Who are your friends? What do you like about your friends? Friends can make us happy and laugh. They help us when we find things difficult. They are kind and share with us.

Jesus says he chose us all to be his friends, and we should love others in the same way as he loves us. He says that we should all do as much as we can to help our friends, and that if we follow his teaching, we will be friends of Jesus.

Our Challenge: How will you show Jesus's love and be a good friend this week? (*Adapted from CAFOD website*)

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.



SPECIAL REPORT

Celebrating Mother's Day



Mother's Day originated from humble beginnings in 1908 as a simple tradition to honour all mothers, living and deceased. However, it did not take long for florists, confectioners and card companies to jump onboard and commercialise the day, much to the disappointment of its founder, Ann Jarvis.

Today, Mother's Day is an annual reminder to say thanks to our mum, or other motherly figure, who plays an important role in our lives. It is a day to express our gratitude and love towards the women who have dedicated their time, energy, and love to raise and support us. Whether it's a simple gesture

like a card, a bunch of flowers, or a heartfelt message, Mother's Day is an opportunity to show our mothers how much we cherish and admire them. It's a time to reflect on the love, sacrifices, and unwavering support that our mothers provide unconditionally.

Mothers will often put the needs of others above their own, so it is paramount to remind them to take care of themselves, especially when it comes to their mental health. Research has shown that women experience some mental health conditions more so than men and at much higher rates. There are many factors that can impact a woman's wellbeing physically and emotionally. Seeking effective treatment can enable her to engage more readily in everyday activities and fulfil the needs of her children and family.

This Special Report highlights that Mother's Day is not only a celebration, but also a reminder of the vital role mothers play in the developmental growth of her children and the impact this has on shaping our society.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/celebrating-mothers-day



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader



Many thanks to all the families who were able to come to our 2024 Book Fair In the Garden - Catch the reading bug! It was wonderfully supported and all the money raised will go back into our school library. Many thanks to Sue Shuttleworth for all her work in setting up and finalising the book fair for us.

As part of our Book Fair we had a *Guess the reading worms* competition. Congratulations goes to Jed Hynes (5JW) who was the closest guess of 283.



Naplan has advised us that "Schools can expect to receive their final results, for all domains, from June 2024." Once we have received them we will pass them onto families.

Enjoy your week.



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

Wellbeing News

In the countdown to Easter, the school holidays and the ANZAC Day 4 day break, every parent I chatted with was gushing about the blissful prospect of having their little ones close, embracing those cosy mornings and time free from the lunchbox hustle and bustle!

Like the pages of a diary, school days etch the habits that linger, so guide your child to dance in the daylight of a nourishing diet, setting the stage for a lifelong melody of wellness. Healthy fuel becomes the armour for your child's journey, guarding their vitality and fortifying their focus, keeping them fearless and swift on the path ahead. With steadfast focus as their compass, children weave the threads of understanding into the tapestry of learning, each revelation a verse in the symphony of knowledge they compose.

As the sun rises, a hearty breakfast sets the stage for the day's performance, yet in the dawn, navigating picky palates can sometimes feel like trying to catch a falling star in the morning sky. In the whirlwind of mornings at my door, there's no room for leisurely breakfast delights like poached eggs on toast, as I'm caught up in the rush to chase the day's fleeting embrace. Stocking up on the essentials - wholegrain cereals, creamy milk, ripe fruit, velvety yoghurt, hearty baked beans, warm bread and savoury cheese - ensures a pantry full of delights for nourishing breakfasts or delightful snacks.

Now enters the notorious lunchbox! In the rhythm of bustling families, seize the quiet of twilight to lay the groundwork - perhaps stow away some veggie remnants from dinner or pop some leftovers into a waiting container. Older children may choose to make their own lunch if they are given the correct support around what to include.

Even though it is all the rage at the moment, please remember that lunchboxes do not need to be 'Instagram worthy' - a sandwich or wrap, fruit and veggies and snacks as well as that very important water bottle is plenty.

If you need any inspiration, there are lots of great resources available around Diet and Nutrition on [SchoolTV](#).



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Cross Country

We were proudly represented by 40 students at Monday's Eureka Division Cross Country event held at Fed Uni. On a testing course, all of the students ran right up to their best and all achieved fantastic results. Well done to the students on their efforts especially the way they supported and encouraged each other. Congratulations to the 11 students that qualified for the Regional event in a few weeks. A big thank you to the families that came along to support all of the children.

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).

The students participating in the programs are:

MONDAY - SOFTBALL - (MAY 6, 13, 20, 27, JUNE 3 & 17)

Teddy Bannan, Harvey & Max Banwell, Greyson Broadbent, Jameson Campbell, James & Mitchell Cycles, Harriet Howard, Edward & Macie Lloyd, Emma & Harriet Locke, Audrey & Freddy Lynch, Cooper & Spencer Manning, Bailey & Devon McCartin, Arlo, Lola & Sonny Troon, Xavier Uljanic, Cruise & Jagger Van Langevelde

THURSDAY - AFL - (MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6 & 13)

Damilare, Elizabeth & Mayo Baruwa, Odie Brooks, Mackenzie Donnelly, Isla Easton, Harper, Hazel & River Fedke, Xavier Foster, Edward Giblett, Audrey, Bonnie & Edie Giles, Harper Gull, James Hocking, Harry Logan, Xavier Morris, Indi & Lyla Nestor, Asher & Finn Sutcliffe, Edith & Vivienne Young.

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 @ C.E. Brown Res Wendouree (selected students from Yr 5/6)

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- Week 6 - Friday May 24th - Division Soccer @ Morshead Park Redan (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 an awesome week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

Parents' & Friends' News

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: This week we will be holding stalls for children to purchase gifts for Mother's Day. We still require another volunteer to help with the stalls, please sign up here. <https://signup.com/go/BasFdUG>

To be held in the undercover area at first break on the following days:

Tuesday 7th May - Foundation and Year 1

Wednesday 8th May - Years 2, 3 and 4

Thursday 9th May - Years 5 & 6

Friday 10th May - Catch up all year levels

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

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](https://signup.com)

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

5 May 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Remain in my love

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/

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 1

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

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

WE PRAY FOR

Faithfully departed: Fr Tom Brophy, Nick Moore, Judy Murphy, Ian Chandler
Anniversaries: Helen Ronan

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, Luka Fletcher-Leskarac, 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



FR TOM BROPHY FUNERAL

Mass celebrating entry into eternal life For Fr Tom Brophy will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Monday, 6 May in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Burial will follow at the Ballarat New Cemetery. The rosary will be recited at 6:30 PM on Sunday 5 May at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. The link for the live stream of the funeral Mass is www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1XY3pJf9z0 and for the burial is www.youtube.com/watch?v=17ebPR80EK8.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministry Recommissioning Masses
Pentecost weekend – 18 and 19 May

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/>

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our stewardship program. Your generosity is appreciated. The figures shown below are for the past two weeks:

Supporting our parish priests	\$1,183 \$1,070
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$208 \$208.20

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

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.

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.



BROKEN HILL TO BALLARAT

On Friday morning a group of students from Damascus College left the school to begin an adventure which has been in the pipeline for approximately 18 months. The students are all members of the school's Sustainable Racing Team and will ride a trike from Broken Hill to Ballarat next week raising funds for cancer research at the Fiona Elsey Research Institute. The students are doing this in memory of Connor Prunty. We admire the way that they have taken this on and wish them well in their travels. Please keep them in your prayers in the coming days, as they slowly make their way back to school, arriving next Friday, May 10th. For more information follow this link: [Broken Hill to Ballarat - Damascus College](#) or check out the Damascus College web page.



TRIVIA NIGHT

Rotary Wendouree is hosting a trivia night in St Alipius Hall on Friday 17 May to raise funds to assist with purchasing a ute for an impoverished and fragile community in Aileu, Timor Leste. Doors open at 6:30 PM and the game starts at 7:00 PM. \$25 per person, with tables of 8 available. BYO drinks and nibbles. Tea and coffee supplied. Contact Clare to book a table clarembennett@inet.net.au or 0439 652 325

ST BERNARD'S ANNIVERSARY

St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh will mark its 150th anniversary with mass at 11:00 AM on Sunday, 23 June. Prepaid orders for the 300-page history focussing on the priests and people who built the parish are required by 10 May. \$75.00 per copy. Details are available on the church website <https://stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au/>

MASS COUNTS IN MAY

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

SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY

Corpus Christi Seminary, Melbourne is hosting an Enquiry Day for those thinking about the priesthood at 10:45 AM on Sunday, 19 May. Please register to attend by email Diane.Carey@cam.org.au. For more information contact Fr Ed Moloney, Diocesan Vocations Committee ed.moloney@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

BAPTISMS

Henry Arthur and Esme Ida Remilton
Children of Warrick and Mikhaila Remilton

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

LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE THREE PARISHES OF OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

Each of the three parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon have Parish Leadership structures to foster participation, collaboration, and consultation. Ballarat East has both a Parish Pastoral Council and a Finance Committee. The members of the Pastoral Council are Martin McGettigan (chair), Teresa Fletcher (Finance Committee liaison), Diane McKeegan, Greg O'Beirne, Maria Jones and Claire Stewart with Mark Hogbin (Principal of St Francis Xavier Primary), Cathy Prunty (Parish Coordinator), Fr Matt and Fr Justin as ex-officio members. The members of the Finance Committee are Paul O'Beirne (chair), Susan Begbie, Teresa Fletcher, Amoud Goossens, Brett Holloway, Lauren Morris, Greg O'Beirne and John White with Bernadette Prestwood (Finance Officer), Cathy Prunty and Fr Justin ex-officio members. The Finance Committee met on Wednesday May 1st and the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be on Thursday May 9th.

Bungaree Parish has a Leadership Team that serves as both Pastoral Council and Finance Committee. Each of the three communities have two delegates with Damien Ryan (chair) and Chris Frawley from Bungaree, Marty Forbes and Dom Prendergast (Clarkes Hill), Dianne Reynolds and Barry Sheehan (Dunnstown), with Clare Scanlon (St Mary's Clarkes Hill Principal), Fr Matt and Fr Justin ex-officio members. The next meeting of the Leadership team is proposed for Wednesday May 15th.

The Gordon Parish also has a Leadership Team that serves as both Pastoral Council and Finance Committee with each of the three communities having two delegates with Sue Daly (chair) and Brendan Maher from Springbank, Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), with Jayne Bosworth (St Brigid's Ballan Principal), Paul McDowell (St Patrick's Gordon Principal), Fr Matt and Fr Justin ex-officio members. Leadership Team will meet on Wednesday May 8th.

The Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia decreed that dioceses and eparchies support parishes to establish and strengthen appropriate synodal structures by developing guidelines and providing resources for the flourishing of Parish Pastoral Councils, Parish Finance Committees, and other parish bodies. The Plenary Council affirmed that governance in the Catholic Church should be exercised in a synodal manner, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised.

Throughout 2024 as the Diocese of Ballarat acknowledges its 150th anniversary, formation for synodal leadership and governance will be offered, leading to a Diocesan Assembly being held in Ballarat on November 15th – 16th. From the Assembly a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council will be discerned.

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.

PENTECOST MASSES

During our masses over the Pentecost Sunday weekend, on the 18 and 19 May, people who volunteer in various ministries will be asked to stand and be recommissioned by the celebrating priest. This includes roles such as extraordinary ministers of the eucharist, readers, sacristans, musicians, PowerPoint creators and operators, welcomers, etc. If you are on the volunteer roster at either church, please try to attend mass in the parish that weekend, so you can participate. Opportunities for additional people to join the rosters will be made available later this year.

TRAUMA RESOURCES

The Trauma Healing Institute in the USA, an arm of the Bible Society of America, offers free materials to help people who have lived through a traumatic situation. Items can be ordered online, with free shipping. There are also free scripture and other resources. To order go to <https://biblesocietyaus.typeform.com/to/bBhnvT>

Abide in my Love

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Sixth Sunday of Easter: John 15:9–17

The constitutions of my religious institute remind me that “the tender mercy of our God has given us one another”.

The implications of this profoundly beautiful truth are spelt out thus: “In our communities, we try to live in the friendship of Christ’s disciples [John 15:15]. To so live calls forth relationships of equality, a real acceptance of ourselves and others, a forgetfulness of anything that does not make love its message.”

Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is at the heart of a gospel way of living. It is the commission at the heart of today’s reading and seems to be exactly what Pope Francis reminded all believers in his Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today’s World, *Gaudete et Exultate*: “We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do”.

As we listen to the proclamation of the gospel, we might attend to the repetition of “joy”, to the three-fold repetition of “friends” and to the nine-fold repetition of “love”. We might attend to the way in which the pronouns *I/my/me* and *you/your* function in the passage. We may also notice the reference to “commands” and “commandments”.

We tend not to associate “commands” with friendship and love because those we count as our friends are not usually in the habit of commanding or ordering us to do what they want. We derive little joy from being ordered to do something. And yet, there is no resiling from the juxtaposition of these terms.

They are to love one another as Jesus has loved them

God, imaged in the gospel passage as “Father”, loves Jesus. Jesus remains or abides in God’s love so deeply that this love flows on to his friends.

They are to love one another as Jesus has loved them. This is his commandment or commission to them and, by extension, to us. It directs them/us to live for each other and put their lives/our lives on the line for one another.

Countless volunteers in the tragic war zones of our world are doing precisely that.

Remaining in the love of God or of Jesus and doing what God or Jesus commands seem to be one and the



same thing. In other words, love is not just an emotion: it is always expressed in action that is in tune with and for the sake of the other.

The disciples need no further explanation. Jesus’ whole life and his courage in the face of impending death have shown them what it means to love one another.

Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is not some abstract goal. Too often we affirm the goodness of our selfless companions on the journey only when we come to lay them to rest.

As we approach the end of the Easter season, we might give thanks for the love of our friends, for their witness to holiness and for the joy that they bring to our lives.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ACTS 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48
1 JOHN 4:11–16
JOHN 15:9–17

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
ACTS 1:1–11
EPHESIANS 4:1–3
MARK 16:15–20



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





Are you someone who loves reading and discussing books with friends?
Join Beyond the Book club at the Sebastopol Library! **Ages 10-14.**

Each month, we'll explore a new book and dive deep into its themes and characters. You'll have the opportunity to share your thoughts and insights with other book lovers your age. Plus, there will be fun activities and snacks to enjoy!

Note: Please call the Sebastopol Library on 5335 7985 prior to booking into this program.

Sebastopol Library Community Hub, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

For free ticket bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/beyond-the-book>

4-5pm on Friday 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 4th October,
1st November and 6th December.