



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 13th May 2024
Term 2 Week 5

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

Mon 15th Apr – Fri 28th Jun

Friday 17th May

2.40pm Assembly led by 1JS

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

Friday 23rd August

Book Week Parade

2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

Friday 30th August

Fathers/Special Friends Day
Liturgy

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

What events do you celebrate in your family? Different events mean different things to us all and how or what we choose to celebrate might be as individual as we are.

We celebrated Mother's Day yesterday. In Australia we always commemorate this day on the second Sunday in May. In other Countries it occurs at different times according to various calendars. Regardless of the date though, it remains as a constant in terms of highlighting the role of women in our lives. I am always conscious around dates like this that special days might spark different memories for people. In this regard I try to remain mindful of those who feel loss at these times, or those for whom days like this can create uncomfortable or confusing images. Different events mean different things to different people.

For many of us, Mother's Day is about breakfast in bed, gifts and home-made cards. For others it might be about memories or stories to share or reflect upon. However you spent your day yesterday, I hope that it was meaningful for you. I hope that you found time to think about and give thanks for those who represent a mother figure to you, and I hope that your day was good. In my mind, that's what celebrating Mother's Day is all about.



God bless,



Mark Hogbin

Winter Uniform

Many children are doing a great job of wearing their winter uniform each day. We have a very presentable winter uniform at St. Francis Xavier and all children are encouraged to wear it with pride. Please ensure that items of clothing are named so that when things get lost, we can relocate them promptly with their owner.

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

School Grounds

Have you noticed how neat and tidy our school yard is looking? Autumn really does bring something special to our school. We would like to thank Jim and Rob who both work tirelessly to ensure that the grounds and surrounding areas are kept so neat and tidy. Thank You!

Yr. 5 Sovereign Hill School

Our Year 5 students will head off to attend classes at Sovereign Hill school this week. This traditional event is always well received by the students, and we wish them well. They will attend classes based on one of the schools which are set in the 1850's as well as having some time to explore all that Sovereign Hill has to offer. Mind your manners children and remember that Ma'am will be looking out for best behaviour at all times!

Safe Travel Around School

It is vitally important that all adults observe the safety rules when approaching our school at drop off and pick up times. Parents are reminded of the need to be patient and to move with the flow of the traffic along Fortune Street by proceeding up to and around the tree (marked with a white cross) which is on the left-hand side of the road at the Golf Course end of the school. Drivers cannot legally cross the double lines which extend from the bus parking area at the front of the school to the end of the barrier fence that is located opposite the school. Doing so risks the safety of other children and drivers. At pick up and drop off times most traffic on Fortune Street is directly connected to our school community so it is very important that we look out for each other and model safe practices at all times.

**Remembrance Book**

We will be sending off our Remembrance Book for Samantha to the Murphy family at the end of this week. If you haven't had a chance to put a message into the book yet and would like to do so, please call in to the office where the book will be until Friday afternoon.

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/).

<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.



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR SFX

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN LAUNCH

THURSDAY THE
30TH OF MAY

MEET IN THE FUTURE INDIGENOUS GARDEN AT 4PM.
ALL WELCOME!



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday May 12, 2024 Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year B) Gospel: John 17:11-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and said: Holy Father, I am no longer in the world. I am coming to you, but my followers are still in the world. So keep them safe by the power of the name you have given me. Then they will be one with each other, just as you and I are one. While I was with them, I kept them safe by the power you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost, except the one who had to be lost. This happened so that what the Scriptures say would come true. I am on my way to you. But I say these things while I am still in the world, so my followers will have the same complete joy that I do. I have told them your message. But the people of this world hate them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I don't. Father, I don't ask you to take my followers out of the world, but keep them safe from the evil one. They don't belong to this world, and neither do I. **17** Your word is the truth. So let this truth make them completely yours. I am sending them into the world, just as you sent me. I have given myself completely for their sake, so they may belong completely to the truth.

(Gospel passage taken from Contemporary English Version)

Gospel reflection: In today's Gospel Jesus is talking to God. He is praying and asking God to help his friends – the disciples – when he is gone.

Jesus knows it will be hard for them to be without him. He has also given his disciples a very special job to do and he wants them to carry on doing this, even after he has gone away. Jesus wants his disciples to follow his teaching, to love everyone just like Jesus loves us and to encourage others to do the same.

Jesus prayed for us too. He wants us to share God's love with others and care for the lovely world he has given us.

Our Challenge: How can we share God's love by helping each other? *(Adapted from CAFOD website)*



It was wonderful to see so many Mother's and Special Friends joining us last Friday for our afternoon tea and liturgy. The children were very excited to join with their family groups; and I thank our amazing teachers for inviting and welcoming everyone to celebrate in their learning space. The smiles on everyone's faces said it all!



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Curriculum News

Formal Reports

Teachers are in the process of gathering and updating data to assist with writing their Semester One reports. Research shows that children are more likely to perform better when school and families work together. Our formal reports are another opportunity for us to foster our school-home partnership with you. You will receive a formal written report for your child/ren on Thursday 30th June via the Parent Access Module (PAM). This report will provide feedback about your child's progress and achievement in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum.



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The Semester One Formal Reports will include:

1. A Religious Education comment detailing your child's Semester One learning outcomes and opportunities in alignment with our Awakenings Core Document.
2. A personalised written comment to celebrate your child's achievements, particularly in relation to their Personal and Social Learning.
3. A personalised comment to identify your child's Next Steps in Learning to ensure future success and growth.
4. Level of attainment in the form of a dot on a continuum for the learning areas explicitly taught in Semester One and in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum Achievement Standards:
 - English (Reading & Viewing, Writing, Speaking & Listening)
 - Mathematics (Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry, Statistics & Probability)
 - Visual Arts
 - Performing Arts
 - Health and Physical Education
 - Science - Environmental Education
 - Technologies
 - Humanities- History
 - Capabilities = Ethical (3&5), Personal and Social (F-6) Critical and Creative Thinking (2-6) and Intercultural (4&6))
5. An Auslan grading using a 5 point scale.

Seesaw

Another way we keep up with real time learning is our class usage of Seesaw. Here is our weekly review of posts and visits to the site. Please visit. Thank you for taking the time to comment on work which has been posted.

Week of May 5 - May 12 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



437
New Items



263
Likes



80
Comments



406
Family Visits

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS)



National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is a wonderful initiative supporting reading and children's literacy. The official story time book for 2024 is *Bowerbird Blues* written by Aura Parker. This lyrical story follows the journey of a bowerbird on his quest for all things blue, all the while feeling that something is amiss in his life. The bowerbird's collection, dominated by plastic caps, straws and tags invites reflection on environmental pollution and its challenges. You can purchase this Book at Big W for \$10 if you are interested. NSS is a vital campaign that aims to engage

children of all ages to read and enjoy books while teaching them the value of literacy.

Here at St Francis Xavier Primary school, all children are invited to join us in our library for this special event on Wednesday 22nd May at 11:00 am. Over the next week the children visiting our library will see a display for the exciting event.

Have a great week.



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

Wellbeing News

During our Social and Emotional Learning time this term, the children and teachers are focusing on the topics of Positive Coping and Problem Solving.

As I am sure you all agree, Problem-solving skills are a significant part of everyone's coping range. Whether it's a toy-related problem, a tricky Mental Maths question or negative peer pressure or self-talk, all children face complications during their day.

As teachers or parents, we are not always going to be around to help resolve every problem for our children. In fact, I want to remind you that this isn't always our job! Our main job is to teach our children how to solve these problems by themselves. When children deal with problems by themselves or within a group setting they learn beneficial skills, such as looking at challenges from a different perspective, compromise, patience and time management.

The classroom program we use at SFX, Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships, provides a number of learning opportunities to develop their problem-solving skills. The activities in this program assist children to develop their critical and creative thinking skills and to apply them in scenarios that explore personal, social and ethical difficulties. Typically, children who learn successful problem solving skills are better-off independently and more positive in their abilities to cope with bad luck situations.

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Here is some 'inside information' for educating your children in problem-solving:

- Give your child the freedom to play with others. Playgroups, playdates and games help children determine how to play well together and practice positive differences to fighting.
- Step in with information as soon as you see that children are finding it tough to work things out. For example, "Keep it in mind that we need to share" or "Can you think of a way that you can both have a turn?"
- Talk things over afterwards. With older children, working out a blame-free answer afterwards will make the encounter less likely to happen again. For example, "How could you have controlled that situation so that both of you get to use the tablet?"
- Assist children to find ways to express themselves when they are upset or angry through low-key words or positive activities. For example, water play, painting and playdough aid younger children in expressing their feelings. Older children might find that kicking a ball or playing music benefits them.
- Teach and model appropriately the social skill of 'respectfully disagreeing'. This involves saying something that you can both understand and agree on, then saying what you don't agree with. For example, "I acknowledge that Grandma gave you that book, but I don't think it's good to stop your sibling reading it if she asks thoughtfully".

Attached is a link to our SFX [SchoolTV](#) Website, where there is a section under the Positive Parenting Series that talks about Respectful Relationships as a whole. It explains that Respectful relationships involve valuing each other's thoughts, feelings and boundaries, fostering open communication and empathy.

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, Wellbeing Leader



Sport/Physical Education News

Division Football (AFL)

Congratulations and good luck to the students that were recently selected in the SFX Girls & Boys Football teams for this week's Eureka Division Football tournament. We know that you will play hard, play fair, work together well as a team and have heaps of fun.

Sporting Schools - After School Sports Program

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

Teddy Bannan, Harvey & Max Banwell, Greyson Broadbent, Jameson Campbell, James & Mitchell Cyples, 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 - BASKETBALL - (MAY 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.

MDASA U/9 SWIMMING MEET

Last week the four SFX students that participated in the MDASA U/9 Swimming Meet were presented with certificates. Well done to Indi who came third in her event!



Term 2 Calendar:

- Week 5 - Friday May 17th - Division AFL @ C.E. Brown Res Wendouree (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- 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 (11 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

Parents' & Friends' News

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](https://signup.com)

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▶ **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

12 May 2024

The Ascension of the Lord
Lord, send out your spirit

St Alipius

parish

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM

Kath Reynold's funeral Tue 1:00 PM

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 2

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: Kath Reynolds

Anniversaries: Mae

Armstrong, Brian & Joan Blood, Mary Dowling, Arthur Gore

Unwell: Socorro De

Chavez, Luka Fletcher-Leskarac, Max Green, 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

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.

WEEK of
PRAYER
for CHRISTIAN UNITY
2024

COMMISSIONING FOR MINISTRY

Across the parishes of our ministry district, many people serve through liturgical ministries, others in ministries of pastoral care, and outreach, some in ministries of Christian initiation, faith formation and Catholic education, and others in leadership and stewardship.

As part of the Diocese of Ballarat's 150th anniversary, those members of our parish who engage in ministries will be commissioned for their service. Commissioning will occur at all masses celebrated next weekend on the feast of Pentecost (18 – 19 May). We will acknowledge those members of our parish who have responded to the call to particular ministries within our communities and are willing to commit themselves to continued service in the name of our church communities.

The commissioning also provides us with an opportunity to express our gratitude to all who serve in the great diversity of ministries, for as St Paul writes *'There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.'* (1 Corinthians 12,4-7).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioning for Ministry Masses
Pentecost weekend – 18 and 19 May

Parish Meeting - Acknowledgement of
170 years of Parish
26 May @ 3pm in the parish hall

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 170 OF ST ALIPIUS PARISH

There will be a meeting in the church hall on Sunday May 26th at 3pm to discuss ways of acknowledging the 170th anniversary of St. Alipius. All welcome to come and share ideas.

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	\$1,087
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$915.40

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, and others who show us a mother's love, that we may show them reverence and love. We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care. We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and that their family and friends support and console them. We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort. We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The annual Catholic Education Week mass and dinner were held at Damascus College where 34 staff members who have served in Catholic education for 30 years were acknowledged. These included Jane Clark (St Francis Xavier Ballarat East), Jamie Lamb (St Patrick's Gordon), Steven Mifsud, Cathy Prunty, Judy Vanderkley and Hamish McCrum (all of Damascus College).

The gathering acknowledged seventeen 2024 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards nominees, including Caitee Carter (St Alipius Primary), Tony Haintz (Damascus College), and Cathy Prunty (Damascus College).

Congratulations to Cathy Prunty, our Parish Coordinator, who was one of the recipients of the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards for her work at Damascus College for *Empowering All to Flourish*.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed between Ascension and Pentecost. The theme for 2024 was chosen by a group from Burkina Faso, "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself..." (Luke 10:27). The National Council of Churches in Australia has provided promotional and worship and reflection resources at www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources

For those in the Ballarat area, there are gatherings at different churches on different nights of the week at 7:00 PM and all are welcome to attend each service. A light supper will follow each prayer gathering.

Tuesday 14 May – Peel Street Church of Christ, 37–39 Peel Street South, Bakery Hill.

Wednesday 15 May – Ballarat Central Uniting Church, 101–103 Lydiard St Street, Ballarat.

Thursday 16 May – St Patrick Cathedral, Sturt Street.

Friday, 17 May – Christ the King Anglican Cathedral, 49 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat.

CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER

God, who is Spirit, who is Christ, you call us into community. A community for the common good, a community of oneness in our diversity. People from every nation, tribe, culture, and language. Unite us as we seek to live out your love. You call us from the comfort of our familiar circles and call us to be loving neighbours. To go where our neighbour is, to help them in their need and let them help us in ours. We are your family, a part of your kingdom of humankind, each a beloved sibling to share in grace. Bless us with your wisdom, that we may walk and work together. United we pray. Amen.

BAPTISMS

Nico Thomas and Maya Grace Hutchinson
Children of Casey Hutchison and Jenee Mitchell

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

NATIONAL FAMILIES' WEEK

National Families Week aims to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society. The week is celebrated to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May. Catholic Care's theme this year is "Building Compassionate Families and Communities." The week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities and the importance they play in our lives and community. Resources are available from www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/103/familyweek

SAFETRAC ONLINE COURSE

Volunteers from our parish will have received an email from Safetrac requesting that they complete the online training module. For those who have received this email, please complete the training by 31 May. If you need any support with your online course, please make a time with Cathy who is happy to help out.

SOCIAL EVENING

There will be a social evening on Thursday 20 June at 6pm, which will give us the opportunity to gather as a parish and spend time with our new priests, Fathers Justin and Matt. This will take the form of a dinner, with further details being made available when the venue is confirmed. If you would like to attend the dinner please call the parish office to book.

TAP AND GO MACHINE

The Tap and Go machine continues to be available in the entrance to our parish churches at Ballarat East and Buninyong. This is a simple two-step process which enables people to give to the church using a card rather than cash. If you would like to use the machine but are unsure, please ask.

PRAYING WITH THE POPE

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope, and calling us to loving service. 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope's intention for May – for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians: Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

FAITH SEMINAR SERIES

The Engaging Your Faith online seminar series consists of nine stand-alone sessions on a range of themes presented by the Catholic Theological College to explore personal, theological, and spiritual development. The cost is \$25.00 per session, and they are open to anyone to attend, beginning 14 May. For details, visit: <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

DAMASCUS COLLEGE SRT RIDE

Broken Hill to Ballarat is a long way. The Damascus College Sustainability Racing Team found this out last week, but despite the distance their ride to raise money for the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Centre was completed successfully. Students were still smiling when they were welcomed into the grounds at Damascus College at 2.30 pm on Friday to the cheers of staff, students and families. We congratulate these students on their amazing efforts and thank them for seeing a need and doing something about it, in true Mercy tradition. The team have raised close to \$10,000 for cancer research.



Proclaim the Good News

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Feast of the Ascension: Mark 16:15–20

The feast of the Ascension invites us to face the universal experience of loss, the loss of a loved one or of something precious to us, and to face this experience in a transformative way.

In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been remembering his death and resurrection. The liturgy now draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of the One who has been raised.

The physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence. Like the early Christians, we need time to grasp each dimension of the one great mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We need time to ponder the implications of this great mystery for ourselves and for our planetary home.

Today's gospel passage receives little attention in commentaries and classes because, along with the immediately preceding passage (Mark 16:9–14), it is a late addition to the original text of Mark's gospel.

The author of these verses is familiar with the similar commission to proclaim the good news to all nations

and to baptise in the name of the Trinity, found at the end of Matthew's gospel.

In Mark 16:15, the command is to go "into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation (*ktisis*).¹" It is a more inclusive vision than Matthew's and opens a space for an ecological reading of the text, an extension from the human to the other-than and more-than-human elements of the Earth community.

The time is fulfilled

The command to proclaim the good news, the gospel, recalls the first words of the Markan Jesus, "The time is fulfilled, and the kin-dom of God has come near; repent [=expand your horizons], and believe in the good news" (1:15).

If we were to accept that our mission in the "in-between times" is to bring the gospel to all creation, then we might take more seriously God's command in Genesis 2 to reverence and protect the earth (usually translated as "to till and to keep"). We might stop polluting the air that all creatures need for life. We might also



read the affirmations of Genesis 1 through the lens of Mark 16 and respect once more the intrinsic goodness of all creation as a gospel imperative.

The "Ascension" event recounted towards the end of the passage presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the cosmos. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and Jesus is caught up into God's realm.

The vertical movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' return to "the right hand of God" ensures a different kind of presence in the church despite his seeming absence, one that enables believers to stop "looking up to the heavens" (Acts 1:11) and to continue the healing and re-creative ministry of Jesus "to all creation".

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
PENTECOST
ACTS 2:1–11
GALATIANS 5:16–25
JOHN 15:26–27; 16:12–15



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



When gaming meets gambling



**Free information session for
parents and carers**



cafs WE CARE

An activity of the Ballarat Gambling Harm Awareness Taskforce, supported by the City of Ballarat, Ballarat Community Health, Cafs and the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

GAMBLING HARM AWARENESS

Free parent and carer information sessions

Parents and Carers, come and learn about the key issues related to gambling and young people and how they can help their young person develop informed attitudes to gambling and healthy gaming habits. Linda and Jo from Ballarat Cafs (Children and Family Services) will present the free session, hosted by the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House at Barkly Square.

MONDAY 27 MAY, 2024

Morning Session - 10.00 am - 11.30 am

Afternoon session - 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm

Register now

Contact Us

0422 612 052

reception@ballarateastnh.org.au



Visit Our Website

[ballarateastnh.org.au/support/
gambling-harm-awareness](https://ballarateastnh.org.au/support/gambling-harm-awareness)

