St Francis Xavier Primary School



Newsletter

Monday 22nd July 2024 Term 3 Week 2 P.O. Box 2027 Ballarat East VIC 3354 Phone: 5331 6311 Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 15th Jul - Fri 20th Sep

Friday 26th July

2.40pm Assembly led by 2CK

100 days of school for Foundation

Free Dress Day
Please bring a gold coin
donation to support the
development of First
Nations Literacy.

Thursday 1st **August** Last day for Book Club

Issue 5 orders

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

Friday 6th September

2.40pm Assembly led by 4BO

Friday 13th September 2.40pm Assembly led by

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Over the past week I have enjoyed watching our students and families as they return to school ready for a new term of learning and growing together. The winter weather sometimes makes it hard for me to identify the children by name as they are rugged up in coats, beanies and the like trying to keep warm in our frosty mornings. I applaud their efforts!



Our major focus at school is to teach the children. We are a centre for learning and we have a sound curriculum to support the work that is required. Our students come to school with a vast knowledge which we build upon over time so that with practice, new skills and knowledge can be developed. Learning can be fun. It can be focused and it can even be frustrating, but with guidance and support so much is possible.

On Sunday we heard the Gospel reading of Jesus as the good shepherd. This reading is always of significance to teachers who are called to gather their flock and guide them gently and purposefully forward. Teachers in our schools do this every day. They work with students in classrooms and on the yard always with an eye out for anyone who might be vulnerable or at risk of getting lost. It doesn't mean that there won't be hiccups along the way but with the right support and guidance, all members of our school community can know that they are valued and cared for. We celebrate our students and their achievements every day, and we give thanks to God for a great group of teachers and staff who are always so willing to assist our students every day.

God bless,

aff

Mark Hogbin



Parents & Friends News

Our next meeting of the Parents & friends Committee will be held on Tuesday 23 July (tomorrow evening) at 6.00pm. All parents are welcome to attend our P&F meetings which are held in the staffroom at school.

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 Promotions

We welcome Mr. Kevin Cummins to our school this week. Kevin is no stranger to St. Francis Xavier and is here to film a short promotional video about our school. The Director of Catholic Education, Mr. Tom Sexton, has asked for all schools to have an up to date promotion as part of our 140 years of Catholic education celebrations this year. Welcome Kev!

After School Care

We are sometimes asked if we provide care after school for students at Saint Francis Xavier. The answer is certainly *yes* but it is not conducted on site. Children from our school who attend the YMCA after school care program travel by private bus to Our Lady Help of Christian's school in Wendouree. We have taken part in this program for many years and feedback has always been positive. If you would like to learn more about the after school program please call the YMCA on 0491743126 or visit yballarat.org.au for more details.

Reminder for Student Absences Student Absences can be entered into **PAM** up until **9.30am on the day of the absence** by clicking on the hamburger menu in the top right corner and then selecting Parent Notified Absence. If this hasn't been done, please phone or email the school office to advise of your child's absence. This is a legal requirement. Thank you.

Baby News Great news for our new term. Congratulations to the Rowland family (Hudson 5CC and Milla 3DW) on the arrival of *Arley* and the Troon family (Leighton 3JV and Mya FTW) on the arrival of *Indi*.



CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK AT SEX!



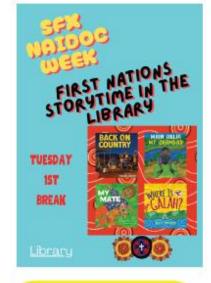
As NAIDOC Week fell in the school holidays, we are celebrating this special time as a school this week.

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for us to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and to celebrate the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN SOME GREAT NAIDOC WEEK LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOMS.







THERE WILL
ALSO BE SOME
FUN BREAK TIME
ACTIVITIES!

Religious Education News

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday July 21, 2024 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

The apostles returned and met with Jesus, and told him all they had done and taught. There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his disciples didn't even have time to eat. So he said to them, "Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while." So they started out in a boat by themselves for a lonely place.

Many people, however, saw them leave and knew at once who they were; so they went from all the towns and ran ahead by land and arrived at the place ahead of Jesus and his disciples. When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw this large crowd, and his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things. (Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection: Jesus and the disciples decide to go away to a quiet place so that they can be by themselves and rest for a while. They have been working hard and must have been tired. People see them going and decide that they want to hear what Jesus has to say, so they hurry off to the place the disciples are headed for. They get there first, so when Jesus and the disciples arrive by boat there is already a large crowd waiting for them.

Even though he is tired and wants to spend time quietly resting, Jesus doesn't send them away. Instead he talks to them and teaches them for a long time. Jesus is compassionate. He doesn't just feel sorry for the crowd, he also acts to help them to feel better.

We all have times when we need to look after ourselves, and rest if we are tired. It is important to take some quiet time, to pray and reflect and to relax, so that we have the energy to do all the things we need and want to do. Other times we can try to be more like Jesus, and to be moved with compassion to help other people who really need some love, comfort or care. Even when we are cross and tired, we can try to be patient and kind, treating other people as we would like to be treated.

Our Challenge: How will you follow Jesus' example of compassion this week? (Adapted from CAFOD website)



Free Dress Day- This Friday July 26!

What a busy Friday with the Foundation Classes celebrating 100 days at school and dressing up! For the remainder of the school this Friday is also a Free Dress Day and we ask each child to please bring a gold coin donation. This week the money collected will be donated to the support and development of First Nations Literacy.

Why do we ask the students to share what they have?

St Francis Xavier Primary School is a Catholic school and a Mercy school and this means that we teach Catholic Christian values to our students. These values are inspired by the behaviour of Jesus, who healed the sick, taught people, helped those in need and cared for all people no matter their nationality or religion. These are also the values that Catherine McAuley followed when she began the Sisters of Mercy in the 1800s.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is committed to working in partnership with families and caregivers in all facets of your child's education. This week you will be receiving information emailed to you regarding the Diocesan Relationships and Sexuality Scope and Sequence- *Fullness of Life for All*. We value communication and sharing what we are doing, therefore we are offering two parent information opportunities giving an introduction to this programme. The information sessions are 1 hour in length and are taking place on *Tuesday 30th July 2024 at 9.00am and again at 5.00pm in the St Francis Xavier Library* Please RSVP if you are attending as indicated in the correspondence you will receive through SIMON.



A special thank you to our Parish Priest Fr Justin Driscoll, who celebrated our start of Term Three and launch of NAIDOC Week Mass with us last Friday. Congratulations to all the students who participated in our rituals, prayer and songs- their respectful and reverent behaviour was noted by staff and parents alike. Many thanks also to family members, friends and community members who joined us for our Eucharistwe love it when you join our school family to celebrate together. Please know you do not have to be Catholic

or a regular churchgoer to attend these celebrations - everyone is always welcome here at St Francis Xavier!





Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Curriculum News

NAPLAN RESULTS 2024

Our 2024 NAPLAN results have been distributed to children and their families in Yrs 3 and 5.

Leadership have been analysing our results and in the near future our staff will also be walked through the graphs and tables. As a staff we will use this information to inform us and strengthen our curriculum and classroom teaching.

Celebrations include:

- 1. Writing Yr 3, 92% of the cohort sits in the Strong/ Exceeding categories.
- 2. Mathematics Yr 5, 85% of the cohort sits in the Strong/ Exceeding categories.
- 3. Reading Yr 3 and 5, 80 % of both cohorts sit in the Strong/ Exceeding categories.
- 4. Spelling Yr 5, 75% of the cohort sits in the Strong/ Exceeding categories.
- 5. Grammar & Punctuation Yr 3, 65% of the cohort sits in the Strong/ Exceeding categories.



This one piece of data does guide us but we also know that NAPLAN is one assessment tool that we have in addition to our school's own assessments and most importantly teacher's knowledge of their students.



Upcoming Event - Book Week 2024 17th-23rd August

Book Week is held annually at St Francis Xavier to celebrate reading and engage children in literature and to bring stories to life through play and costume. It's a great time to encourage the joy of reading through dress ups. Please save the date.

For Book Week in 2024 that theme is "READING IS MAGIC". Maybe we will see the children dressing as Magicians, Magic shows, Wizards, Witches!

Enjoy your week.

Jane Clark, Deputy Principal / Learning Enhancement

Wellbeing News

Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

This term in our Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program (as part of our Social and Emotional learning and Personal Development) we will be exploring topics on Stress Management, Help-Seeking and Gender & Identity. You can support at home by your words and modelling of respectful relationships. The SFX SchoolTV website has many articles to help you understand the above topics, including to help your child manage feeling stressed and overwhelmed on their return back to school.

It is also a good idea to start thinking about the words you choose to use. Stereotypes can be harmful and there are a lot of them directed at our children. Saying things like, "that's only for girls/boys", indicates to children that their choices should be predetermined according to their gender and there is shame in expressing themselves freely. Gender expectations limit choices and behaviour. It doesn't matter if the gender expectation is positive or negative, it serves to perpetuate stereotypes and inequality.

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, Wellbeing Leader

Sport/Physical Education News

State Cross Country Championships

On Thursday July 18th, Archer (Yr 6) and Nellie (Yr 4) represented SFX and participated at the State Cross Country Championships at the Yarra Valley Racecourse. Plenty of rain in the lead up to the event meant the track was very muddy and slippery. Both students showed grit and determination and should feel incredibly proud of their efforts. Congratulations to Archer who has qualified to represent Victoria at the School Sport Australia Cross Country championships later this term.

Swimming Program

Last week, students in Years 3-6 participated in a structured swimming and aquatic safety program at the Ballarat and Aquatic Lifestyle Centre. Aquatic and water safety is part of the Victorian Curriculum. Thank you and well done to all of the students, staff and families for your support and efforts.

Term 3 Calendar:

- Week 4 Monday Aug 5th Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 6 Friday Aug 23rd Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 Friday Sep 6th Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 @ St James
- Week 9 Thursday Sep 12th Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths Yr 4, 5 & 6)

Term 4:

- Week 1 Friday Oct 11th Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 2 Friday Oct 18th Golf Tournament @ Mt Xavier Golf Club (selected students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 4 Wednesday Oct 30th Eureka Division Cricket @ TBC (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 6 Friday Nov 15th Interschool Sport ALL Yr 5/6 v St Alipius

SFX Football Jumpers, Singlets & Netball dresses/bibs

If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to Mr Down, Mr Carroll or drop into the office.

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



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

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

21 July 2024

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time They were as sheep without a shepherd

MASS TIMES

St Alipius Mon & Tue 5:30 PM. Wed - Fri 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 5

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: Elaine Seuren

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Rose Davis. Socorro De Chavez Shelley Pawang, Peter McLachlan, Sarah McLachlan, Carole Simmons

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest Fr Justin Driscoll

Assistant Priest Fr Matthew Restall

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Leadership Formation Session 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM, 4 August, Buninyong

Trivia Night 6:30PM for 7PM start, 30 August, Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

On Thursday we welcomed approximately 120 families to parent information sessions for the upcoming sacrament of Confirmation. Fr. Justin spoke to the families about the sacrament and offered them the chance to ask questions. Each of these families will work with their children over the coming weeks to educate them about the sacrament. The children will receive the sacrament at evening liturgies during the first week of September. Families have been invited to attend Masses on the last two weekends in August where their children will be introduced to the congregation. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE

Diocesan Social Justice Commission Reflection
Day

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Further details to come. Registration will be required to attend. Save the date flyer available from the diocesan website https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ballarat-diocesan-social-justice-commission-reflection-day-with-michael-mcgirr-saturday-september-7-2024/

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

Planned Giving receipts are now available. If you wish to receive a statement for your contribution to the Planned Giving program, please contact the parish office. The statements will not be sent out automatically this year.

SEA SUNDAY

Sea Sunday is a day when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be an Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Funds collected will be used to provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. To donate or for more information go to www.stellamarisaustralia.org

Prayer for Sea Seafarers from Pope John Paul II
Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean,
guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas
that they may reach the haven of peace and light
prepared in Him who calmed the sea.
As we set forth upon the oceans of the world
and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary,
the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.
Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,
that in heart and mind, work and deed,
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,
we will always look to Christ and say,
"Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"
Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!
Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

Our Lady. Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.

PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Catholic Social Services Victoria has published a brochure, "Let's build respectful communities" for parishes across Victoria that provides information about recognising, responding to, and preventing domestic violence, as well as further resources for those seeking help. The brochure forms part of CSSV's ongoing work within the Catholic community to build capacity for the prevention of family and domestic violence. For more information and to download the brochure, go to the diocesan website

https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/prevention-ofdomestic-violence-against-women/

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Plans are in place for another trivia night in our parish. Please keep August 30 free so that you can join us and share your wealth of knowledge. If anyone has, or knows of someone who may be in a position to donate an item for a raffle to be held on the night, please contact the parish office. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$955
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$373.20

Planned Giving envelopes for the new financial year are available in the rear of our churches.

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE WORKSHOP

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community – including schools, parishes, diocese, organisations and religious orders – to join its 2024 Season of Creation convocation. Taking place from Thursday, September 12 to Saturday, September 14, the convocation will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Attendees will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform earnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves. More information is available from the diocesan website

https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholicearthcare-to-host-season-of-creation-workshop-inseptember/

CARITAS FILM SCREENING

Caritas Australia, Catholic Earthcare and Being with God in Nature invites you to an online screening of "Teilhard Visionary Scientist" by filmmakers Frank and Mary Frost on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 6.00pm (AEST). This film tells the story of an early 20th-century French Jesuit priest and scientist who, in relentless pursuit of the everlasting on earth, encounters fame, love and implacable opposition from his church. The film weaves together, largely in Teilhard's own words, themes from his life, including scientific adventure, the search for meaning, unresolved conflict with authority, the primacy of spirit and the power of love. More information available at https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/ . Scan or click the QR code to register.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS



Australia's Catholic bishops have welcomed the release of the working tool for members of the Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The document, known in Latin as the

Instrumentum laboris, originated from over 100 reports provided to the General Secretariat of the Synod including one submitted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The General Secretariat also considered reports submitted by parish priests who attended a three-day working session, which involved Australian clergy. And more than 200 comments were received from universities, associations of the faithful and other international entities. The Instrumentum laboris is not a magisterial document or a catechism, but a way to encourage prayer, dialogue, discernment and the "maturing of a consensus", according to an explanatory paper. It was written by a group of theologians as well as members and consultors of the XV Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod. To read the Instrumentum laboris, go to the diocesan website https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-churchcommunion-participation-and-mission/

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY PREPARATION

In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Clergy in parishes, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. Ballarat dates are: August 4, 10.30am -4.00pm, Ss Peter and Paul's Church, Buninyong, August 13, 5.00pm - 8.30pm, OLHC Church, Wendouree.

"Come Away to a Desert Place"

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

n every life, there is need for a balanced rhythm of work and recreation. With so much pain and suffering in our world, the demands of living a gospel way of life can overwhelm us and cause us to act as though everything depends on us. While we can never really escape the responsibility of being there for those in need, today's gospel reminds us that there is a time for being out on mission and a time for being with the one who calls and sends us.

The apostles have been busy preaching, healing and driving out the "demons" as instructed. They now report back to Jesus with an account of their activities. Jesus listens and invites them to take time to rest and recuperate. The implication is that they have truly given themselves to the mission. "Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while" is the invitation that he extends to them. The reference to desert evokes the wilderness of Sinai through which the people of Israel are said to have travelled for forty years. For the contemporary

reader, it evokes the diversity of life in the desert, on the one hand, and the desertification of so much of the earth's surface as a result of tree-clearing and mindless destruction of forests on the other. The "rest" that Jesus proposes is short-lived: the crowds pursue him. His response to these crowds is a physical one: he is "moved with compassion". The Greek verb for being moved with compassion suggests a "gut" reaction in Jesus: he is physically affected in the depths of his being by the plight of the people who are "like sheep without a shepherd", and he is ready to do something about it. As the story continues, we find Jesus inviting his disciples to accept responsibility for relieving the hunger of the people in the desert. "You give them something to eat" is his instruction to those who would turn the people away. Like the Israelites of old, the afflicted Earth community in any age needs good leaders or "shepherds" who will "practice justice and righteousness in the land",



as the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us. The Hebrew word for justice refers to justice in the law courts. The word for righteousness is about right relationship at every level. Jesus demonstrates for his disciples and for us what justice and righteousness entail. As the gospel story unfolds, we find that Jesus' disciples are wellmeaning, though slow to learn. They are a bit like us in that. The more we take time to reflect. however, the more likely we are to respond with the compassionate heart of the "shepherd", and the more likely we are to achieve lasting justice and right relationship in a world of unconscionable disparities and unprecedented displacement of peoples and of other-than-human species.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

> JEREMIAH 23:1-6 EPHESIANS 2:13-18 MARK 6:30-34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME

KINGS 4:42-44 EPHESIANS 4:1-6 JOHN 6:1-15

