



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Term 3 Week 7

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### Term 3 (10 weeks)

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

#### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August

Fathers/Special Friends Day

2.30pm Chat and snack in the Undercover area

2.45pm Liturgy in Family Groups

6.30pm Trivia Night in Gym

#### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Student Led Conferences

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Book Club 6 Orders last day

#### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September

2.40pm Assembly led by 4BO

#### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Student Led Conferences

#### 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

Pupil Free Day

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Melbourne Cup Holiday  
Pupil Free Day

#### 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 27<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Nov

Year 5 Camp

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Are you ready for our huge Trivia Night on Friday evening? It promises to be a great event, and we are looking forward to the opportunity to gather and celebrate as a community. Our Parents & Friends Committee has worked tirelessly to ensure that we can be entertained and challenged while raising funds for our school at the same time.

This year we are trying very hard to raise enough money to upgrade the play-space for our children. So far we have raised enough money to replace the existing adventure playground which is an amazing effort! To complete the project, we want to be able to provide sun protection for the warmer months. This means that we will require shade sails over the new structure at a cost of approximately \$20,000. This might seem like a huge amount of money - and it is, but we have been working away at reaching our goal, and we are almost there. The profits from every hot chocolate, coin challenge, zooper-doooper and hot lunch counts towards our goals as well as the big-ticket items like the colour run and our trivia night which means that our children can enjoy the results of all these efforts.

Our school, like all Catholic schools depends on financial support from families to be able to provide for all students in our care. Known as the local contribution factor, extra money raised through school fees and fundraising makes up for the shortfall in funding between government and non-government schools. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community working with us, and I thank you all for assisting us in so many different ways.

Having said that, I am happy to let you know that the staff have filled a couple of tables for the trivia night, and we are a force to be reckoned with, so be prepared!

God bless,



Mark Hogbin



### Father's Day & Special Persons Stall

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

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August - Foundation and Grade 1

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August - Grade 2, 3 and 4

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August - Grade 5 & 6

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August - Catch up all grades

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

### Pupil Free Day

A reminder to all families that our final pupil free day for the year will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Please note that there will be no classes held at school on this day.

### Fathers & Special Friends Day

Don't forget our Fathers and Special Friends gathering on Friday commencing at 2.30 in the Gym before heading up to the classrooms at 2.45pm for a special service commemorating these important people in our lives. See you there!

### Fullness of Life Program

This week we commence teaching the Fullness of Life program across all year levels. You might recall information sessions being held at school in recent weeks when the diocesan approach to teaching about personal development in our Catholic primary schools was explained to parents. This is an important time for our students and we hope that it might generate some great discussions at home.

## Religious Education News

### THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday August 25, 2024     Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

**Gospel:** John 6:60-69 The Words of Eternal Life

Many of Jesus' disciples heard him and said, "This is too hard for anyone to understand."

Jesus knew that his disciples were grumbling. So he asked, "Does this bother you? What if you should see the Son of Man go up to heaven where he came from? The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are from that life-giving Spirit. But some of you refuse to have faith in me."

Jesus said this, because from the beginning he knew who would have faith in him. He also knew which one would betray him.

Then Jesus said, "You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you."

Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him. Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they also were going to leave him. Simon Peter answered, "Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life. We have faith in you, and we are sure that you are God's Holy One." (*Gospel passage taken from CEV*)

Our Challenge: When things get difficult in our lives, how can we remain true to the values Jesus taught us?

# PLEASE JOIN US ON FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH TO CELEBRATE FATHER'S AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

2:30PM GATHER IN THE UNDERCOVER FOR A  
CHAT AND SNACK

2:45PM LITURGY (IN FAMILY GROUPS)



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

## Curriculum News



### Book Week 2024 Reading is Magic

Book Week has now drawn to a close after a week of festivities within the classrooms. We ended with the most spectacular FGJ Assembly and Book Week parade last Friday. A huge shoutout to our SFX children, families and staff for the brilliant costumes on display. The gym was certainly full of positive energy as we celebrated Book Week 2024. Please visit our Facebook page for photos and videos of the events on Friday. Many thanks to our Leadership team who got into the spirit of Book Week by reading night time stories.



### **Student Led Conferences Weeks 8 and 9 Term 3 2024**

**Bookings open on PAM today Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

Week 8: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 3:30 onwards

Week 9: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 3:30 onwards

**Student - Led Conferences at SFX:** Your child(ren) will be showcasing their schoolwork and discussing learning goals with you through Student-Led Conferences next week, week 8 and week 9.

During Student – Led Conferences, your child will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation and support.

**Bookings for these conferences are open on PAM now! If you haven't already done so please go in and book.** These meetings will last for 12 minutes, with a few minutes change over for each conference. **We encourage all families to attend.** Children must attend these meetings!

We have several goals for holding conferences using this format:

- For parents/carers – you will get to see rather than simply being told about your child’s progress
- For students – students will take more responsibility for their learning
- For teachers – teachers to have more meaningful and impactful conferences with you
- For all – maximise our time together, create ways to partner with one another to support student success.

### **Questions to ask your child at Student - Led Conferences**

Here are some questions for you to ask your child during their Student – Led Conference. These are suggestions, so please look them over and pick a few that you may like to ask!

1. What are you most proud of?
2. It makes me proud to see that ....
3. Can you tell me more about ...
4. I can tell that you improved in ....
5. What did you find challenging this term?
6. Did you reach your goals? Why/Why not?
7. What can we do together at home to support your learning?

We have deliberately formed them as Student – Led and not 3 – Way Conferences. Highly Effective Catholic Primary Schools promote Student Voice. Student – Led Conferences are identified as a significant way of developing Student Voice. The latest research and evidence around Assessment as Learning supports this.

If a parent/carer needs to have a conversation with the teacher not in the presence of the child in regards to other matters, this needs to take place at another time. Contact can be made with the class teacher requesting further time if needed.



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

### Child Safe Standard 6: People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

Ask a child what they believe the word 'brave' means to them... they will most likely say it means being 'not afraid'. But if you really think about it it is actually the complete opposite!

What most children (and even some adults) don't understand is that boldness and bravery doesn't always feel like you are full of courage. It means doing something even if you are feeling fearful. If there is no apprehension, there is no need for bravery.

To build courage, we need to practice pushing through those awkward feelings to do the right thing. It takes boldness to stand up for what you do or don't want to do, particularly when you feel pressed into something. We want our students to be adventurous enough to trust their own limits.

If we constantly step in to solve school problems, smooth over friendships or let them stay away from anxiety provoking activities, children receive the message that we don't think they can cope with these challenging or unfamiliar situations. However, when we focus on instances they have felt worried yet still succeeded in having a go at something difficult, for example, standing up to do a speech or staying at school camp, we empower them and our confidence helps them to grow.

Attached is a link to the [St Francis Xavier SchoolTV Website](#) taking you to an article titled "Teaching Kids to Be Brave: Explaining What Courage Is". I hope it supports some new chats at home with your family.



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sending cheers your way.

## Sport/Physical Education News

### Eureka Division Basketball

Well done to our 5 Division Basketball teams that participated in last Friday's tournament at Selkirk Stadium. It was wonderful to see the excitement, commitment, skill and teamwork that all of our players displayed throughout the day. Both of our A teams had some tricky opponents but gave their all and never gave up at any stage. Our B teams continued to develop through their matches and achieved some great results. A big thank you to the families that came along to support our teams and a special mention to Ryan and Andrew for giving up their time to help out with coaching.

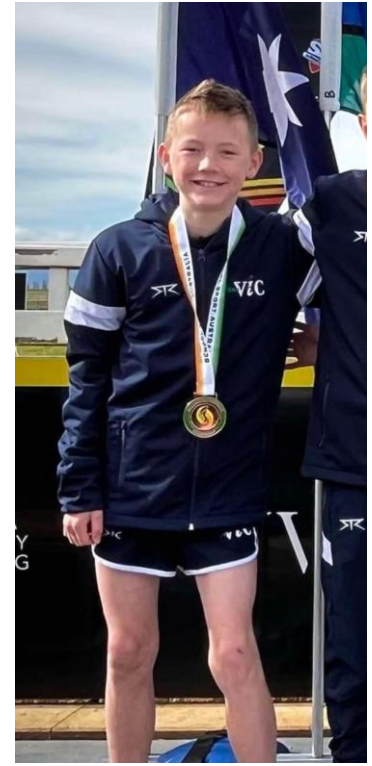
### After school netball

Well done to all of the students that have been playing in the after school netball competitions at Llanberris Netball Centre on a Tuesday/Wednesday afternoons. The reports are that all players are continually developing their skills, playing well as a team and having heaps of fun! Good luck to these teams over the last couple of weeks of competition.

Good luck to all of the students and staff that will be involved in sporting finals that continue this weekend!



**Well done Archer**  
 Congratulations to Yr 6 student Archer Spackman who represented Victoria in the School Sport Australia National Cross Country Championships in Melbourne last week. Archer ran a great race in the individual event and helped secure a Bronze in the team relay event. Well done Archer!



**Term 3 Calendar:**

- Week 8 - Friday Sep 6th - Interschool Sport ALL Yr 6 @ St James
- Week 9 - Thursday Sep 12th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths- Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

**Term 4:**

- Week 1 - Monday Oct 7th - Friday Oct 11th - Swimming Program Yr 1 & 2
- Week 1 - Friday Oct 11th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths- Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 3 - Friday Oct 25th - 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 4 - Friday Nov 1st - Junior Sports Day @ Russell Square (All students from F - Yr 2)
- 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](https://signup.com)

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## Attachments

### ASSEMBLY AWARDS 23<sup>rd</sup> August Hosted by FGJ Theme: Respect.

Respect means considering the feelings and wishes of others, respecting myself and caring for all of creation. We show respect because Jesus shows us that everyone is important and because our world needs our care.

FLH	Huxson Backman and Flossie Bourke	4GH	Zarli Backman and Gabe Dunne
FGJ	Harper Gilbertson and Kit Blomeley	4ML	Hannah Firth and Ella Uljanic
FTW	Teddy Bannan and Audrey Giles	4BO	Olive Lenaghan and Violet Wilson
FMM	Sophia Samii and Max Banwell	5CC	Lachlan De Lorenzo and Lyla Harney
1JS	Amayah Moore and Harry Toohey	5MA	Noah Chibnall and Leni Brown
1EM	Odie Brooks and Ruby Miles	5JW	Lucinda Leonard and Rhys Bell
1MV	Billie Dodd and Daisy Whittlam	6PB	Mylo Robertson and Charlotte Quarrell
2RR	Tex Brown and Louie Evans	6ZA	Laine Anwyl and Isla Rose-Block
2CK	Sutton Answer and Harvey Slater	6MM	Jack Elliot and Emma Locke
2JS	Hughey Roberts and Mila Quandt	EE	Maya Skewes and Savee Thuse (3JV)
3JE	Mackenzie Donnelly and Mitchell Bone	PA	Mylo and Noah from 6PB for showing others how to use music technology software
3JV	Lola Miles and Lyla Nestor	VA	Ned Kersley and Pippa Gleeson (3JE)
3DW	Milla Rowland and Jack Quinlan	PE	All the Grade 6 students for mentoring the Foundation students with their gymnastics skills. The respect and care they showed was admirable.
		Tch	Hugh Farrell and Charlotte Morris (6MM)
Principal's Award: Mia Hamill for being a great Buddy who is always respectful and caring.			



▶ **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

25<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.'

# 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**  
Tue 5:30 PM  
Wed 11:00 AM Mercy Place –  
parishioners welcome  
Thursday 10:30 AM Ballan  
Friday 9:30 AM  
Saturday 9:30 AM,  
6:00 PM Vigil  
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 3

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:**  
John O'Toole, Kiara Ghambir (Year 1 St Alipius School), Mary Den Dryver

**Anniversaries:** Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Eileen O'Meara, Maureen Santamaria

**Unwell:** 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.



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## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1003
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$368.40

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Trivia Night</b> 6:30 pm for 7pm start, 30 August, Parish Hall
<b>PPC Meeting</b> 6:30 pm, 12 September, Presbytery

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

This weekend, we again welcome the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be introduced at our Masses. These children have been preparing for the sacrament at home with their families and supported with further learning within their Religious Education classes at school. The children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at evening liturgies during the first week in September. Please make them welcome and keep the children and their families in your prayers during this special time.

## BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere, online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. Cycle 6 begins September 2. There are 40 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. For more information email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

## SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The Season of Creation runs from September 1 – October 4, with the theme for 2024, "To hope and act with Creation". Resources are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2024/>.

## PREPARING FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

Last week many gathered at OLHC Wendouree in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly that will focus on Leadership and Governance in a Synodal Church. Parishioners gathered from Ararat, Ballarat, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Beaufort, Bungaree, Daylesford, Donald, Gordon, Redan and Wendouree.

This weekend in Warrnambool, Fr Justin, Julie Boyd and Jane Collins will lead the final regional gathering in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly (Nov.15-16). Our parish of Ballarat East and Buninyong will now be invited to nominate two delegates to send to the Diocesan Assembly that will be held at Federation University on Friday evening November 15th and Saturday November 16th. Prior to the Assembly, delegates from parishes, clergy, religious, Diocesan Commissions, Boards and Councils, Catholic education, CatholicCare, Catholic organizations and agencies within the Diocese will be required to engage in some preparation (some will be online).

Our Parish Pastoral Council will discern the two delegates who will attend the Diocesan Assembly. Parishioners are invited to nominate other parishioners to be considered to be one of the parish delegates. Please forward your nomination to the Parish Office with the name of the person being nominated, qualities that you see in them that make them a suitable parish delegate and include your name as the parishioner nominating them.

Pope Francis is providing leadership for a synodal Church and the Plenary Council of the Australian Church has recognised that the practice of synodality requires greater transparency in decision making, with the appropriate participation of all the baptised, giving witness to the equal dignity of women and men. The Plenary Council has affirmed a culture of synodality for parishes and dioceses, where healthy and fruitful relationships between clergy and laity "recognise different but complementary charisms and opportunities for co-responsibility", and desire "consultative and collaborative approaches to governance at all levels in the Church." The emphasis on listening and discernment for a synodal Church reveals how the People of God may be more centred on Christ, build healthy and respectful relationships amongst ourselves, and be effective missionary disciples in the Spirit.

## WELCOME

On Sunday morning Fr Kevin Maloney will be celebrating Mass at Ss Peter and Paul's and Fr Gary Jones will celebrate Mass at St Alipius. Welcome to both of these former Assistant priests of our parish. We thank them for enabling Fr Justin to be in Warrnambool this Sunday.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL

As we enter the final month of Winter we would like to acknowledge the wonderful support we have received from both the parish and school communities for our current appeal.

We recently received a donation of 4 hand made quilts which we are raffling with all proceeds going to our Winter Appeal. Tickets- \$2 for 1 or \$5 for 3 will be available in the foyer. Winners will be announced Saturday 31st.

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Issue 2 for 2024 of Our Diocesan Community is available now in church foyers. Don't miss your copy. Sit down with a cuppa and the ODC magazine and find out what's happening in the diocese. This edition is also available to view online.

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ODC-July-2024-1.pdf>

## BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

### Collection for Retired Priests – next weekend

Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience. Contributions over \$2 are tax deductible.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Cathedral branch of the Catholic Women's League will be a Social event on Monday 2nd September. at 1.30pm.

We will meet at 15 Lyons Street, Ballarat at the "Pregnancy Help Centre" for an introduction to their community work and enjoy afternoon tea with them. ALL WELCOME.. Please bring a friend and a plate of afternoon tea if you can and RSVP to Carmel on 0401 175 045 by 1 September

## PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

**Have you booked your table for our trivia night?** Our parish trivia night will be held this Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Doors open from 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM start. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office until Wednesday. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles. What a great way to end winter and welcome the spring! A fun night is assured with some great prizes and raffles.

## PASTORAL CARE AT MERCY PLACE BALLARAT AGED CARE

**Position Vacant** - A permanent part-time position is available at Ballarat Mercy Place Aged Care. Applications are available on the seek link <https://www.seek.com.au/job/77920166?type=standout&ref=search-standalone&origin=jobCard#sol=bf828cb7ac33e2ee3f0a0309916d6ede9fc496a3>. For any further information or interest in formation regarding pastoral care, please contact Bernadette Wurlod, email: [BWurlod@mercy.com.au](mailto:BWurlod@mercy.com.au)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Bishops' have launched the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World." Every year, the bishops seek to make a substantive comment on a key social issue and this year the focus is on the promotion of peace and the need for truth in public life. Bishop Paul has released a video message in relation to the current Social Justice Statement. To watch Bishop Paul's video and to access the statement and liturgy resources, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/> You can also download a text copy of Bishop Paul's message from this webpage.

*Prayer for Social Justice Sunday Adapted from Pope Francis' Fratelli Tutti*

O God, Trinity of love, from the profound communion of your divine life, pour out upon us a torrent of sisterly and brotherly love.

Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus, in his family of Nazareth, and in the early Christian community. Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel, discovering Christ in each human being, recognising him crucified in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world, and risen in each sister or brother who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God so loves. Amen.



# Grappling with the Complexities

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time



If we have trouble understanding and coming to terms with the teachings of the Johannine Jesus, then we can take some comfort from the reaction of the disciples in John's community some decades after the death of Jesus. It seems that it was not only the members of the Jewish synagogue who were offended by his teaching, but also those Jews who had accepted Jesus as Messiah or Christ and had joined the community of believers. "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" they complain. They are referring to his teaching on the "bread" that he will give them. Once again, Jesus' response introduces new teaching, teaching that can only raise more questions in their minds. He links "spirit" with "life". Having used the term "flesh" of his body and of the life that he offers to those who eat of his flesh, he now introduces an element of doubt: flesh is now "useless"!

We must be careful not to interpret this literally. It is typical of John to use the same word in a variety of ways.

Here "flesh" is used negatively and metaphorically to refer to human weakness and sinfulness in contrast with "spirit" which evokes the creative spirit of God that moved over the waters at creation and the spirit of God that informed the word of the prophets.

The Johannine Jesus lays the ground for offering progressively deeper insights into his identity and destiny and into the meaning of a gospel way of life. The reference to his "ascending" recalls the earlier part of the gospel where he is presented as the pre-existent one, the one who comes from God and has already ascended to God (John 3:13). Once again, we are confronted with an ancient cosmology that places God in the heavens above. After his death, Jesus will tell Mary the Tower (the Magdalene) that he has not yet ascended and instructs her to tell the disciples that he is ascending to God (20:17). It seems that John wants to keep emphasising the origins of Jesus as the eternal Word and the Wisdom of God.

There are many who refuse to grapple with the complexities and implications of his teaching and they turn away. Jesus asks his closest followers if they too will desert. Peter speaks for himself and his companions when he declares their undying allegiance: "To whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." Eternal life is the Johannine equivalent of the "kingdom of God" or "of the heavens" of the other gospels. Most of us have wanted to abandon our commitment at some time or another. There are times when it seems to be all too hard. Peter's declaration is a sobering one for us in times of doubt and an encouragement for those of us who seek to understand more deeply and to keep believing despite the challenges.

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
JOSHUA 24:1-2, 15-18  
EPHESIANS 5:21-32  
JOHN 6:60-69

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-8  
JAMES 1:17-18, 21-22, 27  
MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**DEAN  
KITE  
FESTIVAL**

**Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**  
**12 Noon - 4pm**

Kite Making Workshops \$10  
Kite Demonstrations  
Extreme Kite Bugging Demonstrations  
Sausage Sizzle & Afternoon Tea

**Dean Recreation Reserve**  
**1370 Daylesford / Ballarat Road**  
**Dean, Victoria**

*Hepburn*  
SHIRE COUNCIL

Fundraiser on day for  
local charity

**IGA CRESWICK**

enquiries: Jon Rofe, p: 0428 340 596 e: rofey@bigpond.com

# FREE COME AND TRY

## SOVEREIGN KNIGHTS BASKETBALL CLUB

Basketball  
come & try  
day for  
**all ages!!**  
Bring your  
friends along.



Held at  
Phoenix  
Community  
College.  
Wednesday,  
August 28th.  
5:30 – 6:30

SCAN QR CODE  
TO SIGN UP OR  
EMAIL US!



EMAIL:  
[admin@skbc.org.au](mailto:admin@skbc.org.au)

Sovereign Knights Basketball  
Intention to play form



Buninyong & District Tennis Association  
PRESENTS



# TENNIS OPEN DAY

## WHAT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SUMMER & SOCIAL TENNIS?

JOIN US FOR A HIT, FREE BBQ & FIND OUT ABOUT JUNIOR,  
MIDWEEK & SENIOR SOCIAL COMPETITIONS.  
MEET REPRESENTATIVES FROM DISTRICT CLUBS.  
ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME.

**Sunday 22nd September 2024, 2 - 4 pm**

<https://play.tennis.com.au/BuninyongAndDistrictTennisAssociation/Clubs>

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**BUNINYONG & DISTRICT  
TENNIS ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS**



**October 12th - March 29th**

**JOIN A TEAM TODAY**

**All Ages | All Abilities | All Welcome**

**Ballarat Lawn | Buninyong | Dunnstown | Elaine | Gordon | Grenville |  
Haddon | Mt Helen | Meredith | Napoleons | Navigators | Rokewood |  
Ross Creek | Smythesdale | Warrenheip**

**Check out our website to find a club contact**

**<https://play.tennis.com.au/BuninyongAndDistrictTennisAssociation/Clubs>**

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# LOVE DRIVING? BECOME A VOLUNTEER SUPERVISING DRIVER

1-2 hours a week can  
make a difference

CALL  
NOW



0422 809 587





## How the program works

You can help drive a future and create safer roads.

We're looking for enthusiastic people who can commit 1-2 hours a week to help learner drivers aged 16-23 to complete their 120 hours of driving to apply for their P plates.

You don't need any experience as a supervising driver as all training is provided before you are matched with a learner.

- 
- ✓ Free training
  - ✓ Vehicle provided
  - ✓ 1-2 hours a week
- 

## Volunteer requirements

- Be over 21 years of age with an interest in helping young people
- Hold a full, current Victorian drivers licence
- Undertake a screening process with the Ballarat Foundation

## More information

Email: [l2p@ballaratfoundation.org.au](mailto:l2p@ballaratfoundation.org.au)  
Phone: 0422 809 587  
[www.ballaratfoundation.org.au](http://www.ballaratfoundation.org.au)



QUERIES: CALL DOM 0417 967 621



**KELLY  
SPORTS**



**SPORTS  
HOLIDAY  
PROGRAM!**

**Mon 23rd SEP - Fri 4th OCT**

**NEW**

\*No session FRI 27th of Sep (GF Public Holiday)

**NERF WARS!  
THUR WK1  
& FRI WK2**

Kids need to bring along a big packed lunch & large refillable drink bottle.  
Dress in comfortable sports clothing!



**COME ALONG!**

**to our fun-filled holiday program!**

Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat

8am - 5pm Weekdays

Kinder - Grade 6

\$60 per child per day



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT

**KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU**

**WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT**



# 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)

