



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Term 3 Week 9

P.O. Box 2027  
Ballarat East VIC 3354  
Phone: 5331 6311  
Fax: 5331 8337

Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 3 (10 weeks)

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

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

Student Led Conferences

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September

**2.30pm** Assembly led by 3DW Please note earlier start time

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Free Dress Day: Footy Colours/Sporting Colours

Last day of Term 3  
Classes finish at 2.20pm

### Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October

First day of Term 4 classes

#### 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,

It has been great to see so many families attending our student led conferences this week. By tomorrow night most families should have had the opportunity to call in to school and learn about how your children are progressing in the various year levels.

The student led conferences have an important part to play in the reporting processes in our school. Twice per year families are sent a written report about how the children are developing in their learning. These written reports measure learning for each student across various standards in all subject areas. They also comment on social learning and faith development. The student led conferences are slightly different to this. They require each student to speak about their learning. Celebrations are shared and goals set for the next term and the students are encouraged to be the key drivers in the dialogue. Allowing for student voice is incredibly important because it reminds our children that they are active participants in their education, after all; it's all about them!

We understand that coming back to school after hours can be a challenge. The teachers greatly appreciate your willingness to attend the conferences, and we know that the children love to showcase their learning for their family and teachers. We want to promote active learners and by giving our students the opportunity to speak up we are fostering a sense of responsibility in the learning agenda. Let's celebrate learning with our children as often as we can.



God bless,



Mark Hogbin

**End of Term -Start of Term** Classes cease for third term on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2.20pm. Term four commences on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00am with the school gates open from 8.15am.



## Where is Mr. Hogbin?

I will be away from school now until the commencement of the second week of fourth term. During this time, I will be participating in a spiritual pilgrimage to Ireland as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our diocese. While away I will have the opportunity to visit the mother houses of the religious orders who came to Ballarat 150 years ago to set up education for so many generations of children. Also, on the trip I will visit other significant sites connected to our Catholic story. While I am away Ms. Jayne Mohr and Ms. Jane Clark will be co-principals of our great school.

## Staff Movements

As we approach the final days of term three at school, it is also the time when we begin to plan for staff movements across our schools in Ballarat and beyond. As part of proposed movements for the 2025 school year we will be saying farewell to Mr. Tom Willmott and Mrs. Bec Warr at the end of the year. Mr. Willmott will be commencing duties at St. Patrick's school in Gordon in 2025 and Mrs. Warr will be joining the team at Saint Patrick's College. New staff joining our team at St. Francis Xavier next year will be announced in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

## Emergency Lockdown Drill

Our staff and students underwent an emergency lockdown drill at school today. The nature of an emergency drill is to practice different behaviours that are expected according to different scenarios that may arise at school. You will be pleased to know that our students and staff performed excellently today and we are very proud of them. Well done everyone!

## Religious Education News

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday September 8, 2024      Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

**Gospel: Mark 7:31-37**

Jesus then left the neighborhood of Tyre and went on through Sidon to Lake Galilee, going by way of the territory of the Ten Towns. Some people brought him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged Jesus to place his hands on him. So Jesus took him off alone, away from the crowd, put his fingers in the man's ears, spat, and touched the man's tongue. Then Jesus looked up to heaven, gave a deep groan, and said to the man, "Ephphatha," which means, "Open up!"

At once the man was able to hear, his speech impediment was removed, and he began to talk without any trouble. Then Jesus ordered the people not to speak of it to anyone; but the more he ordered them not to, the more they told it. And all who heard were completely amazed. "How well he does everything!" they exclaimed. "He even causes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak!" (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

**Gospel reflection:** Sometimes we all find it difficult to listen. Can you think of a time when you didn't listen well to what someone was saying? Perhaps you were being asked to set the table or make your bed, and you didn't really want to do it. Perhaps you didn't think what the other person was saying was important?

Sometimes we all find it difficult to speak up – especially if we see that someone is doing something wrong or if we are afraid of being laughed at. It can be hard to stand up for what we know is right. It can be hard to speak out for what we believe in.

When we look at the world we can see lots of things that are wrong. We are all part of God's family – a family that includes everyone in the world – but some of our brothers and sisters around the world live in poverty. Some of us do not have enough to eat. Some of us do not have the chance to go to school and learn. Some of us have too much food and throw lots of it away and some of us have so many possessions that we do not know what to do with them all.

Do you think this is right? Do you think it is fair? A better world needs all of us to play our part. If you could say one thing to change the world we live in and make it a fairer and more just place, what would it be? It is not always easy to speak out for what we believe in, but Jesus asks us to try.

**Our Challenge:** Will you speak out this week for what you know is right? Will you try to stand up for what you believe in even if it is difficult? (Adapted from CAFOD website)

*St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*



**SACRAMENTAL NEWS-** Last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, over fifty children from our school (and over 120 from our Parish community) celebrated their Sacrament of Confirmation at St Alipius Church. These children have been preparing with their parish, families and teachers to learn more about their faith, what it means to confirm our baptism and that we are God's body here on Earth. Thank you Fr Justin for sharing wonderful messages of God's love- we are blessed to have such an involved and genuine parish priest. Congratulations to the children involved in making their Confirmation and a special thank you to Ms Cathy Prunty (Parish) and our wonderful Year Three Teachers Ms Van Gaans, Mr Walsh, Ms Downey and Ms Warr for all their hard work in supporting the children to prepare for this special day.



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader



Week of September 1 - September 8 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East

Please continue to visit Seesaw and view your child's learning in 'real time'. It's another way of us building a strong school - home connection.



261

New Student Posts



54

Comments



### Student Led Conferences Week 9 Term 3 2024

We have our second night of Student Led Conferences tomorrow. Bookings are still open on PAM if you haven't already made a booking.

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

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 ...



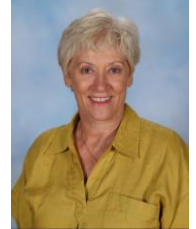
4. I can tell that you improved in ....
5. What did you find challenging this term?
6. Did you reach your goals? Why/Why not?
7. What can we do together at home to support your learning?

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.**

Many thanks for your support with Student Led Conferences and visiting Seesaw.

Enjoy your week!



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

### Wellbeing News

**Child Safe Standard 8: Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.**



**Ask R U OK? Any Day** because life happens **every** day.

A lot can happen in a year, a month, a week. Whether it's your friend, family member, colleague, partner or teammate, the people you care about go through life's ups and downs every day.

By having regular, meaningful conversations, you build trust and normalise talking about what's really going on, so when the people in your world find themselves struggling, they know you're someone they can talk to.

So whilst R U OK?Day on Thursday the 12th of September is the National Day of Action, I encourage you to **Ask R U OK? Any Day** of the year because a conversation could change a life.

SchoolTV have released a Special Report acknowledging the significance of the National Day of Action. Below are a few words from SchoolTV about its importance.

*St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*

Understanding the growing challenges related to mental health among young people is an important consideration. Anxiety, depression and self-harm - are all causes for concern. Factors like academic pressure, social media, family dynamics and social expectations, are contributing to these issues. It's therefore crucial for parents and caregivers to take action early, remove the stigma around discussing mental health and offer accessible support to address these issues and the wellbeing of their children.

R U OK?Day is an initiative that focuses on preventing suicide by encouraging meaningful personal connections and helping informal support networks to help recognise the signs of distress. We urge all families to take part, emphasising the value of genuine human relationships and reminding everyone to ask the important question, "Are you OK?"

Engaging in R U OK?Day activities goes beyond the classroom; it's a commitment to our students' overall development. By talking openly about mental health, schools create safe spaces where students feel understood, valued and supported. As parents and caregivers, you can contribute by fostering open conversations, normalising feelings and breaking down mental health stigmas. Participating in R U OK?Day promotes compassion and shows our dedication to the wellbeing of the entire school community, reaffirming that together, we can truly make a difference.

This Special Report provides guidance on how to talk to your child about mental health and engage in meaningful discussions.

Here is the link to your Special Report [https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-r-u-ok-day](https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-r-u-ok-day)

Sending cheers your way.

Gemma Johnson, Wellbeing Leader



## Sport/Physical Education News

### Division Athletics

All of the best to the following students that have qualified and will be participating in various events at this Thursday's Eureka Division Athletics: *Nellie Cheeseman, Miah Cooper, Pippa Dalton, Abbey Dwyer, Olivia Farrell, Jed Hynes, Remi James, Isla Johnson, Mitch Kane, Sam Norris, Lilly Rice, Jackson Roberts, Eliza Simpson, Amelia Sordello, Archer Spackman, Sofia St Louis & Alexis Toohey*. We know that you will give your all and have heaps of fun on the day.

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

### Term 3 Calendar:

- Week 9 - Thursday Sep 12th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths - Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 9 - Friday Sep 13th - Interschool Sport ALL Yr 6 @ St James \*rescheduled from Wk 8

### 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 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)

*St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*

- 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 an awesome week.

Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

**Jump Rope for Heart**



**Jump Rope for Heart – We’re skipping to help save Aussie hearts!**

Jump Rope for Heart is a fantastic physical activity and fundraising program that has been run by the Heart Foundation for more than 40 years. It’s a great way for your child to stay fit and learn new skills while helping raise funds for vital heart research and education programs.

Students at St Francis Xavier have been skipping throughout this term and have so far raised \$5,052, logging a total of 135 hours of skipping.

We have two weeks left in the Jump Rope for Heart program, so please continue to share your child’s online fundraising page with family and friends to help raise money for this great cause!

Thank you for supporting the Jump Rope for Heart program!

If you haven’t registered your child yet, you can do so at [www.jumprope.org.au/parents](http://www.jumprope.org.au/parents).

## Attachments

### ASSEMBLY AWARDS 6<sup>th</sup> September Hosted by 4BO Theme: Justice.

We make fair choices. Justice means being the best person we can be. We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLH	Maya Loader & Jed Phelan	4GH	Sophie McNeill and Xavier Foster
FGJ	Charlie Johnson & Elsie Howe	4ML	Maddie Purtell and Levi Crowe
FTW	Nate Quinlan & Harper Stevenson	4BO	Miah Cooper and Jackson Roberts
FMM	Stella Hipke and Blake Pitman	5CC	Sophie Beseler and Billy Cheseman
1JS	Zach Wilson & Oscar Martin	5MA	Edward Lloyd & Abbey Dwyer
1EM	Thomas Green and Maya Mookheok	5JW	Nic Green and Mia Hamill
1MV	Hazel Martin and Nevon Thuse	6PB	Lachie Patterson and Cooper Daly
2RR	Rome Davis and Banjo Nicholson	6ZA	Adelle Marson & Rahui Munokoa
2CK	Violet Toohey and Imogen Sordello	6MM	Lottie Rush and Charlotte Morris
2JS	Eddy Heinrich, Milla Nicholson and Judd Boyd	EE	
3JE	Mitchell Cycles and Abbey Williams	PA	Eddy Heinrich and Jude Reus 2JS
3JV	James Cycles and Archie Gerdtz	VA	Hughey Roberts (2JS) & Lachlan Purtell (2RR)
3DW	James Bodnar and Keeva Humphries	PE	Cleo Roney & Charlie Irving
		Tch	Devon McCartin & Noah McGregor

**Principal's Award:** Isla Johnson for caring about other people in our community through her prayers and actions. Bertie Stanley for demonstrating the value of justice in our school this week which was noticed by others.





▶ **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

8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.”

# St Alipius parish

[ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/)

## MASS TIMES

### St Alipius

Tue 5:30 PM

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place –

parishioners welcome

Thurs & Fri 9:30 AM

Sat 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 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 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:** Mick Clark, Donald McDonald, Margaret Smith

**Anniversaries:** Colin McKenzie, Bob Stevenson, Janette Pearse

**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  
Principal – St. Alipius School  
Phone: 5331 1816

## 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.



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

*St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1047
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$1028

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**PPC Meeting**  
6:30 pm, September 12th, Presbytery

## SEASON OF CREATION 2024

### Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation workshop

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community to join its 2024 Season of Creation online convocation, Thursday, September 12 - Saturday, September 14. The online convocation will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Participants will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform learnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves. More information is available from [Season of Creation Convocation 2024](#) | [Catholic Earthcare \(caritas.org.au\)](#)

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

In April this year, the Professional Standards Office sent Parishes a new safeguarding training module called "Safetrac", requesting that this training be completed by those parishioners who have been nominated by Parishes as having particular ministries in the Parish that require them to do this basic training.

A large number of people have completed this training, either online or on paper, however, a small number of people nominated by Parishes have yet to complete the training, even after several reminders.

In view of the importance of this training, Bishop Paul has set a deadline for this training to be completed, asking that all those who have been nominated by their Parishes for this training complete the training by October 31 this year. If, for whatever reason, any do not complete the training by that date, they should suspend their ministry in the Parish until they complete the training.

## THE ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

Our parish of Ballarat East and Buninyong has been 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.

## BAPTISMS

**Oliver John Britt**  
Child of Jordan Britt and Sarah Burns

**Isla Daisy and Ollie Neville Hetherington**  
Children of Liam Hetherington and Alana Marshall

## BECOMING A SYNODAL CHURCH

What does 'becoming a synodal church' mean in our region of Oceania?

### WEBINAR

Wednesday 18 September 2024 5:30 pm AEST  
The opportunities and challenges in our region, with its diverse cultures, social structures and histories, not least of which is the impact of climate change on our unique environment, are critical issues for us all. In the lead up to the second session on *Synodality in October 2024*, we will hear from four people from our region – one from each of the four *Bishops' Conferences of Oceania* – on how they envisage synodality happening in their region. Two are official delegates to the *Synod on Synodality*, and all have been closely involved in the writing of documents collating responses from our areas. The panel of speakers – who will make for a stimulating and informative synodal forum – will include: Fr Victor Roche SVD, Kelly Paget, Susan Sela, Manuel Beazley. Christina Reymer will moderate the event.



## TRIVIA NIGHT

On Friday evening, we held our annual Trivia night and saw an excellent crowd gather in the parish hall. This night would not be possible without the tireless work of Natalie Shannon whose efforts meant that we raised \$2004.20 for the parish. Natalie, we are very grateful for your work, thank you. Thank you also to the many people who generously donated prizes to allow us to have some raffles on the night. We appreciate your generosity. Finally congratulations to the winners on the evening, where the scores were so tight we needed to have a tie break round! See you all in 2025.



## CONFIRMATION LITURGIES

During the past week we welcomed 123 children and their families to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. These children were enrolled in the program at the beginning of Term Three and since then have been prepared for the sacrament by their families, using resources from the Ballarat Diocese. This preparation was supported in our local Catholic schools where Religious Education classes were expanding on the knowledge from home. We congratulate all these children on choosing to continue with their Sacraments of Initiation. Please keep them in your prayers. Thanks to staff from all our schools who supported the children in their preparation and at the liturgies held during the week.

## WELCOME BISHOP PAUL TO OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat Bishop Paul is visiting each of the 29 parishes of the Diocese 'from the Murray to the Sea.' Bishop Paul has said that "Our 150th anniversary will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care that are provided in our diocese today. The anniversary will be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. It will be a chance to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we can live as a truly Christian community, sharing the good news of Christ, in the years to come." Bishop Paul will visit the Ballarat East and Buninyong Church communities next weekend, Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks **Safeguarding Sunday**, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable.



## ANNIVERSARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to all who have contributed to information about our Parish for the celebration on 14 December. Interesting stories about parishioners feature delightfully but we would love some reflections on other aspects of the Parish ie, YCW, Tennis Club, God Start, RCIA, Family groups, St Vinnies, Different Ministries ie the Bereavement team. These need to be anecdotal and not very long. If they can be illustrated with photos all the better. Please deliver your contribution to the Parish Office or email it. **These stories need to be in by 15 September.**

# “Let us Open our Ears to Hear”

## Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

### Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's gospel draws our attention to the profoundly deaf who find themselves on the edge of the earth community. Without access to birdsong, to spoken discourse, to music and to the vast range of media communication, they often struggle to understand and to be understood. Their capacity to communicate their deepest wisdom, their hopes and dreams, their anxieties and fears, is limited not only by personal disability but also by the incomprehension and impatience of others.

Whatever degree of deafness is experienced, relief from such an affliction offers far more than physical healing. It brings insertion into the life of family, community, workplace and the wonderful world of God's other than human creation. It opens up new horizons and unimagined possibilities. Sophisticated hearing aids and cochlear implants can transform the lives of those who suffer from serious hearing loss. We give thanks for the earth elements in cochlear implants, the silicone, platinum, titanium and ceramics and the rare earth elements in hearing aids.

In first century Palestine, chances of relief from hearing deficiency and associated speech impairment were minimal. Desperate people put their faith in folk healers who used their healing hands and wisely drew upon their knowledge of the medicinal properties in certain herbs and other plants. Many turned to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, or to his daughter Hygeia. Jesus was an effective healer who used some of the same methods as other healers of his time. In today's gospel story, he turns to the God of Israel ("looking up to heaven...") as the source of healing power.

There is layer upon layer of meaning in today's healing story. Habitat features significantly. Jesus travels from Tyre on the northern Mediterranean coast to the Sea of Galilee via the non-Jewish territory on the eastern side of the lake.



The gospel writer is stressing the all-embracing nature of Jesus' healing ministry. Land belongs to God and territorial claims on land are no barrier to Jesus' healing ministry, a lesson Jesus himself has just learned from the Syro-Phoenician woman of Mark 7:26-30.

---

*Let us open our ears to hear in the hope that we might understand what we have done to our planetary home and how we might play our part in renewing God's wonderful yet battered creation.*

---

In Mark's gospel, the healing power of God is available to Jews and Gentiles, to male and female, to young and old alike. It is available to those with bodily afflictions and to those who are paralysed by anxiety and fear. There is irony in the telling of the story: a Gentile deaf man can be brought from no hearing to hearing, from "speaking with difficulty" to clarity of speech, but Jesus' own disciples will shortly fail to hear and understand. "Do you have ears and not hear?" (Mark 8:18) is the question he will put to them when they fail to understand. Let us open our ears to hear in the hope that we might understand what we have done to our planetary home and how we might play our part in renewing God's wonderful yet battered creation.

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 35: 4 – 7  
JAMES 2:1 – 5  
MARK 7: 31 – 37

#### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 50: 5 – 9  
James 2: 14 – 18  
Mark 8: 27 – 35





Year 7, 2026 applications are now open

1431 Sturt Street, Ballarat, Victoria  
T - 5331 1688  
W - [www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/apply-now/](http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/apply-now/)

**Character, Compassion, Community**

## East Ballarat Junior Cricket Program - 2024/25

“Your Local Family Club, Run by Families”

### Cricket 4 Kids

Our “Practice Sessions” began Monday afternoon, **Sept. 2nd** at Russell Square.

Big Focus “**This Girl Can**” pathway - U.9/11; U.14; U.17 & Women's teams.

Junior cricket at Russell Square offers opportunities for Primary School **Girls & Boys** of all ages.

**Saturday** mornings (10:00 -11:10) - **Junior Blasters** for beginners (6 to 8 yrs). **Mid week** “Softer ball” Match Play (Grade 3s - Grd 6s). **Skills Sessions** - **Tuesday** afternoons (4:00 - 5:15); “**Games**”

- **Wednesday** afternoons (4:15 - 6:15pm). Some aspiring youngsters try **U.13/14 Harder ball** cricket. Try our wonderful new Practice Nets & “**Multi coloured**” roll out pitches imported from England. You're all welcome.....and..... Bring a friend!!

Further information. - Mark Ryan. [markndianne179@bigpond.com](mailto:markndianne179@bigpond.com) - 0477 527 334



# BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS

## WEEK ONE SESSIONS

SELKIRK STADIUM

MON 23 & TUES 24 SEPT • 9<sup>AM</sup> - 3<sup>PM</sup>

## WEEK TWO SESSIONS

MINERDOME

WED 2 & THUR 3 OCT • 9<sup>AM</sup> - 3<sup>PM</sup>

[BALLARATBASKETBALL.COM](http://BALLARATBASKETBALL.COM)







# BALLARAT LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

## SEASON

# 24/25

Track & Field  
COMING SOON!

Email expression of interest to  
[ballarat@lavic.com.au](mailto:ballarat@lavic.com.au)

**WE ARE FAMILY,  
FUN & FITNESS**

- 12th October 2024 - 22nd March 2025
- Saturday- 8.30am - Approx 11.30am
- U6 - U17 age groups
- @Llanberris Athletics Reserve
- Multi-Class Athletes Welcome
- U6 & U7- 'ON TRACK' Activities & Events
- U8-U17 - 4 or 5 events on a 3 week rotating program
- Sprints, walks, jumps, throws & distance events
- Region and State Competition opportunities



**Little Athletics Victoria** | **BUNINYONG**  
LITTLE ATHLETICS

SEASON 2024-25

# WE ARE WELCOMING

**Achieve your personal best!**

Love to run, jump, and throw? Enjoy having fun, spending time with family and friends, and achieving your personal best?

Why not give athletics a try?  
Sign up for your 2 FREE sessions today and dive into the excitement!  
We can't wait to meet you.

**REGISTER TODAY**

<https://lavic.com.au/centres/buninyong/>





AFL AND ALFW PLAYERS  
\*PENDING AVAILABILITY  
GAMES • PRIZES • FOOD VAN • DRINKS

**THURS 26 SEPT**

FITNESS  
*fernwood*  
- BALLARAT -

# FREE FOOTY FESTIVAL

SESSION 1: SENSORY: 9AM - 10AM  
SESSION 2: 10.30AM - 12:30PM  
SESSION 3: 1.15PM - 3:15PM

CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 12  
MUST REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE

**POWER FM BROADCASTING LIVE**  
**CITY OVAL 1431 MAIR STREET**  
**10AM-2PM**



REGISTER NOW

FOOTY INFLATABLES  
HANDBALL TARGETS • MINI-GAMES  
AND MORE!

WESTERN  
BULLDOGS





# 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)

