



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Term 4 Week 4

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### Term 4 (11 weeks)

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

#### Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October

5 & 6pm Live Music Showcase in Year 2/3 building. Gold coin entry.

#### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

5 & 6pm Live Music Showcase in Year 2/3 building. Gold coin entry.

#### Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October

6pm Live Music Showcase in Year 2/3 building. Gold coin entry.

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Junior Sports Day at Russell Square for all Foundation-Year 2 students

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Pupil Free Day

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

Melbourne Cup Holiday  
Pupil Free Day

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November

3.30-6.00pm Art Exhibition in our Gym. Gold coin entry.

#### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

#### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

2.40pm Assembly led by 5JW  
Free *Wonka* movie night on school oval.

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

Year 5 Camp

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Free Dress Day – gold coin donations for St Vincent de Paul, Ballarat East  
2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Year 6 Graduation

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Year 3 Camp

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

It certainly is a busy time of year. Over the past week we have had our Year 2 extended day at school, the school Disco, School Advisory Council and Parents & Friends meetings, Scooter and Bike ed. Classes, and Foundation Transition mornings among many other happenings at school. The term is certainly marching on.

Last week we published some upcoming dates for your calendar at home. These include the Saint Francis Xavier Art Show on Thursday evening, 7<sup>th</sup> November, the Special P&F Movie Night on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and Community Carols on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. These are significant events and ones you won't want to miss!

This week we look forward to the musical performances by students who receive tuition here at school. These children attend classes weekly with our Tutors and they feel very excited to be able to perform in front of their families and friends. We wish them well!

Don't forget our Junior School Sports day will be held next Friday at Russell Square between 9.00-2.30pm. The children may be dropped off at the sports and can be collected from there at the conclusion of events. With good weather predicted, we should have a most enjoyable day.

Don't forget to keep up with the happenings at school through our weekly newsletter so that you will always know what's about to happen, especially at this busy time of year.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



### Welcome New Staff

We look forward to welcoming the following new staff to our school in 2025: Mr. Kai Barclay, Ms. Mandy Hipke, Ms. Zoe Polkinghorne, Ms. Liz Postlethwaite, Ms. Teresa Skrypko, Mr. Glen Strange and Ms. Grace Turner. We are very excited to have such a range of skills and talents as we plan for a great new school year.

### Foundation Transition Mornings

Our Transition mornings continue this week for the Foundation class of 2025. These important sessions allow for the children to begin to learn about school and to understand what they can expect next year. It is an exciting and challenging time for our newest students, and we wish them well as they learn all about 'Big School!'

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**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
5pm Community Christmas  
Carols at school

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Last 2024 day for students

### Hot Lunches

Please note there will be **NO HOT LUNCHES FOR JUNIORS** this Friday (1 November 2024) due to the Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day. Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 can still order.



### School Disco

Thank you to our amazing Parents & Friends Committee who worked so hard to ensure that our children had a great evening last Thursday at the school disco. Without the help of the P&F this event would not have happened and so we are very grateful! Would you like to become an active member of our P&F next year? Let Steph

Nunn or one of our office staff know and they will be able to assist you.



### Summer School Uniform

It's time to think about summer school uniform now that we are in fourth term. We always allow a transition period of three weeks for children to start wearing full summer uniform and so from now on it's time to enjoy wearing our full summer uniform again. Please keep in mind that children are required to wear white ankle socks (no branding) or grey school socks not black. **Hats, Hats, Hats** Remember that our children need to have their school hats at school every day until the end of Term 1 next year!

### School Closure Day

A reminder that our final school closure day for the year will be held on Monday 4 November. No classes will be held at school on this day.

### Congratulations to all our Math Olympiad competitors this year!

You have shown determination and resilience in your additional math work.

A special mention to both Emily and Archer for achieving a high standard, getting top 25% of competitors across the nation. Emily received our highest score. Villa are very proud!"



Our **LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE EVENINGS** are just around the corner! Children who participate in extracurricular music lessons with Hattie, Chris and Lauren will share their learning on Oct 29, 30 and 31. With 96 children sharing their learning across three nights, our showcase evenings are designed to be an informal opportunity where we celebrate the learning of every child. Entry is via gold coin donation (to offset costs) and everyone is welcome!

**LIVE MUSIC**

**SHOWCASE**

<b>HATTIE'S</b>	<b>CHRIS'</b>	<b>LAUREN'S</b>
<b>STUDENTS</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>
<b>TUES OCT 29</b>	<b>WED OCT 30</b>	<b>THURS OCT 31</b>
<b>5PM &amp; 6PM</b>	<b>5PM &amp; 6PM</b>	<b>6PM</b>

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**YEAR 2 / 3 BUILDING**

**GOLD COIN DONATION ENTRY**  
(to offset costs)

## COME ALONG TO OUR ST FRANCIS XAVIER ART EXHIBITION!

On **Thursday November 7th from 3.30pm to 6pm**, families and special friends are invited along to our St Francis Xavier gym to see the wonderful artwork that our artists have created during their Visual Arts classes in 2024. We can't wait to celebrate our amazing artists with you!



### Religious Education News

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 26th, 2024**

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

**Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho, and as Jesus was leaving with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus! Son of David! Take pity on me!" Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, take pity on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up!" they said. "Get up, he is calling you." He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

"Teacher," the blind man answered, "I want to see again." "Go," Jesus told him, "your faith has made you well." At once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road. *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

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**Gospel reflection:** For those of us who are not blind or visually impaired, we might take our gift of sight for granted. We might not realise just how wonderful the trees, birds, flowers and people we see are, because we see them every day.

We might also have times when we try to ignore things that we see, or we pretend that we can't see them. For instance, we might pretend not to see the toys we have left scattered all over the floor when we are asked to tidy up. We might ignore the homeless person that we see asking for money. Sometimes we know what we have seen isn't fair or right, but we don't know what to do about it. It can be easier to pretend that we haven't seen the problem than to work out what to do to try to make it better.

But just because we pretend the problem isn't there, does that really mean that it has gone away? So what do you think we should try to do? Can you think of some big problems that you can see in our world that aren't fair?

Do you think it's fair that not everyone has enough food to eat or clean water to drink?

Do you think it's fair that some people have to leave their homes and things behind to try and find somewhere safe to live?

Do you think it's fair that many people, especially the poorest people, are already facing damage to their homes and crops because of the climate crisis?

These things are not fair, but we can all play a part in trying to build a fairer world. We can try not to waste food or water and call on others to do the same. We can care for our planet and the people around us. We can try to make sure that our government and other world leaders see that we care about the planet- that we want them to make a change to care for our world and all the living things in it, so that the earth, the home we all live in, can be protected now and in the future.

We can tell others and help them to see that there is a problem, but also that there are ways to make our world a fairer place. If we all work together (you and me, world leaders and big businesses, and people from all around the world) we will see what difference we can really make. *(Adapted from CAFOD website)*

**Our Challenge:** What will you do if you see something that you know is unfair?

THANK  
YOU



MercyWorks  
SISTERS OF MERCY IN AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mercy -  
Walking Together.  
Changing Lives.

Many thanks for your generous donations to our Casual Clothes Day fundraiser last Friday. Thanks to your contribution we were able to raise over \$300 to support MercyWorks and help people in the most vulnerable communities of our globe.

Every positive thing we do, no matter how small, helps to make a difference to the world in which we live!

Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**



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**Division Golf Tournament**

Last Friday we had a wonderful group of students participating in the Division Golf Tournament just up the road at Mt Xavier Golf Club. For many of the students this was their first time playing golf on an actual golf course so it was fantastic to see them all having fun and trying their best. A special mention to Rhys B for winning, as well as Cooper M and Edward L for finishing in the top 8 in the Boys section, as well as Evie S for finishing 4th in the Girls section. A big thank you to all of the adults that gave up their time to assist on the day.



## **Division Cricket**

This Wednesday we have two Boys and 1 Girls teams participating in the Eureka Division Cricket tournament at Alfredton Rec Reserve. We wish all three teams the very best and know that you will try your best and have fun.

## **Junior Sports Day**

A Special event on our calendar is the Junior Sports Day for students in Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2. This day is an opportunity for the students to put into practice many of the skills that they have learnt and developed throughout the year in Physical Education classes in a fun and enjoyable way. Please refer to the PAM notification for more information.

## **After School - Sporting Schools Program**

Monday - Hockey - Oct 21/28, Nov 11/18/25 Dec 2 (3:30pm-4:30pm)

*Mollie Arnts, Teddy Bannan, Meredith, James & Laura Bodnar, Lilly Bye, Alfie Heywood, Harriet Howard, Charlie & Oscar Johnson, Harry Jolly, Sahesi Kariyawasam, Harriet Le Grand, Lucinda Leonard, Tom Maher, Oscar Martin, Flynn & Hudson McKay, Rahui Munokoa, Charlie & Hudson Ryan, Harvey & Isabelle Slater, Nicolas Taylor & Nevon Thuse*

Thursday - Basketball - Oct 31, Nov 7/14/21/28 Dec 5 (3:30pm-4:30pm)

*Huxson & Zarli Backman, Harley Bye, Hazel & Lachlan De Lorenzo, Daulat Gill, Jasper & Scarlett Govan, Thomas & Will Green, Beau, Malo & Remy Hansen, Sam Hill, Oscar Kersley, Albie Kirby, Patrick Lenaghan, Reuben Molloy, Thiago Motta Crespo, Willow Prato, Cooper, Hughey, Austin & Jackson Roberts & Lawrence Wilson*

## **Term 4:**

- Week 4 - Wednesday Oct 30th - Eureka Division Cricket @ Alfredton Reserve (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 4 - Friday Nov 1st - Junior Sports Day @ Russell Square (All students from F - Yr 2 + Yr 6 Sports Captains)
- 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 or Mr Carroll or drop them into the office.

Have a wonderful week.

Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator



## Attachments

### ASSEMBLY AWARDS 25<sup>th</sup> October Hosted by 1MV Theme: Compassion.

We treat others the way we would like to be treated.

Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering.

We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

FLH	Jasper Govan & Ada Mason	4GH	Mack Smith and Minka Henjak
FGJ	Sophie Quinlan & Charlie Johnson	4ML	Olivia Farrell and Hannah Firth
FTW	Bob Nunn & Mya Troon	4BO	Isla Johnson and Nellie Cheeseman
FMM	Jack Hingston & Georgie Dwyer	5CC	Harry Hatt and Evie Staley
1JS	Emme Cavanagh & Marli Wilson	5MA	Isabelle Slater and Edward Lloyd
1EM	Tilly Van Langevedle and Patrick Lenaghan	5JW	Audrey Lynch & Claudia Cochrane
1MV	Greyson Broadbent & Zahli Kingston	6PB	Emily Hanrahan and LAchie Patterson
2RR	Evie Loader and Ollie Gaeghan	6ZA	Sam Hill & Mannix Treacy
2CK	Alfie Heywood and Devon McCartin	6MM	Henry Warr and Braxton Buntsma
2JS	Mathias Tuffen and Eddy Heinrich	EE	Imogen Sordello & Darcie Richardson (2CK)
3JE	Malo Hansen and Edith Brennan	PA	Zara Thorpe and Evie Staley from 5CC
3JV	Jett Raine and Savee Thuse	VA	Paddy Ludbrook & Lawrence Wilson (3JV)
3DW	Charlie Quarrell and Indie Shillito	PE	River Harney & Matilda Bell
		Tch	Minka Henjak & Mollie Arnts (4GH)

Principal's Award: Khloe Nield for caring for nature and God's creatures





▶ **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

27<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*‘The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy.’*

# 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

Tues 1.30 pm Funeral Mass – Kevin Cummins

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place  
(All welcome)

Thurs 10.30 am - Ballan  
Fri 9:30 am (All Saints Day)

Fri 6:30 pm (Vigil Mass All Souls Day)

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

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: Kevin Cummins

Anniversaries: Phillip Devereux

Unwell: Socorro De Chavez, 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 Gleeson

Finance Officer  
Jackie Wrigglesworth

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.



## UPCOMING DATES

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
October 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6.30 pm – Presbytery

Caring Group  
November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2pm – Church Hall

Remembrance Mass  
November 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6pm – St. Alipius Church

Melbourne Cup Luncheon  
November 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am – Parish Hall

Liturgy Committee Meeting  
November 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm - Presbytery

Anniversary Mass & Picnic  
December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm – Church and Grounds

## MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

The Melbourne Cup Lunch is only a week away. You are invited to join us for a luncheon to celebrate the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday 5 November from 11 AM in St Alipius Hall. Tickets are \$25 per person. Lunch of chicken, salad and dessert will be supplied. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be supplied. Please confirm numbers with the parish office by 31 October. Prizes for the best male and female fascinators. Sweeps will be available. If you can bring a salad or a dessert, please contact the parish office.

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1096
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$1058.70

If you have any queries about your Planned Giving, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office and we would be very happy to help out where we can.

**This week: No counting**

## OFFICE HOURS



Please note that for the coming week, the office will only be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please ensure that anything for the bulletin is submitted by 11am on Thursday.

## MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Our annual Remembrance Mass, celebrating the lives of those who have passed away in the last 12 months will be at 6:00 PM on Saturday 2 November at St Alipius. These people will be remembered at all masses that weekend. A cuppa will follow the 6:00 PM mass at St. Alipius and a cuppa will follow the 10:30 AM mass at Buninyong. Please bring a plate if you are in a position to do so.

## ST BRENDAN'S PROGRAM @ DUNNSTOWN

Damascus College presented their plans to a well-attended community forum during the past week. Commencing in term 2 2025, groups of 75 Damascus College Year 8 students will attend school at the St Brendan's Campus in Dunstons, travelling out from the Mt Clear Campus each day. Damascus is keen to engage the Dunstons community to ensure the legacy of the community is carried forward.

## BAPTISMS

Zoe Michelle and Rowynn Louise Nightingale  
Children of Nathan and Tenielle

Maggie Anne McCarthy  
Child of Troy and Carla

*"You are precious in my sight ... and I love you."*  
Isaiah 43:4

## PARISH ANNIVERSARY – DEC 14<sup>TH</sup>

December 14<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching and plans to acknowledge the various parish anniversaries are progressing well. Please join us at the 6pm Mass on the Saturday evening and stay with us following mass to share a meal and enjoy the displays. The bbq will be sizzling, tables and chairs set up and music playing in the background as you reminisce and catch up with people you may not have seen for a while. A coffee van will be available as will an ice-cream in a cone. BYO picnic and if you would like more than a sausage. Spread the word please to anyone who may be interested in joining us. For more information please contact the parish office. The next meeting will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Parish Hall. There will be a working bee or two in the week prior to this, but more information regarding this will be made available closer to the date.

## PREPARATION OF NATIVITY SCENE

On Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup>, we plan to hold a working bee at 5pm to prepare the outdoor Nativity Scene for the season of Advent which begins on December 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a big job and the figures which make up the scene are heavy, so we are hoping that a number of people might like to volunteer to come along and help out. With a number of helpers, this will not take more than an hour. If you are in a position to help, please contact the parish office.

## LET'S BUILDING RESPECTFUL CHURCH COMMUNITIES

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) has developed a brochure and poster as resources for parishes and the wider Catholic community to raise awareness and work to prevent family violence. Parishioners are invited to join the launch on Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 1.45pm – 3.00pm via zoom. RSVP by 30 October 2024 at <https://www.tvbooking.com/events/landing/1294275>.

Enquiries to Kate Stilwell, email [office@css.org.au](mailto:office@css.org.au)

## THE SYNOD

**Synod preacher: Even if delegates are disappointed by results, God is at work through the synod.**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) Even if some members of the Synod of Bishops end up feeling disappointed by the results of the synod, "God's providence is at work in this assembly, bringing us to the Kingdom in ways that God alone knows," the spiritual adviser to the synod on synodality told them.

"The triumph of the good cannot be frustrated," and "we may be at peace whatever the result" of the synod's monthlong second session, said Cardinal-designate Timothy Radcliffe, offering his morning reflection in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall Oct. 21. He also cautioned people, especially the media, against trying to look for "startling decisions, headlines" to come out of the final text, saying, at a Vatican briefing with reporters, that that would be a mistake.

The document will need to be read as something seeking to bring deep renewal of the church not "through dramatic decisions, but it evokes new ways of being a church in which we relate to each other much more profoundly in Christ and to Christ much more profoundly with each other," he said at the afternoon briefing.

"I think many people in the synod, out of the synod, in the church, still struggle to understand the nature of the synod.

They still tend to see it as a parliamentary body which will make big administrative, structural changes. I think it's natural because that's the model that dominates our world," he told reporters. "But we've seen and it's been repeated endlessly that is not the sort of body it is." The world is experiencing growing "violence and war, social disintegration. You've only to look at the election process in the United States to see how there is a danger of social collapse," he said.

"In this perilous difficult moment, I think the church has a very particular vocation to be a sign of Christ's peace and Christ's communion and that means all sorts of steps which will not make headlines."

"Christ has set us free," he said, and "our mission is to preach and embody this freedom."

This freedom, however, has two features: "It is the freedom to say what we believe and to listen without fear to what others say, in mutual respect," he said, and it is the freedom of knowing that God always works for the good of those who love God.

"God's providence is gently, silently at work even when things seem to go wrong," Cardinal-designate Radcliffe said.

"If we have only the freedom to argue for our positions, we shall be tempted by the arrogance of those who, in the words of (Jesuit Father Henri) de Lubac, see themselves as 'the incarnate norm of orthodoxy.' We shall end up beating the drums of ideology, whether of the left or the right," he said.

"If we have only the freedom of those who trust in God's providence but dare not wade into the debate with our own convictions, we shall be irresponsible and never grow up," he added. "God's freedom works in the core of our own freedom, welling up inside us."

## CLERGY JUBILARIANS MASS 2024 – CHOIR

Mass to celebrate the 2024 Clergy Jubilarians will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 5.00pm. The 2024 clergy Jubilarians are: 50 years – Frs Eric Bryant, Paddy Mugavin & Michael O'Toole, 25 years – Fr Ed Moloney. All are welcome to attend. Members of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to join the choir for this Mass. Choir practice will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass) in the Cathedral.

## CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet on Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in St. Alipius Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a small plate to share.

# “What are we failing to see?”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's gospel reading brings to closure a long section of Mark's gospel that focuses on the journey of Jesus and his disciples from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Jericho in the south. Jericho is the final staging point in the journey to Jerusalem where the final act of the gospel drama will be played out. This section of the gospel (8:27-10:52) is prefaced by the story of a blind man who comes to sight in stages. It ends with the story of another blind man, Bartimaeus, who comes from blindness to sight, from insight to greater insight, and who joins Jesus on the journey to Jerusalem. On the intervening journey, Jesus endeavours to lead the Twelve out of their metaphorical blindness into an understanding of what it means to follow a suffering messiah. They remain for some time in their blindness, as subsequent events will demonstrate. The narrator creates an impression of urgency at this point in Mark's gospel. "They" come to Jericho and then leave. The intervention of Bartimaeus, who tries to attract the attention of Jesus by calling out from the roadside, threatens to delay the journey.

When he cries out for "mercy", many try without success to silence him. The "many" are people in the crowd who neither share the depth of Bartimaeus' faith nor grasp the nature of Jesus' mission of gathering in "the remnant of Israel, among them the blind and the lame" (Jeremiah 31:8). Those who try to silence Bartimaeus are a bit like the family of Jesus who tried to protect him from himself (Mark 3:31).

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*"Having heard the 'call' he follows Jesus 'on the way', the journey of faith."*

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When it is clear that the perception of the "many" is not shared by Jesus who tells them to "call him", we have an almost comical scene in which they do a complete about-face. It seems they want to please the authority figure no matter what. Bartimaeus offers a stark contrast to these people. He knows that Jesus has the power to bring the mercy of God into his life and the lives of those who wait by the roadside with faith in their hearts.

He receives the assurance from Jesus that his faith has made him well or, more literally, has "saved him". Having heard the "call", he follows Jesus "on the way", the journey of faith. At times we, like Bartimaeus, are aware of our blindness and wait desperately by the roadside for the right person or circumstances to come along and give us the heart to rise up and live the journey of faith. At times, we are like the "many" who think we know what is best for others and who try to silence the voices of those who interfere with our plans. At other times, we, like Jesus of Nazareth, respond to the cries for mercy and stretch out our hands to gather in those whose disabilities might otherwise leave them by the side of the road in the journey of life.

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**  
30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR  
Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Hebrews 5:1-6  
Mark 10:46-52

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR  
Deuteronomy 6:2-6  
Hebrews 7:P23-28  
Mark 12:28-3



**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)

