



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Wednesday 6th November 2024
Term 4 Week 5

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Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 7th Oct – Fri 20th Dec

Thursday 7th November

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

Friday 15th November

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

Friday 22nd November

2.40pm Assembly led by 5JW

Free *Wonka* movie night on school oval.

Wed 27th & Thurs 28th Nov

Year 5 Camp

Friday 29th November

Free Dress Day – gold coin donations for St Vincent de Paul, Ballarat East

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Thursday 12th December

Year 6 Graduation

Monday 16th December

Year 3 Camp

Tuesday 17th December

5pm Community Christmas Carols at school

Wednesday 18th December

Last 2024 day for students

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a special long weekend this week. The opportunity to down tools and enjoy some family time is a special treat at this time of year before we begin the pre-Christmas rush!

This week marks the middle week of term for us at school. From now on the teachers will be ensuring that the learning agenda continues while also doing the necessary assessments for students that need to happen at this time of year. School attendance is very important always, and none more so than at this busy time.

Our junior school students enjoyed their annual Sports Day last Friday. This is their opportunity to shine in the sports arena with their peers and in front of family and friends. We congratulate our students on a terrific day and of course, our staff who have worked to prepare the children for the big event.

Don't forget to come along to the Saint Francis Xavier Art Show on Thursday afternoon and evening (tomorrow). The children are all very keen to exhibit their work and we would love to see as many families as possible visiting the school from 3.45pm when our choir will be performing and the awards are presented. This is a very special event and all families and friends are most welcome to attend.

I wish you all an enjoyable shortened week at school this week and I look forward to seeing you at our school Art Show on Thursday evening at school.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



November Intentions

In November each year our Church remembers those who have died over the past twelve months. Starting with All Saints Day on November 1, we take time to reflect on loved ones and to pray for them.



God of Communion

Those we love remain with us for love itself lives on.
Those we love can never be more than a thought apart.
Cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone.
For as long as there is memory, they'll live on in the heart.
May we always pray for them.
May they always pray for us.
Amen.



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.

Music Showcase

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Music Showcase events last week. Performing in front of an audience is an important skill to develop and we are very proud of you! Special thanks to Mr. Dan West for coordinating this event for us, and to Hattie, Chris and Lauren for the work you have done with our children.

Art Show

Our Saint Francis Xavier Art Gallery will open its doors Thursday afternoon for one night only. Please come along and enjoy the work that our student artists have produced. You can be guaranteed a very pleasant evening.

Staff Changes

In last week's newsletter I was delighted to be able to announce some new staff for our school starting next year. Today I can add to that list by announcing that Mrs. Leonie Leviston will be joining our team next year. At the end of this year, we will be saying farewell to Ms. Hudson and Ms. Miki who will be setting off to explore the world, as well as Mrs. Walker and Mr. Walsh who will complete their time with us. We said farewell to Mrs. McMorrow last week who set off to prepare for the birth of her baby. Ms. Polkinghorne will be teaching Yr. 5 for the remainder of the school year. It certainly is a busy time of year!



Parking around our School

We wish to remind everyone that the management of traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day is always a concern. We are fortunate that there is very little non-school traffic in the mix at these times. If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained. We remind drivers to pull off to the left around the trees where the buses travel and U-turn to return down Fortune Street rather than cross directly across the traffic. (This is illegal!).

Our staff car park is not to be used as a pathway to either drop your children at school or pick them up. Car spaces are limited and the onsite car park is for staff cars only. Many thanks for your assistance with these matters.

Whooping Cough

Please note that we have had a recent report of whooping cough in the senior school. If your child exhibits any symptoms of whooping cough or any other contagious condition, please seek medical treatment and inform the school as promptly as possible.

Senior Choir performing at GMHBA RAP Launch

We were very excited and honoured to have our Senior Choir invited to perform at the GMHBA RAP Launch in Fyansford last Tuesday.

Our choir, led by Hattie and accompanied by our staff RAP leaders Rose and Jacinta, performed beautifully and impressed everyone at the launch.

The children performed two songs from 'Songtimes' - songs written to help keep one of the world's most ancient languages alive in the voices of both First Nations and non-First Nations people. Performing at the launch was a wonderful experience for our choir and we are very proud of the way in which they represented our school!





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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!



News from Environmental Education

Term 4 has started strongly for sustainability at SFX. Our ResourceSmart Schools facilitator Inga has been sharing insights into water, waste, biodiversity and energy for the past 2 weeks.

To celebrate Water Week Years 4, 5 and 6 played the water conservation game and worked together to complete a whole school water audit. This included checking for leaks, drips and working out all the sources of water at our school. Ask your students how many litres of water are used each time you do a full and half flush of the toilet **or** Ask your child how much of the world's water is clean and drinkable.

Foundation, 1 and 2's have been exploring habitat via the habitat game.

This gave them an opportunity to understand the impact that humans have on animals. With chanting like: "save our trees" it pretty clear that these young students are already well aware of the role they can play in caring for their earth.

Do you suffer from **asthma** or **hay fever**?

Grass pollen season is here



**Thunderstorm Asthma
can be life-threatening.**

Know the risks. Get prepared. Stay safe.



See your GP about
an asthma action
plan or hay fever
treatment plan



Avoid
thunderstorms -
go indoors
before and during
thunderstorms.



For forecasts &
alerts, get the
VicEmergency
app



Always carry
your medication
in grass pollen
season



Learn
asthma
first aid

Learn more



 Grampians
Health
Grampians Public
Health Unit

 my.gh.org.au/thunderstormasthma

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 3rd, 2024 Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

A teacher of the Law was there who heard the discussion. He saw that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer, so he came to him with a question: "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus replied, "The most important one is this: 'Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment more important than these two." (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

Gospel reflection: Jesus tells us that there are two very important rules that we should follow- the first is to love God and the second is to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Who is your neighbour? All people around the world are created and loved by God. We are all part of one big global family. We are all neighbours.

To love our neighbour means to treat everyone as we would wish to be treated. We like others to treat us with respect, to help us when we have a problem and to share with us, so this is what we are asked to do for our neighbours, both here and around the world. This also means caring for our common home and ensuring all people have equal access to world resources.

Our Challenge: What will you do to show your love for your neighbours throughout the world?
(Adapted from CAFOD website)



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Sport/Physical Education News

Division Cricket

Last Wednesday we had three teams participating in the Eureka Division Cricket tournament at Alfredton Rec Reserve. It was so good to see all teams trying their best, having fun and showing outstanding sportspersonship. There was some fantastic batting and bowling, and outstanding fielding shown by all players. A big thank you to the families that were there to support the teams, and to Ms Astbury and Mr Down for scoring and coaching on the day.



Junior Sports Day

We had perfect weather conditions last Friday for the Junior Sports Day at Russell Square. The excitement, energy and fun was on full display as the students participated in a number of fun and engaging activities as well as running events. Well done to all of the students on their efforts. A massive thank you and well done to the Yr 6 Sports Captains for their organisation and energy throughout the day to make it a magnificent experience for the Junior students. A big thank you to all of the families and friends that came along and supported the children also.





Term 4:

- 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 great week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

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▶ **SS PETER & PAULS**
701 FISKEN ST
BUNINYONG 3357



▶ **ST ALIPIUS**
82 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350



▶ **PARISH OFFICE**
84 VICTORIA ST
BALLARAT EAST 3350
PH 5332 6611
OPEN TUE – FRI
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3rd November 2024
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

'This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.'

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-east/

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tues 9.30 am (Public Holiday)

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place
(All welcome)

Thurs 10.30 am (Ballan)

Thurs 1.30 pm Funeral Mass (Peter
Blayney)

Fri & Sat 9:30 am

Sat 9:30 AM, 6:00 PM Vigil

Sun 9:00 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)
10:30 AM (2nd & 4th)

Ss Peter and Paul's

Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd & 4th)

10:30 AM (1st, 3rd & 5th)

Rosary – Thursday 11:00 AM

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: Ann Carey, Peter Blayney, Jim and Carmel Madden

Anniversaries: Eris Blood, Alexander Forbes,

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.



MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

The Melbourne Cup Lunch is on Tuesday in the St. Alipius' hall from 11am. Tickets are \$25 per person. Lunch of chicken, salad and dessert will be supplied. BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be supplied. There is still time to book in, but don't wait much longer! 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. A good day out is promised.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$801
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$318.20

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.

UPCOMING DATES

Melbourne Cup Luncheon
November 5th @ 11 am – Parish Hall

Baptism Preparation
November 7th @ 10 am or 5.30 pm – Mary Glowrey Room (Cathedral)

Liturgy Committee Meeting
November 7th @ 5pm – Presbytery

Anniversary Mass & Picnic Preparations
November 17th @ 3pm – Parish Hall

Anniversary Mass & Picnic
December 14th @ 6pm – Church and Grounds

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

The final edition of the ODC Magazine is now available in the church foyers. Take home a copy today to find out what's happening in the diocese. In this edition you can find out more about the Formation Sessions which have been happening throughout this year in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly coming up on November 15th and 16th which will consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in future.

PREPARATION OF NATIVITY SCENE

On Thursday November 28th, we plan to hold a working bee at 5pm to prepare the outdoor Nativity Scene for the season of Advent which begins on December 1st. 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.

CLERGY JUBILIARIANS MASS

Mass to celebrate the 2024 Clergy Jubilarians will be held on Thursday, November 14th 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.

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE MASSES



The remembrance of those who have died over this past year will be included in this weekend's Masses at Ballarat East and Buninyong.

Welcome to families and friends. The

Bungaree Parish will celebrate Mass at the Pootilla Cemetery on Sunday November 10th at 9.00am.

The Gordon Parish will celebrate Mass at the Gordon Cemetery on Sunday November 17th at 11.00am with Mass celebrated at Ballarat at 9.00am.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Paul has announced the appointment of Fr Andrew Hayes as Parish Priest of the Parishes of Apollo Bay and Colac as well as Supervising Priest for the Cororooke Parish, commencing January 15th 2025. Fr Michael O'Toole will be Priest in Residence in Apollo Bay, helping Fr Andrew.

COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE

Bishop Paul has informed parishes of the option of reintroducing communion from the chalice in parishes in the Diocese of Ballarat. The parishes of our Ministry District (Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon) will not take up this option at this stage.

OFFICE HOURS



Please note that for the coming week, the office will be closed on Tuesday due to the Melbourne Cup holiday. Apart from Tuesday, office hours will be as normal.

LIVES OF HONOUR: BALLARAT EAST AND THE GREAT WAR

St Paul's Anglican Church, Bakery Hill, extends an invitation to the launch of *Lives of Honour: Ballarat East and the Great War*. The book examines the lives of 177 World War One soldiers who were closely associated with the church, Monday November 11th 2024, 2.30pm Eureka Centre 102 Stawell St. S. Ballarat East. Dr Carolyn Holbrook will be the guest speaker. Entrance is free. Light refreshments and discounted copies will be available after the launch. Please indicate your intention to attend to adoggett1204@gmail.com, or calling 0401 007 42.

BALLARAT REFORM LEAGUE CHARTER 170TH ANNIVERSARY

Join Unions Ballarat Trades Hall and St Pauls to celebrate the foundation of Australia's democratic tradition at the site of the Monster meeting and the formation of the Ballarat Reform League – St Paul's Church, Monday November 11th 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS

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

Y.C.W. CRICKET CLUB

The Y.C.W. Cricket Club are gathering for lunch at the Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 1st December, 2024. All former players, families and supporters are welcome to attend. For further details please contact Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY CONCLUDES WITH THE FINAL DOCUMENT

The proposals include expanded women's leadership roles, greater lay participation in decision-making, and significant structural reforms. Among the most significant proposals is a call for strengthening pastoral councils at parish and diocesan levels. The document advocates for regular ecclesiastical assemblies across all Church levels — including continental — and heightened ecumenical dialogue.

The text calls for a revision in canon law, "clarifying the distinction and relation between consultation and deliberation and shedding light on the responsibilities of those who play different roles in the decision-making process." In a notable development, the document explicitly states there is "no reason or impediment" to prevent women from assuming leadership roles in the Church.

Furthermore, "the question of women's access to diaconal ministry remains open," and that discernment should continue. The text advocates for increased female participation in clergy formation and broader involvement in Church decision-making processes.

The document significantly expands the role of the laity in Church governance. It calls for their increased presence in synodal assemblies and all phases of ecclesiastical decision-making.

New procedures for selecting and evaluating bishops and expanded lay participation in diocesan leadership and canonical processes are proposed. The text also addresses accountability measures, calling for enhanced financial transparency and protocols for abuse prevention, declaring: "The need within the Church for healing, reconciliation, and the rebuilding of trust has resounded at every stage of the synodal process."

RCIA FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

On Thursday November 28th, we will be holding an information session for families who are looking to know more about the RCIA for children. This program is for children over seven years of age who wish to become Catholics. The program itself, will run in early 2025 over a period of weeks. If you know of anyone who may be interested in attending this session, please ask them to contact the parish office

“Listen, Listen Again and Keep on Listening.”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

A dear friend of mine used to say that the first rule, the first commandment, is to listen, that the second rule is to listen again and that the third is to keep on listening. Today's gospel would seem to confirm that insight. It is in being heard that broken spirits are healed and that peace reigns in the hearts of those who have been hurt. Love of God and love of neighbour come from being attentive to God and from being attentive to God's presence in all that is.

Jesus is presented in today's gospel as a Jew who knows and observes the Law of Moses. He wins the respect of a scribe, a specialist in the Law, who has overheard him debating with the Sadducees. Jesus recognises the sincerity of the scribe and takes seriously the question that this teacher of the Law puts to him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" He prefaces his response with the words of Deuteronomy 6, "Hear/listen O Israel."

While love of God is said to be the first commandment, there is no love without the prior disposition to hear, to listen, to pay attention.

It is a love that derives from attention to and gratitude for God's liberating action in the lives of God's people.

Israel has known the unconditional love of God. Those who know anything about human behaviour would probably agree that the experience of unconditional love engenders an increased capacity for love. For the Jews, including those who throw in their lot with Jesus the Jewish Galilean, to love one's neighbour is to keep the second commandment of Leviticus 19:18, "...you shall love your neighbour as yourself".

In the Markan schema, goodness and fitness for the "kin-dom" or "empire of God" are never guaranteed by status or position or call or ethnicity or gender or by any other contingency of existence. Everyone has choices. In first-century Judaism, love of God was expressed in worship and in the prayers and rituals of daily life. Love of others likewise found expression in action, not only in care of family and close friends, but also in support of "the poor and the needy and the stranger."



To seek peace was also a feature of neighbourly love, a feature that is so desperately needed at this time of widespread conflict. To accept and follow such a program of peace is to be, with the scribe, "not far from" God's kin-dom or empire.

Contemporary sensibilities might lead us to include the other-than-human among the neighbours or "kin" we are called to love. If we learn to pay loving attention to the earth and all that inhabits it, the whole human community, the birds and the beasts, the plants and the soil, the sky and the sea, then the words of Jesus might truly find a home in our hearts: "You are not far from the kin-dom of God".

THIS WEEK'S READINGS 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 12:28-34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 17:10-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44



BALLARAT FIRE BRIGADE OPEN DAY



Follow us on
Facebook



9th of
★ November ★
2024

10 AM - 4 PM

Corner of Barkly Street & East Street,
Ballarat East

Road Crash
Rescue
Demonstration
2 PM

INFORMATION SESSIONS



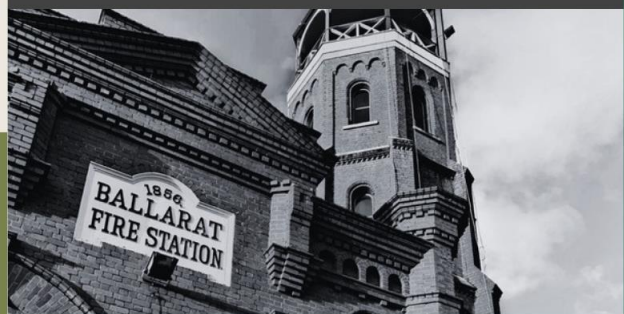
10:30 AM
"CAN I CAN'T I" -
RESTRICTIONS DURING THE
FIRE DANGER PERIOD &
HOW TO REGISTER A BURN-
OFF



11:30 AM
HOME FIRE SAFETY



3 PM
HOW TO PREPARE YOUR
PROPERTY FOR THE
SUMMER SEASON



Activities
for Kids



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

