



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Term 4 Week 6

P.O. Box 2027  
Ballarat East VIC 3354  
Phone: 5331 6311  
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Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 4 (11 weeks)

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

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

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

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

2.40pm Assembly led by 5JW

6pm Free *Wonka* movie  
night on school oval.

Bring your own food, drinks  
and chairs or blankets.

#### 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

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

End of Year School Mass

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

Year 6 Graduation

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

Year 3 Camp

#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

5pm Community Christmas  
Carols at school

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Last 2024 day for students

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

We held a special assembly at school today to acknowledge Remembrance Day. The students prayed for peace in our world, and we paused for one minute to honor those who have given their time, and even their lives, to ensure that peace reigns in our world.

For many of us, peace is something that we take for granted. We are fortunate enough to live in a world where we can move freely regardless of our race, religion or political views. This isn't necessarily the case for all people. We are told that there are at least 30 active wars operating across our world at any one time and some of these have been active for generations. Just watching the evening news reminds us of the hostilities which seem to cause hatred across countries instead of peace.

In schools today we believe that it is important to learn from the past. We don't dwell on the violence of war, but we do teach the importance of working for peace. Stopping to remember those who have done this in the past is very important and hopefully our children will learn to be the peacemakers of the future.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



Gracious God,

We thank You for the bravery and dedication of the men and women who served selflessly for our freedom. May we honor their memory by living lives that reflect gratitude and service to others.

*"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."* (John 15:13)  
We thank You, Lord, for their sacrifice.  
Amen.

### SFX Art Show

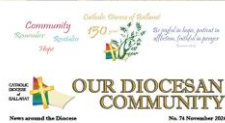
What a great evening we had last Thursday when we opened our Art Show to the school community. The children should all feel very proud of their works of art, and I am always amazed at their ability to explore such creativity. Well done children! Special thanks to Ms. Jacinta Molloy and her team of dedicated workers who made sure that the children's art was so beautifully displayed.

### Repairs to Basketball Courts

We will have restricted play areas over the next two weeks while some urgent repairs are being undertaken to the basketball court fencing. With good weather and great tradespeople we are hopeful that things will be back to normal as soon as possible.



The link for the November 2024 edition of "Our Diocesan Community" is <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ODC-October-2024-web.pdf>



**The Second Hand Uniform Shop** is happy to take donations of clean second hand uniforms. Please drop your donations into the school office.



### Religious Education News

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 10th, 2024      Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

**Gospel:** Mark 12:38-44

As he taught them, [Jesus] said, "Watch out for the teachers of the Law, who like to walk around in their long robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplace, who choose the reserved seats in the synagogues and the best places at feasts. They take advantage of widows and rob them of their homes, and then make a show of saying long prayers. Their punishment will be all the worse!"

As Jesus sat near the temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on. (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

#### Gospel reflection:

In this story, Jesus commented that the woman gave everything that she had, while the people who had lots of money just gave a little bit of what they had left over.

Jesus wants us to be generous and to share what we have with others. This is hard but we need to think – are we holding on to more than we need, like the rich people in Jesus' story? Could we give a bit more or have we shared all that we can?

*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.*

Jesus also shows us in this reading that everyone has something that they can give, even if at first it does not look like much.

We can give money, but we can also give other things too. Can you think of what else we can give and share with others? We can give our time – by listening to others, by being there for them when they are sad or worried. We can give our talents – for example you could sing a song, or paint a picture, or make someone laugh.

**Our Challenge:** Can you think of something that you can give and share with others? *(Adapted from CAFOD website)*



### Remembrance Day

At Assembly this morning, we had a special liturgy marking Remembrance Day. The 11th of November marks the significant occasion of when army officials in 1918 agreed that, after 4 years, all fighting in World War I would end. On this day, we remember all those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

In our liturgy we looked at special symbols, such as the poppy, rosemary, our flags, war medals, candles and the Bible. We focused upon peace in our own communities and how we are called to be the voice of change in our world. At the end of our special liturgy, we observed a minute of silence as a sign of respect and a time for reflection.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**



Throughout Term Four, we are committed to the use of **Seesaw** (our digital portfolio platform) as part of our assessment and reporting schedule. Our teachers and children take great pride in the assessment tasks, learning samples and learning experiences showcased in each child's Seesaw portfolio. It is always our aim to strengthen our home-school partnerships through the use of Seesaw, while also enhancing student voice. Each learning piece in the portfolio is selected because it is an authentic representation of what each child has achieved, indicates their next steps in learning and shares insights into your child's educational experience. Please interact with each of the Seesaw posts uploaded by either liking or commenting on the learning being shared - it really does put a smile on our learners' faces when they see a comment from home!

Thank you for the support you are giving to Seesaw. The below details highlight this.

### Week of November 3 - November 10 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



**190**

New Student Posts



**13**

Comments



**NAPLAN dates for 2025.** Please add these to your calendar.

NAPLAN 2025 for our Year 3 and 5 students will commence on Wednesday 12th March - Monday 24th March.

Enjoy your week,



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



### State Athletics

A huge congratulations and well done to Archer Spackman (6PB) for his efforts at last week's Victorian Primary Schools State Track and Field Carnival. Archer qualified for the 800m and 1500m final where he finished an amazing 4th and 2nd respectively. We are incredibly proud of your efforts Archer and look forward to what your athletic career may bring!

### 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.

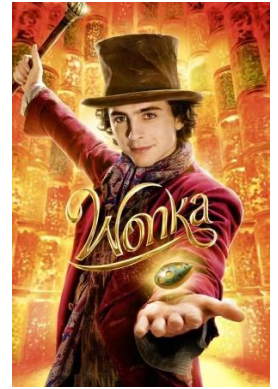


Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator



### Outdoor Movie Night at SFX!

Join us for a fun-filled family evening under the stars! 6pm Friday, 22nd November on our school oval. Bring your own food, drinks, and seating (chairs or blankets) for a cozy setup. We can't wait to see our school community come together for this special night! Let us know if you're coming! We'll post a comment on Facebook—please "like" it if you're planning to attend so we can get an idea of numbers. Feel free to tag friends and share the post!




*SFX*  
Christmas raffle  
**DONATIONS**

**SFX Parents & Friends association are seeking your support for donations for our Christmas raffle**

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO OWNS A BUSINESS THAT COULD OFFER A SERVICE OR WOULD DONATE AN ITEM FOR OUR SFX CHRISTMAS RAFFLE?

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DONATION BUT ARE UNSURE HOW YOU CAN HELP?

PURCHASE A GIFT VOUCHER, DONATE A HAMPER,  
PURCHASE AN ITEM TO DONATE

ALL BUSINESSES & FAMILIES WHO MAKE DONATIONS WILL BE PROMOTED IN ORDER FOR OUR SFX COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THEM THE SAME MANNER THAT THEY HAVE SUPPORTED OUR SCHOOL

*Please drop any donations into the front office, or if you have any questions contact Steph Nunn on 0466 096 488*







▶ **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

10<sup>th</sup> November 2024

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*‘This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.’*

# 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**  
Tues 5:30pm  
Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place  
(All welcome)  
Thurs 9:30am  
Sat 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:

Anniversaries: Connor Prunty, Phillip Crosbie

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.



## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

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

Supporting our parish priests	\$1145
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$478

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.

Counting Team this week: No. 5

## UPCOMING DATES

**Anniversary Mass & Picnic Preparations**  
November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm – Parish Hall

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

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

## Y.C.W. CRICKET CLUB

The Y.C.W. Cricket Club are gathering for lunch at the Robin Hood Hotel on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD MASS & THANKSGIVING MASS: DEACON CAY TRINH

Deacon Cay Trinh will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, November 23, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.30am. All welcome to attend. A light lunch will follow in the Hall. For those not able to attend, the Mass will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/mbXDPuGpoYg?feature=share>

## BAPTISMS

**Arley Rowland**  
Child of Marc & Alisha

**Emmersyn Mullane**  
Child of Troy and Kylee Mullane

**Lenny Smith**  
Child of Adrian Smith and Danielle Breust

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

## CLERGY JUBILARIANS MASS

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

## FAREWELL TO MARK BROMLEY

After 36 years working in the Finance Office of the Diocese of Ballarat, Mark Bromley has retired. Since 2017 Mark has worked part – time after his years as Business Manager for both the Diocese and the CDF. In these recent years he has provided administrative support to the admin officers of the parishes across the diocese. Mark's willingness to travel 'from the Murray to the Sea' to provide in-person support to parish finance committees, clergy and admin officers has been greatly appreciated. We wish him well for his retirement and offer our thanks to Mark.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:adoggett1204@gmail.com), or calling 0401 007 42.



## RCIA FOR CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

On Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup>, 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

## CONGRATULATIONS JOHN O'BRIEN

Congratulations to parishioner John O'Brien, who was last week presented with a 'Lifetime Achievement' award through the City of Ballarat's Seniors Awards for 2024. John's award recognizes his volunteer work in many areas, including the Brown Hill Cricket Club, Auskick and the Brown Hill Progress Association. Well done John!

## MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who attended our Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon. It was a very successful and enjoyable day by all who attended. Congratulations to our winners for the day. It was a great day which raised \$392.00 for the parish.



## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

The final edition of the ODC Magazine for 2024 is now available in the church foyers. Take home a copy today to find out what's happening in the diocese.

## PREPARING FOR THE 2024 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

*How does God want us to Lead and Govern for a Missionary and Synodal Church in the Diocese of Ballarat?*

The Diocesan Assembly will take place at Federation University, Mt Helen in the Albert Coates Building commencing Friday evening November 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 2024.

After the formation in preparation for the 2024 Ballarat Diocesan Assembly, the three Parishes of our Ministry District- Ballarat East (& Buninyong), Bungaree (& Clarkes Hill & Dunnstown), Gordon (& Ballan & Springbank) have delegated Rachel Allen & Cathy Prunty (Ballarat East Parish), Dianne Reynolds & Damian Ryan (Bungaree Parish) and Mark Conlan & Sue Daly (Gordon Parish) as the six delegates from our Ministry District. There are 29 Parishes across the Diocese – from the Murray to the Sea that have delegates to the Assembly together with delegates from Catholic agencies, Catholic organisations, entities, Religious Congregations, Diocesan Boards, Commissions, Councils and Panels as well as all Clergy of the Diocese, including Fr's Justin & Matt.

Following the Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia and the recently concluded Synod on Synodality, the methodology of the Assembly will include conversations in the Spirit with all delegates to table groups of up to eight with a facilitator trained and commissioned for this ministry.

The Assembly will be facilitated by Sr Karon Donnellan RSM (Leader of the Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea and previously a parishioner of Ballarat East). Many of the 17 table group facilitators belong to the Parishes of our Ministry District - Jo-Anne Bond, Donna Bryce, Rosemary Canavan, Mark Hogbin, Martin Ryan and Loretta Sheppard. In addition to the Parish delegates and the table facilitators, others from Parishes of our Ministry District who are delegates are Bridget Aitchison (ACU), Matt Byrne (DOBCEL), Anne Eskdale (Diocesan Pastoral Planning Panel & Personnel Advisory Board), Sr's Berenice Kerr & Veronica Lawson (Sisters of Mercy), Sharon Lehtonen (DOBCEL) and Fiona Tonkin (Marriage Tribunal). Jane Collins has been central to the preparation of the Assembly as well as colleagues in the Pastoral Ministry Office Julie Boyd and Fran Peterkin. In all we have many from the Parishes of our Ministry District that are significantly involved, not only the six delegates but also as delegates from other entities, table facilitators and parishioners who work for the Diocese in the Pastoral Ministry Office and those who seek to support them.

# “A Woman Who Gives Without Counting the Cost.”

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whether the longer or shorter gospel reading is selected for today's liturgy, the literary context deserves attention. Jesus is teaching the crowds in the Jerusalem Temple. He knows the vulnerability of many of the people around him and issues a warning about the grandiose behaviour of the Jerusalem scribes. The scribes were generally learned men on whom the people relied for rulings in matters of sacred law as well as for drawing up contracts and other important documents. They commanded the respect of many of the people. Jesus is not impressed by the behaviour of some of the scribes. He sees their pomposity as a mask for dishonesty and exploitation: they will receive the “greater condemnation”. They “devour the houses of widows” and hide behind the pretext of long prayers.

Widows included women who had lost their husbands through death or divorce as well as single unmarried women. They were women alone without male protection in a patriarchal society and without the benefit of a social security system.

They were dependent for survival upon the care of family and community. Jesus' words of condemnation are strong words that will understandably provoke a reaction. It is no surprise that the Jerusalem scribes are among those who later conspire to kill Jesus (Mark 14:1).

It is easy enough to be taken in by the posturing of those who present as superior and who look for status recognition. It is also easy to miss the generosity of those on the edge even if it is happening before our very eyes. The gospel context presents Jesus as attuned to the plight of the widows. He now notices and draws the attention of his disciples to the action of one particular “destitute” widow. Her tiny contribution to the treasury of two copper coins for the upkeep of the Temple is far more significant than the big sums contributed by the wealthy, ostentatiously and out of their excess.

Is this woman being presented as the victim of an unjust system that extracts from her what she cannot afford, as some commentators insist?



Is the Markan Jesus presenting her as a model of discipleship who, like Jesus of Nazareth, gives her all, despite the exploitation she has known? Is she refusing to be a victim by making her own choice to contribute all that she has? We may not need to choose just one interpretation from among the many. Every powerful story allows for multiple interpretations. It is clear that this woman's action provides a striking contrast to that of the scribes, like the action of another woman who, a little later in the story, breaks a precious jar and pours an abundance of healing ointment over the head of Jesus as he faces the prospect of death. As the gospel draws to a close, then, we find two stories of extravagantly generous unnamed women, stories told in memory of their gospel foolishness.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS 32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Daniel 12: 1-3  
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18  
Mark 13: 24-32



**KELLY SPORTS**



**FREE!**

**KELLY SPORTS Ballarat is offering  
kids to come and try one session for  
**FREE!!!****

**Don't miss the chance to try KELLY  
SPORTS before the school year ends**

Enroll online at  
[www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat](http://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 [ybballarat.org.au](http://ybballarat.org.au)







Queries: Coach Sean  
0411 602 204



# Summer

## HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**DECEMBER**  
MON 16th - THUR 24th

**JANUARY**  
THUR 2nd - FRI 31st

All kids welcome! Over these Summer Holidays Kelly Sports will be running our Summer Holiday Program, tons of fun to be had with all kinds of sports, fun activities, challenge days, and more!



Water gun / Water balloon fights  
to keep cool while having fun!

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



Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat  
8am - 5pm Weekdays  
Kinder - Grade 6  
Enroll online

[www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat](http://www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat)