



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 18th November 2024
Term 4 Week 7

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 7th Oct – Fri 20th Dec

Friday 22nd November

2.40pm Assembly led by SJW

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

Bring your own food, drinks
and chairs or blankets.

Wed 27th, Thurs 28th & Fri 29th 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

Friday 6th December

End of Year School Mass

Thursday 12th December

Yr 1 Excursion

Creative Play & Arts Centre
& Ballarat Ninja

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,

What does resilience mean to you? Like so many terms today, it can be thrown around until it becomes a catch-all phrase for general wellbeing and mental health. At risk of falling into that territory, I have had cause to reflect on resilience over the past week and it has proven worthwhile.

Across all of our schools today we focus a great deal of attention on student wellbeing and mental health. Our students are taught skills to assist them to express their feelings and to cope with the challenges that life brings our way. They learn that feelings are valid and that emotions are part of being human. They learn that how we act is so often driven by our emotions and that this can be constructive or not. By learning that every person has a voice, our students come to understand that they can speak up when they need to and that they may need to continue speaking up until they are heard. Everyone deserves to be taken seriously, regardless of age or level of maturity.

In working with our children today we also have to teach that not everything will always fall the way we might like. That doesn't necessarily mean that we have been harshly dealt with but that we are in fact, part of something bigger than ourselves. Big picture thinking is often required when it comes to problem solving. We might not always get what we want but how we react to that is something that we can control. Not necessarily an easy thing to learn at any age! Resilience is not just a buzz word; it is something that we can learn from an early age and something that we can all practice every day.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



God of Creation,

You made this world for us and everything in it is Your gift.
We ask you to bless our presence here among your beauty,
Guide us to be true Stewards of this planet
Be with us as we plan for a bright future
Created in your love.
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.*

Big News from the Parents & Friends



- ✓ Don't forget our HUGE MOVIE NIGHT on 22nd November (this Friday) on the top oval at school. Bring along a picnic and let's enjoy *WONKA* together at a special sunset screening commencing at 6.00pm. IT'S FREE!
- ✓ Have your purchased tickets in our SPECIAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE? Great prizes can be won and just in time for Christmas!
- ✓ Make sure you have marked our COMMUNITY CAROLS in your diary. It commences at 5.00pm on Tuesday 17th December and it promises to be a great evening of super entertainment!



Vale Robert Page

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Robert Page this week. Robert, or *Pagie* as he was known to many, was husband to Mrs. Sarah Page who is a long serving member of our staff at Saint Francis Xavier. Pagie was a much loved member of our Villa community, often assisting with many 'behind the scenes' projects to support our teachers and the different learning programs provided by our school. *May he rest in peace in the care of an ever loving God.*



Baby McMorrow News

Maddy and Gerard introduce you to their little girl Fíadh Rose McMorrow (pronounced Fee-ah.) She was born last Wednesday 13th November at 1:50pm, weighing a tiny 2.5 kgs and 47cm long.

Maddy and Gerard are both over the moon and settling well into parenthood.



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 17th, 2024 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 13:27-32

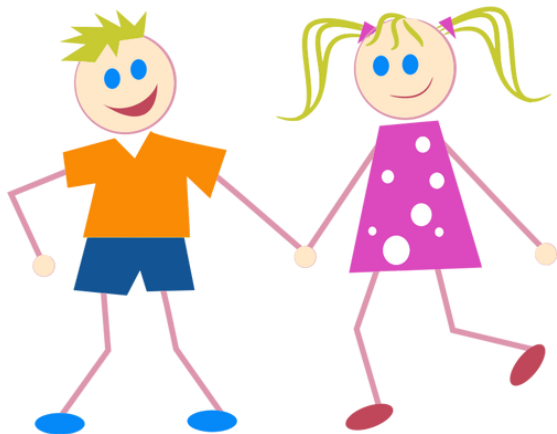
Learn a lesson from a fig tree. When its branches sprout and start putting out leaves, you know summer is near. So when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time has almost come. You can be sure that some of the people of this generation will still be alive when all this happens. The sky and the earth will not last forever, but my words will. (*Gospel passage taken from Contemporary English Version*)

Gospel reflection: We often prepare for special events. We get ready to welcome visitors. We prepare when there is going to be a new baby in the family. We prepare for a party or a meal. We get ready for the school play. We put up decorations to celebrate Christmas. At these times we might be on our best behaviour. Can you think of any other ways that you get ready or prepare for things?

In today's gospel Jesus talks about when "he will come again". He is trying to explain to his followers we should still try to be the best people we can be, not just for a special occasion, but in the way we live our lives. What kind of people should we be so that we are ready for Jesus?

We can try to be ready by doing all that Jesus asks of us- by loving God and one another, by helping other people, by living in peace with each other, by sharing what we have so that all people have enough and by looking after our beautiful world

Our Challenge: What will you do to live the way Jesus wants us to?



FREE DRESS DAY FOR ST VINCENT de PAUL

On Friday November 29 we will be holding our final casual clothes day for 2024!

All children are invited to bring a gold coin donation, with all proceeds going to our local Ballarat East St Vincent de Paul Chapter for their Christmas Appeal.

COOL DRINKS and CRUNCHY TREATS

In addition, from Monday November 25th until Thursday November 28th, our dedicated team of Mercy and Wellbeing Leaders will be selling lovely cold drinks (all sugar free) and snack packs of chips in the undercover area for \$2!

Grab yourself a little treat and help a cause that is close to our heart 💖

We look forward to inviting our local SVDP members to our Assembly to present them with the money we have raised. This money will assist them in providing support for many food insecure families this Christmas.





SFX has signed up to take part in the 2024 Reverse Advent Calendar IN SCHOOLS program! Reverse Advent Calendars Ballarat are partnering with the Uniting Church, Anglicare, Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul to distribute boxes of non-perishable food and toiletries to those in our community experiencing food insecurity. Last year over 1300 boxes were donated and distributed locally. If you or someone you know could benefit from a filled box, please register with one of these agencies.

What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

Unlike a regular Advent Calendar where the focus is on receiving a treat every day **the Reverse Advent Calendar takes the focus off receiving and places the focus on giving to others.**

To support this wonderful Ballarat initiative, our school is collecting donations of **SPREADS** to help fill any donated boxes that need extra items. This way, we can help ensure that every box recipient receives a special gift this Christmas. Join us in spreading kindness and making a difference in our community!



Your contributions will be added to
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR BOXES
 to be given to families in need.



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

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.

Child Safety Standard 4: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

There's an understanding in our communities nowadays that perfectionism is a favourable thing - as in, 'being perfect'. That it's something we should always try for, yet the reality is quite different. Perfectionism leads us to place irrationally and often impossible expectations on us. Essentially, it causes us to raise the bar so high, that we commonly wind up believing that we are failures - consumed by disappointment and self-blame. This can be very unsettling to witness in our students and it can be tough for us to know how first to help. It can begin when our students are very young and grow with them in passion.

We need to challenge their reasoning and self-talk by using empathetic directives like "I can see you're angry/upset because you want this to be perfect". Then have the child reflect on the following questions:

"What's the worst thing that could happen?"

"What's a more positive way to think about this?"

"What part of the problem could we solve now?"

Being open with our students when we make errors and talking about how we grow from them is an easy way to comfort the child's unrealistic self-expectations. In the attached [SchoolTV link](#), there is some information about the podcast Raising Good Humans and the episode focus of 'Mitigating Perfectionism in Your Parenting'. Here is a quick overview of what to expect if you click 'listen': With one kid, you're terrified that your child is gonna flunk out of high school because they got a bad grade. The other, you're anxious that they're putting too much pressure on themselves because they're doing homework before you've had your morning coffee. Dr. Aliza chats with Dr. Sasha Heinz, development psychologist and mindset coach, as they navigate the perfectionism mindset. By clicking the above link, it will take you to the SchoolTV website where you can listen to the podcast from!

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Curriculum News

Seesaw

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. 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!

Congratulations to our families who have made a comment on their child's Seesaw post from last week. We have increased our comments by over double from last week. Thank you.

Seesaw

**Week of November 10 - November 17
at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East**



123

New Student Posts



27

Comments

Preparing for 2025

In the next few weeks teachers will be handing over important information to your child's 2025 class teacher to further enhance your child's transition to their new learning environment. Each child's Student Profile is updated, with professional discussions and learning taking place in these sessions in preparation for 2025. We thank our children, teachers and families for their positivity and commitment to ensuring our children transition with success and a positive mindset.

Enjoy your week,



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

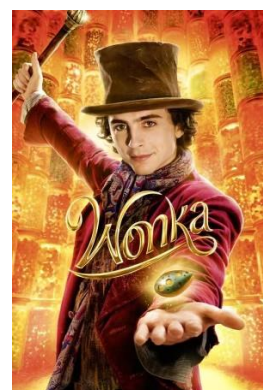
P&F News



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!





Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 15th November Hosted by 2RR Theme: Respect.

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

FLH	Harlee Answer & Leo Answer	4GH	Evie Speirs and Christian Wright
FGJ	Ava Segrott & Harry Jolly	4ML	Kayden Finley and Ella Crumpton
FTW	Harper Stevenson & Lachie Skewes	4BO	Sibella Moore and Jackson Roberts.
FMM	Ella Finley & Aria Steinman	5CC	Luella Dunstan & Hudson Rowland
1JS	Spencer Manning & Carter George	5MA	Evie Tuffen & Charlie Kersley
1EM	Harriet Howard and Charlotte Carter	5JW	Nic Green and Aila Glab
1MV	Olive Anderson and Mayo Baruwa	6PB	Chelsea Crowe and Stella Reus
2RR	Nathalia Abraham and Rory Dunne	6ZA	Pippa Dalton & Mannix Treacy
2CK	Lilly Bye and Damilare Baruwa	6MM	Mitch Kane and Mabel Reus
2JS	Oskar Olszewski and Charlie Irving	EE	Zarli Backman & Evie Answer
3JE	Ned Kersley and Abbey Williams	PA	Hamish Lloyd and Lyla Harney 5CC
3JV	Leighton Troon and Charlize Simpson	VA	Scarlett Govan, River Fedke, Harvey Slater (2CK)
3DW	Milla Kingston and Casey Hartup	PE	
		Tch	Lucy Elliot & Joe Trigg
Principal's Award: Charlie Ryan for always demonstrating the value of respect for 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

17th November 2024

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

'He shall gather his elect from the four winds.'

St Alipius parish

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

MASS TIMES

St Alipius

Tues 5:30pm

Wed 11:00 am Mercy Place

(All welcome)

Thurs & Fri 9:30 am

Fri 10 am Funeral Prayers (Buninyong)

Sat 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:

Robert Page

Anniversaries:

Unwell: Kathy Towns,
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	\$1016
Maintenance of parish buildings, office and administration expenses, grounds maintenance etc.	\$428

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. 6

UPCOMING DATES

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

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

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.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

HOLY HOUR: DEACON CAY TRINH

There will be a Holy hour held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 22nd November at 6PM. All welcomed to attend.

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/mbXDPuGpoYq?feature=share>

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.

BAPTISMS

Sophie Louise & Lincoln James Hetherington
Children of Nicholas and Brooke Hetherington

Annabelle Lee Webster
Child of Lukas and Erin Webster

Sienna Rose Leach
Child of James and Erin Leach

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

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.

LITURGY ROSTER

Preparation has started to organise the liturgy roster for December and January. Can you please let the office know of any dates you are not available. Christmas Eve masses are 6 and 9PM at St Alipius and 7:30PM at Ss Peter ad Pauls and 9Am Christmas Day at St Alipius. Also if you would like to volunteer for any roles please don't hesitate to contact the office to discuss this further.

THANK YOU

Russell and Natalie would like to acknowledge and thank parishioners for their prayers, cards and well wishes on their special day. It was lovely to have so many of you join us at the church to witness our marriage.



ANNIVERSARIES AT ST ALIPIUS' BALLARAT EAST

The following notice has now been shared across the Ballarat Diocese in preparation for our December anniversaries.

2024 is a significant year for St Alipius' Church in Ballarat East. With the broader community we are remembering the 170th anniversary of the Eureka rebellion on December 3rd including the involvement of Peter Lalor, Fr Patrick Smyth and the Catholics of the Ballarat Goldfields.

2024 is also the 150th anniversary of the opening of the existing St Alipius' Church in Victoria St. Mass was first celebrated on the Ballarat Goldfields at Brown Hill in 1851 before relocating to the existing Victoria St site in 1853 where the tent-church-school (as captured by artist Eugene Von Gerrard) was erected.

These anniversaries are providing parishioners with opportunities to acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our history as well the opportunity to look to the future with hope and healing.

All are welcome to gather at St Alipius Church for 6.00pm Mass on Saturday evening December 14th 2024. Following the Mass all are invited to stay in the Church grounds for a byo picnic tea in the Church grounds with a bbq available. Hot and cold drinks will be available. Photographic displays from across the years are being collated as well as stories of 'people of St Alipius' being recorded.

For more information, please contact the Ballarat East Parish office on 5332 6611

ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au. For catering purposes, please RSVP no later than December 7th.

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS



Making a Scene at Christmas will be held in the Bridge Mall from Wednesday December 4th until Friday December 20th, 2024.

Making a Scene at Christmas is a display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries.

You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh, see coins minted around the time the census was

called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America, & Europe (and one that went to Antarctica) and nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Entry is a gold coin donation. Every one welcome.

OLHC WENDOUREE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482A Gillies Street North, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0491 029217.

Thank you to all the very wonderful volunteers for all their work in making the Christmas Day lunch at OLHC so special over all the years it has been held. We welcome all those who would like to be with us as a guest or a volunteer on the day, and we are especially looking for a few fit people who might commit to two hours of their time between 2.00pm – 4.00pm to clean up/pack up. To volunteer, please phone 0467 683504.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

The 8th celebration of World Day of the Poor will be marked this Sunday, November 17th. Pope Francis has chosen a particularly meaningful theme this year dedicated to prayer, as we approach the beginning of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, "The prayer of the poor rises up to God" (cf. Sir 21:5). The Dicastery for Evangelisation website has resources for this day which includes the Pope's message and the Liturgical and Pastoral Handbook, "The Prayer of the Poor Rises Up" <http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/pcpne/en/attivita/qmdp/2024.html>

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Every year World's Children Day is celebrated on November 20, marking the date that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted. Child rights are human rights. They are non-negotiable and universal. But in too many places today children's rights are being misunderstood, disregarded or even denied and attacked. Upholding children's rights is the compass to a better world – today, tomorrow and into the future. By listening to children we can fulfil their right to self-expression, understand their ideas for a better world and include their priorities in our actions today. Discover what's happening and take part at <https://www.unicef.org/world-childrens-day>

Prayer for World Children's Day: We pray for the children of the world. May they live without fear of violence and war, without hunger or thirst, without sickness and poverty. May they experience the great love that Jesus has for each one of us. May they grow in faith so that we all walk together as Your children, in peace and love. May the spirit guide us to work together for a different world, a better world for all. Amen.

"Trust in God No Matter What."

Gospel reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the opening lines of today's gospel reading, there are clear echoes of two passages from the prophecy of Isaiah. The first passage reads, "For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light" (Isaiah 13:10). These images from Isaiah 13 present an unravelling of God's work in creation. The second passage likewise predicts a scenario that seems to reverse the Genesis creation account: "All the host of heaven [the constellations] shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall wither like a leaf withering on a vine, or fruit withering on a fig tree" (Isaiah 34:4). The prophet is using powerful poetic imagery to speak of God's judgment on the people of Israel who have strayed from their covenant relationship. The parallel images in Mark 13 are referenced to the aftermath of the "time of distress" associated with the destruction of Jerusalem, a time of intense suffering for the community of believers.

Jesus tells his disciples that, after all their suffering, strange cosmic phenomena will signal his return in glory and usher in a new age for God's people when the faithful will be gathered in. The message is intended to give comfort and hope to Mark's persecuted community of the late sixties or early seventies of the first century. Just as the new leaves on the fig tree signal the approach of summer, so too will the strange signs in the heavens signal Christ's coming and the onset of a new era, an end to the "time of distress". The message is thus one of encouragement for the community as they face an uncertain future rather than one of judgment.

The strange apocalyptic imagery and the ancient cosmology that has Jesus returning on the clouds need not distract the scientifically sophisticated modern reader from hearing the call to trust in God no matter what. This reading reminds us that the unravelling of God's work is more than a poetic image in our times.



The experience of seemingly endless war, the freak storms, the cyclones and other signs of climate crisis we have seen might well serve as reminders to attend more carefully to the preservation of planet Earth. We may also hear a call to pay closer attention to what the "other-than-human" Earth elements can tell us about God and God's ways.

Images of war-ravaged countries offer us constant reminders of what we are doing to our planet and of how attentiveness to both human and other-than-human habitat is integral to being who we are called to be. We live in a time of deep distress. Many of Earth's inhabitants face an unknown future. Let us trust in God and pray for the grace to respond with urgency to the cries of the earth and of those rendered homeless or desperately poor.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS Our Lord JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE

Daniel 7:13-14
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18:33-37

VILLAGE EARLY EDUCATION EUREKA



ENQUIRY TODAY ABOUT OUR 3YO & 4YO
FUNDED KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

*We are dedicated to providing the best quality
early education for children aged birth to five
years, including kindergarten programs.*



*With limited availabilities,
please contact Kelly today
to arrange a tour.*

528 Eureka Street,
Ballarat East

03 5332 1343
eureka@villageeducation.com.au



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

