



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
Term 1 Week 10

P.O. Box 2027  
Ballarat East VIC 3354  
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### Term 1 (10 weeks)

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Apr

#### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Student Led Conferences  
3.30-7.00pm

#### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

12.40pm Assembly led by  
1JS

Villa's Big Water Walk  
for Project Compassion

1.45pm Holy Week Liturgy  
led by 6ZA

Last day of Term 1  
2.20pm finish

### Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Apr – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Jul

#### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Easter Monday Public  
Holiday - Pupil free day

#### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Staff Professional  
Development Day  
Pupil free day

#### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Staff Professional  
Development Day  
Pupil free day

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Staff Professional  
Development Day  
Pupil free day

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday  
Pupil free day

#### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Term 2 Mass

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Mothers'/Special Friends'  
Day Liturgy

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

#### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Foundation/Prep 2026  
applications close

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we've already reached the end of the first term! The past ten weeks have flown by, filled with learning, growth, and connection. Our students have settled into routines, formed strong class communities, and supported one another—including welcoming new staff members. It has been wonderful to see our newest students adapt so well, growing in confidence each day. The first term is always a time of transition and transformation, and we are proud of how our school community has come together.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we reflect on the story of the Prodigal Son—often called the Parable of the Forgiving Father. This powerful message reminds us of our shared humanity and the mistakes we all make. While it may be easy to judge or condemn, Jesus encourages us to take a different approach. The father's act of forgiveness in the parable teaches us that grace and reconciliation are more powerful than resentment. True forgiveness allows us to heal and strengthen relationships, even when it feels challenging.

As we prepare for a well-earned Easter break, I hope each of you finds time for rest, reflection, and renewal. Easter is a time of rebirth, reminding us that growth often comes through challenges. May this season bring moments of joy, insight, and peace to you and your loved ones.

Wishing you all a blessed and happy Easter!

God bless,



Mark Hogbin

### Draw Us Forth

Draw us forth, God of all creation.

Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us.

Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts.

Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter.

- Author Unknown



- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
SSMC
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
4ML
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
3DGS
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
King's Birthday Public  
Holiday  
Pupil free day
- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 6 Urban Camp
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 2TS
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
1EM
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
No Assembly
- Term 3 (9 weeks)**  
Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Jul – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sep
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
Start of Term Mass
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FLP
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
1GT
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
2MH
- Mon 18<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug**  
Book Week
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
Fathers' Day/Special  
Friends' Liturgy
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
12.40pm Assembly led by  
FBOK

## End of Term – Start of Term



Classes conclude for first-term holidays on Friday 4 April at 2.20pm. Please note that second term commences for students on Monday 28 April and concludes on Friday 4 July. The week preceding the 28 April consists of Easter Monday which is a public holiday and ANZAC Day on Friday 25 April. The Director of Catholic Education has granted schools professional development time on Tuesday 22, Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 April. This means that while the staff are working, our families can enjoy an extra few days of holidays.

## End of Term Bus Changes – Important Information

We have been informed of changes to the CDC bus schedule which will effect arrangements for the end of term. CDC buses will be operating at their usual pick up times for all schools across Ballarat which means that while school finishes at 2.20pm children will not be collected by the buses until 3.30pm. It is important to note that the country bus is not affected by this change and these children will be collected by the country bus at 2.20pm. In light of this, we encourage families of students who usually travel on CDC buses to make alternative arrangements for their journey home. For families who are unable to do so, limited supervision will be provided at school until 3.30pm on that day. If you would like your child to be supervised until 3.30pm on the last day of term, please notify the office staff as soon as possible.

## Staffing Updates

\* We say farewell to Mr. Lawlor this week. Mr. Lawlor has been a valued member of the St. Francis Xavier staff for the past 5 terms teaching in the middle area of the school. We wish you well Mr. Lawlor for your future adventures and we thank you for your contribution to our school.

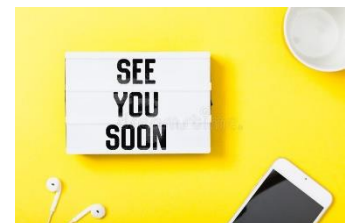


- \* We are excited to welcome Mrs. Sally Latchford to our staff team from the commencement of second term. Mrs. Latchford will be teaching in Year 4 each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- \* We welcome back Mrs. Caitlyn Keogh to our school next term. Mrs. Keogh is returning to us from family leave and will be teaching Year 4 each Thursday and Friday. Both Mrs. Latchford and Mrs. Keogh will be co-teaching in Year 4 for the next three terms.



## Where is Mr. Hogbin?

I will be taking leave next term until after the June long weekend. I am extremely fortunate to qualify for Principal enrichment leave which is granted to school Principals after 8 years of service. This time will allow me to pursue faith formation and professional development opportunities in the United Kingdom. While I am away, our school will be left in the very capable hands of Mrs. Jane Clark and Mrs. Jayne Mohr. How fortunate we are to have such a great team to lead our school.



### Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

#### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Start of Term/Mercy Day  
Mass

#### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

2.40pm Assembly led by  
FTW

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

2.40pm Assembly led by  
6MM

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

Junior Sports Day  
All Foundation-Year 2  
students

#### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Pupil free day

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

Melbourne Cup Public  
Holiday  
Pupil free day

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

No Assembly

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

No Assembly

#### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

No Assembly

#### Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Nov

Year 5 Camp

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

Final 2025 day for students

### Villa Walk for Water

As part of our commitment to Project Compassion during Lent we are inviting members of our school community to become involved in the Big Water Walk. This is an initiative of *Caritas Australia* who are working to assist communities across the region and the world. On Friday 4 April (last day of term 1) the students will work in relay teams to carry water around the oval as a symbol of their recognition of students their age in Samoa who have to carry water long distances each day. As part of their learning the students have been asked to collect a few small donations to support the establishment of a well in a village in Samoa which will cost \$4000. We realise that this is a lot of money, but through their learning we also hope to teach the children the value of contributing towards the welfare of others. How fortunate we are to live in a Country where we can take for granted fresh running water. Be on the lookout for sponsorship forms that were sent home last week and feel free to explore the Caritas website for more information about this worthy cause.

### Foundation/Prep Enrolment 2026 – Existing Families

Enrolments for children of **existing** and **new families** who start Foundation/Prep in 2026 are open.

Parents of **existing** and **new families** who have a child to start in 2026 - must complete the 'Enrolment Application Form' form by clicking on the following link to submit your application:

<https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/enrolments-application-form/>

**Please note this is an essential step for existing families in ensuring you child is enrolled in Foundation/Prep 2026.**

**Enrolments close 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**



We are happy to advise there is now an additional school uniform supplier option for our families.

Beleza School Uniforms, 22 Doveton St South, BALLARAT currently have the following items available in store:

- School tunic
- Woollen jumper
- Sports polo
- Socks
- Summer dress
- Blouse and
- Sports jumper

Beleza look forward to assisting you.

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - Sunday March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)**

**Gospel:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" So Jesus told them this parable:

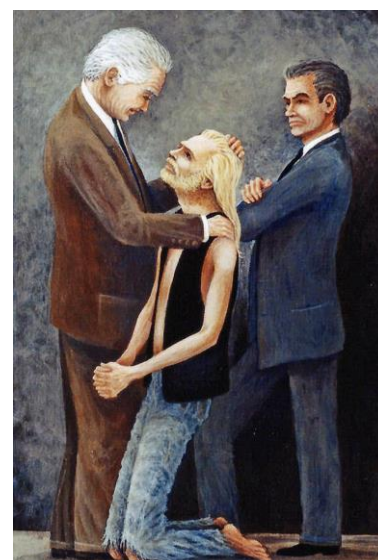
"There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers."' So he got up and started back to his father.

"He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms round his son, and kissed him. 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' But the father called his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' And so the feasting began.

"In the meantime the elder son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him, 'What's going on?' 'Your brother has come back home,' the servant answered, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.'

The elder brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. But he answered his father, 'Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!' 'My son,' the father answered, 'you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.'"

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*





### Year Four Sacrament of Reconciliation

This week we pray for many of our Year 4 children who will be making their Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Alipius Church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening. In the Catholic tradition, reconciliation is all about right relationships and forgiveness. As a part of their Religious Education lessons, the children have been invited to think about how we treat others with our words and our actions. We know sometimes we don't get it right and we miss the mark of what we are aiming to be. (The word 'sin' is the word the Church uses- it comes from ancient Hebrew and means 'missing the mark').

A big thanks to their teachers Mr Barclay, Ms Stahl and Mr Lawlor for supporting them in their sacramental journey. We wish the children and their families all the best at this special time.



As we reflect on the significance of Holy Week, this morning in our whole school liturgy we explored the symbols of this sacred time for Christians.

Our Foundation children sang "Sing It Hosannah!" to remind us of the story of Palm Sunday.

Thank you to all the family and friends who joined to share in our prayer- your support of our school's faith life enriches the spiritual growth of our entire community.



All our parents, friends and community members are warmly invited to join us as we remember the events of Holy Week. For Catholic Christians, this is a most sacred time when we remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

On **Friday April 4 at 1:45pm**, we will conclude our term with liturgy led by Year Six ZA.

Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

## Wellbeing News

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

After the excitement of the beginning of the 2025 school year as well as meeting their new teachers and friends, some children begin to realise this thing called education and school is going to take up a significant amount of their time!

Parents can assist in this by modelling positive behaviour and coping strategies, having a growth mindset and acknowledging how their children are feeling. The connection that you have with your child is the most important support that can be given!

For any little ones (or even big ones!) struggling with separation anxiety as they get back into the routines of school, SchoolTV has a wonderful [link](#) to a book titled 'Helping Your Anxious Child: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents' by Ronald Rapee PhD. The book includes the latest research and techniques for managing child anxiety. The book offers proven effective skills based in cognitive behavioural therapy to aid you in helping your child overcome intense fears and worries. You'll also find out how to relieve your child's anxious feelings while parenting with compassion.

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

## Curriculum News



### Student - Led Conferences at SFX:

**Tuesday 1st April** Your child(ren) will be showcasing their schoolwork and discussing learning goals with you through Student-Led Conferences this week. During Student-Led Conferences, your child will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation.

### Bookings are open on PAM

These meetings will last for 15 minutes, and **we encourage all families to attend**. Children must attend these sessions!

We have several goals for holding conferences using this format:

- **For parents/carers** – we hope that you will get to see rather than simply be told about your child's progress
- **For students** – we hope students will take more responsibility for their learning and can articulate what they can do
- **For teachers** – we want teachers to have more meaningful and impactful conferences with you building Home / School connections
- **For all** – we want to maximise our time together, create ways to partner with one another to support student success.

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## Questions to ask your child at Student - Led Conferences

Here are some starters for you to ask your child during their Student – Led Conference. These are suggestions, so please look them over and pick a few that you may like to ask!

1. What are you most proud of?
2. It makes me proud to see that ....
3. Can you tell me more about ...
4. I can tell that you improved in ....
5. What did you find challenging this term?
6. Did you reach your goals? Why/Why not?
7. What can we do together at home to support your learning?

We have deliberately formed them as Student – Led and not 3 – Way Conferences. Highly Effective Catholic Primary Schools promote Student Voice. Student – Led Conferences are identified as a significant way of developing Student Voice. The latest research and evidence around Assessment as Learning supports this.

If a parent/carer needs to have a conversation with the teacher not in the presence of the child in regards to other matters, this needs to take place at another time. Contact can be made with the class teacher requesting another time if needed.

Looking forward to positive Student Led Conferences which highlights and celebrates children's achievements.

## Week of March 23 - March 30 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



**483**

New Student Posts



**94**

Comments

### Seesaw posts.

Lots of Seesaw posts have been made in the week March 23 - March 30. Please visit Seesaw and leave a comment. Look out for posts from our Specialists teachers as they always post late in the term. They would love your feedback.

Have a happy week and Happy Easter holidays.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement

### Term 2 - Ballarat Netball Association - After School Netball

SFX is looking forward to entering teams in the BNA Primary School after school netball season in Term 2. - Season is 8 wks long starting Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th May - Teams are entered under the SFX name and coached by parents - There is a Yr 3/4 and a Yr 5/6 competition - Competitions are Tuesdays or Wednesdays - Term 2 is participation only, no finals - Game times 4pm / 4:50pm / 5:40pm - Great for beginners or for those with experience Please see PAM notification for options. Expressions of interest close Friday April 18.

### Regional Swimming

Congratulations to Amelia Sordello (Yr 6) who swam an incredible race at last Wednesday's Greater Western Region Regional Swimming event in Horsham. Amelia managed to finish a magnificent 5th overall in her event. Congratulations Amelia

### MDASA Swimming

Last Thursday we had 12 students participate in the MDASA Under 9's Encouragement swimming carnival at the BALC. Congratulations and well done to Ted A, Pippa B, Ivy D, Shirley D, Paityn G, Harriet H, Sahesi K, Harvey K, Imogen S, Tom S, Fergus T & Violet T.







### Finals/Grand Finals

Congratulations to all of the students that participated in recent cricket, netball, basketball, tennis and other sporting Finals and Grand Finals over the past couple of weeks.

### 2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

#### Term 2:

- Week 3 - Wed May 7th - Division AFL @ Marty Busch, Sebastopol - (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 4 - Mon May 12th - Division Cross Country @ Fed Uni (selected students from Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 6 - Monday May 26th - Regional Cross Country @ Warrnambool (qualifiers from Division XC)
- Week 6 - Wednesday May 28th - Division Soccer @ Ballarat Region Soccer Facility (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 - Friday June 6th - Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 - Friday June 13th - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)

### 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

**Easter Raffle** has now been drawn – please see below winners – please collect your prize from the office prior to the end of term this week

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Karen Sullivan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Melinda Firth
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Angela Skewes
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Melinda Firth
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize – Billy & Scottie Toohey
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize – Hadley Mullane
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prize – Kristen Flyn
- 8<sup>th</sup> Prize – Casey Geaghan
- 9<sup>th</sup> Prize – Billy & Scottie Toohey
- 10<sup>th</sup> Prize – Dannielle James
- 11<sup>th</sup> Prize – Rebecca Nield
- 12<sup>th</sup> Prize – Flynn & Hudson McKay
- 13<sup>th</sup> Prize – Sam & Joe White
- 14<sup>th</sup> Prize – Kat Martin
- 15<sup>th</sup> Prize – Nikita Morvell

**Mother's Day stall** will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> week back in Term 2 – there will be gifts starting at \$2 and up to \$7

## Attachments

### ASSEMBLY AWARDS 28<sup>th</sup> March 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.

FLP	Laila Jennings and Shirley Dorning	4JS	Jack Quinlan and Leo Dodd
FGJ	Lula Blomeley and Arthur Latchford	4ML	Malo Hansen and Pippa Gleeson
FBO'K	Zane Carter and Ivy Mitchell	4KB	Isla Page & Casey Hartup
FTW	Henry Sertori and Levi Heinrich	5CC	Nathaniel Abraham and Minti Toohey
1JS	Georgia Little & Will Nicholls	5ZP	Betsy Nicholson & Noah Rice
1EM	Jude Toohey and Jack Hingston	5SM	Isla Johnson and Sonny Troon
1GT	Charlie Johnson and Blake Pitman	6PB	Sophie Beseler and Liam Fultcher
2RR	Birdie Toohey and Zach Wilson	6ZA	Lucinda Leonard & Angus Burbidge
2MH	Marli Wilson and Theo McAdam	6MM	Archie Williams and Leni Brown
2TS	Odie Brooks and Piper Swayn	EE	Maya Skewes & Flynn McKay (4JS)
3LL	Harper Gull and Sophie Crumpton	PA	Henry Flynn and Nathaniel Abraham
3JT	Devon McCartin and Pippa Bourke	VA	Lenny Richards (FBOK) Zephyr Swanson and Alex O'Reilly (2MH)
3DG	Lilly Bye and Tom Maher	PE	Angus Burbidge & Ava Nicholson
		Tch	Nixon George & Chloe Wilson
Principal's Award: Sonny Troon for showing friendship to another person in our school community and assisting when they needed help.			

Faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

# Ministry District Newsletter

Priests Frs Justin Driscoll & Matt Restall

Ballarat East Parish  
Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson  
03 5332 6611  
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Bungaree and Gordon Parishes  
Aileen Toohey  
0492 903 409  
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults  
**Child Safety Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Aileen Toohey**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (C)

30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Friday Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
	9.30 am	St. Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday Apr 5 <sup>th</sup> - Vigil		Sunday Apr 6 <sup>th</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Gordon
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

**THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**  
Nina (Anne) Micallef

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME**  
Mommie Forbes

**THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL**  
Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, Socorro De Chavez, Joan Egan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Lyla Geary, Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy, Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons, Owen Widdison

### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

**Ballarat East Parish:**  
Rose Consignano, Judith Glaubitz, Martin McGettigan, Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart.  
**Bungaree Parish:**  
Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree), Barry Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom Prendergast, Maurice Mahar & Marty Forbes (Clarkes Hill).  
**Gordon Parish:**  
Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan & Jim Leahy (Ballan).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Caring Group afternoon tea**  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – 2pm – St Alipius Hall

**Baptism Preparation Sessions**  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00 am or 5.30 pm  
Mary Glowrey Room – Cathedral precinct

## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SPRINGBANK

This weekend the Springbank community will gather with Bishop Paul to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of St Michael's Church. In *God's Hands*, Joe Donegan's history of the Parish of Gordon, states that the first St Michael's Church in Springbank was erected in 1865 (on the eastern side of the existing church) when the district was known as Ormond and was part of the parish of Ballarat. When the parish of Gordon was created 150 years ago in 1875, Springbank became part of the parish, which was in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1900, Archbishop Thomas Carr laid the foundation stone for the existing St Michael's Church which was then blessed and opened on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1900, by Dean Phelan of Melbourne. In 1961 further additions of a sanctuary and sacristy were completed and blessed by Bishop Arthur Fox. In 1980 the parish of Gordon with the church and Catholic school communities of Ballan, Gordon and Springbank were welcomed into the Diocese of Ballarat.

Amidst all of the anniversaries of buildings, it is the People of God, past and present, who are the Church, 'the living stones' for whom we give thanks at the anniversary celebrations this weekend.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

During the coming week, we will welcome 120 children from across our parish who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. These liturgies will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6pm in our parish church. Please pray for these children and their families who will then move to preparing for Eucharist during second term.

## PILGRIMAGE WITH ST PAUL - MISSIONARY OF HOPE

In this Jubilee year, dedicated to becoming Pilgrims of Hope, pilgrims are invited to experience the world of the early Christian communities. The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. The proposed itinerary departs Melbourne on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 with the pilgrims arriving in Istanbul and proceeding to Adana, Tarsus, Antioch, Ephesus, Troas, Kavala, Philippi, Thessalonica and Athens with the possibility of an extension to Rome. For further information please contact Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong Street North (PO Box 740), Ballarat, 3350, ph. 03 5331 8077, email [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au) or Fr Justin Driscoll [justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## ANOINTING MASSES DURING LENT

St. Brigid's Ballan	April 10, 10.30 am
St. Michael's Bungaree	April 11, 9.30 am
St. Alipius Ballarat East	April 11, 11.00 am
Mercy Place Ballarat East	April 16, 11.00 am
Ballan Mecwacare Aged Care	April 17, 10.00 am

## CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in St. Alipius Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a small plate to share.

## BAPTISMS

**Sage and Bowie Buenen**  
Children of Robert and Selegna Buenen

GET OUR SEAL OF APPROVAL  
THIS EASTER AND BEYOND!



Treat yourself with responsibly sourced chocolate this Easter, supporting brands committed to eliminating slavery from their supply chain.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS – BUNINYONG

This Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, Stations of the Cross will take place at Ss Peter and Paul's Church Buninyong at 6pm followed by fish and chips. All welcome to attend in preparation for Easter.

### LITURGICAL MUSIC SYMPOSIUM WITH TONY ALONSO

From across the eight faith communities of the three parishes of our ministry district, the musicians, and those who prepare and select the music at our Sunday liturgies are invited to a day with Tony Alonso, Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons Street Sth, Ballarat. The day is hosted by the Ballarat Diocesan Liturgical Commission, and up to five people from each of our three parishes are invited to attend thanks to the sponsorship available. **Tony Alonso** works at the intersection of theology and culture, with a particular focus on worship and ritual practices. This is an opportunity for 15 people who are engaged in music ministry in our parishes to participate in this wonderful formation opportunity. Contact Fr Justin or the Parish Office to register your expression of interest. [More information here](#)

### CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

CTC invites you to "Engaging Your Faith" online presentations from \$25.00 per session. For more information and to register go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

### PARISH BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION

In recent weeks our parish has changed the system we use for storing data electronically. With the migration to the new system we will be changing the way that we distribute the parish bulletin each week. As a result of this you will now be need to be a 'subscriber' to our bulletin and at any time you will have the option to 'unsubscribe'. In order to subscribe you can use the following link or QR code and from there it is very straightforward. If you need help doing this you are most welcome to call into the presbytery during office hours and we will be happy to provide the support you need.

<https://www.catholicparish.app/subscription?id=001Q100000Eh7RRIA7&req=subscribe>



When you go into the link you will need to put in your first and last names, your email address twice and tick the box to say that you want to go on the mailing list for St. Alipius Parish Bulletin. Having done this push the 'subscribe' button and you will then receive your bulletin each week from 'St. Alipius Catholic Church'.

## HOLY WEEK IN OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

Monday April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mass of the Oils	1.00 pm	St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
Holy Thursday April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	St. Michael's, Bungaree St. Alipius, Ballarat East
Good Friday April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Buninyong Churches Way of the Cross Ballan Stations of the Cross	8.30 am 10.00 am	Meet at the Town Hall steps
	Celebrations of the Lord's Passion	3.00 pm 3.00 pm	St. Alipius, Ballarat East St. Michael's, Springbank
Holy Saturday April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Vigil fire and Mass	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	St. Brendan's, Dunnstown St. Alipius, Ballarat East
Easter Sunday April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday Masses	9.00 am	St. Patrick's, Gordon
		9.00 am	St. Alipius, Ballarat East
		10.30 am 10.30 am	St. Brigid's, Ballan Ss. Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

# The Expansive Heart of a Compassionate Parent

Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday of Lent Year C

(Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Unfailing forgiveness and arms wide open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters is a key motif in today's gospel story. There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness. From their perspective, law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending upon their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to his critics is the story of a parent whose adult children lose their way. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his sibling's return.

We need to attend to the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons in the family; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is tantamount to wishing his parents dead. The older brother is in no way disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear.

The contrast between the young man's acquisitive nature and his parents' capacity to relinquish substantial property in the interests of relationship is striking. No motive is offered for the son's readiness to break all his ties and get as far away as he can. In the distant country, he squanders both his inheritance and his identity. A "severe famine" becomes the catalyst for his change of direction. Famine in any age means devastation of the earth that can lead to displacement, to broken relationships and even to global conflicts. In turning back, the young man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family or ancestral lands. Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his belly. He composes a speech about having sinned against his father and against God and about being prepared to share the status of the servants. Thanks to the expansive heart of an extraordinarily compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared. Famine becomes feast and so it is with our merciful God. We abandon, we even betray. We waste the bounty of Earth. Our motives for returning to the sources of love and community are very mixed, and yet our merciful God is ever ready, with our cooperation, to turn famine or flood into feast. For that to happen in our times, we must turn away from our acquisitive, wasteful ways and respond as one to the pain of our planetary home.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Joshua 5:9-12  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Isaiah 43:16-21  
Philippians 3:8-14  
John 8:1-11

# STURT NETBALL CLUB

## JUNIOR WINTER TRY-OUTS

The Winter Netball Season is approaching quickly, and Sturt will be holding team try-out for our netballers on the dates below,.

Please wear appropriate clothing/shoes to play and also bring a drink and if you require snacks as the canteen will not be open.

Try-outs will be held at the Ballarat Netball Association courts at Llanberris.

### ROUND 1

**Saturday 29th March 2025**

13/under 10-11.30am  
15/under 12.30-2.30pm  
17/under 3-4.30pm

### ROUND 2

**Saturday 5th April 2025**

13/under 10-11.30am  
15/under 12.30-2.30pm  
17/under 3-4.30pm

Don't forget to register your intention to play on TeamApp (Sturt Netball Club).

Please note: These tryout are for grading purposes. We have a team for every player.

Bring friends or anyone you may know who is interested in playing netball.

**Junior Netball Co-Ordinator:** Tish 0434 260 134

**Sturt Email:** [sturtnc@gmail.com](mailto:sturtnc@gmail.com)







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# HOLIDAY SWIMMING PROGRAM

14 - 17 April 2025

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