

# St Francis Xavier Primary School



## Newsletter

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
Term 1 Week 8

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

Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 1 (10 weeks)

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

#### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Last Book Club Issue 2  
order day

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

2.40pm Assembly led by 3JT

#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

10am-1pm  
Garden Working Bee

#### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

8.30-9.30am Secondhand  
Uniform Pop Up Shop

Student Led Conferences

3.30-7.00pm

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March

2.40pm Assembly led by 2RR

#### 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

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

Pupil free day

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

Pupil free day

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

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

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

Have you ever wondered how we instil values at our school? If you've attended one of our Friday assemblies, you've likely seen the *Villa Way* in action. Perhaps your child has even been recognised for demonstrating one of our core values in their interactions with others.

The *Villa Way* is built on five guiding principles: **Hospitality, Compassion, Respect, Justice and Excellence**—values gifted to us by the Sisters of Mercy, who founded our school over 120 years ago. These values shape the way we interact with one another, fostering a school community where inclusion, kindness, fairness, and a commitment to doing our best are at the heart of everything we do. More than just school principles, these are values for life.

Living by these values isn't always easy. It's one thing to embrace them when everything is going smoothly—but what about when we're faced with challenges? The value of *Hospitality* calls us to step out of our comfort zones and to welcome others even when it's difficult. *Compassion* asks us to look beyond what we see on the surface and seek understanding. *Respect* reminds us to treat everyone as equals, even when we hold different perspectives. *Justice* challenges us to stand up for fairness for all, and *Excellence* pushes us to strive for our best in all we do, becoming role models for those around us.

At times, the *Villa Way* may challenge us to think differently, to act with greater kindness, and to grow as individuals—but that is exactly why it exists.

Has your child shared their thoughts on the *Villa Way* with you? If not, ask them what it means to them—you might be surprised by their insights!

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



## A Prayer for Lent



**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

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
5SMC

**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

### 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.

### The Big Water Walk

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 coming home this week and feel free to explore the Caritas website for more information about this worthy cause.



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**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
12.40pm Assembly led by  
FBOK

**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

Dear Families,

I am writing to keep you informed regarding the serious incident that took place outside of school last week, involving a Year 4 student's inappropriate use of social media, which continues to impact our school community.

This incident highlights the challenges young people face in navigating social media and the potential consequences of their online actions. As a school community, we remain committed to guiding and supporting our students in developing safe and responsible online habits, and we encourage families to continue these important conversations at home.

The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remains our highest priority. Since the incident took place, the student involved has not attended school, and we have continued to provide support to the students and families directly affected. Given the nature of the incident, we have engaged Victoria Police and continue to work with the necessary parties to ensure the appropriate steps are taken in line with our policies.

The family of the student has decided to withdraw their enrolment, and they will not be returning to St Francis Xavier. Throughout this process, Catholic Education Ballarat and I have been actively engaged in offering guidance and support to all impacted and will continue to do so.

The media has obtained details of this incident so there is potential for further amplification in the public arena. While this is unfortunate, we encourage our community to respond with care and discretion, keeping the dignity and wellbeing of all students at the forefront. As a Catholic school in the Mercy tradition, St Francis Xavier is guided by the values of love, respect, forgiveness, and trust. During challenging times, it is essential that we uphold these principles, ensuring that our actions reflect our vision to pursue fullness of life for all. It is through this lens that we continue to guide and educate our young people, helping them to understand the importance of responsible and respectful relationships and actions.

If you have any concerns or require further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your ongoing support of St Francis Xavier and for your valued partnership in the development and wellbeing of our students.

Kind regards,  
Mark Hogbin

**First Aid News** Given the AFL season has started again can we please take note of this very important reminder:

#### **Concussion Protocol/Concussion – Important information to be aware of**

If your child has experienced concussion outside of the school setting it is important that they rest for a period of 24 to 48 hours and then gradually return to activities after this time. Returning to school can be a graduated approach with the aim of increasing tolerance to a full day, the same situation could occur with sporting activities. It is always important to check with your doctor and seek medical treatment after a child sustains a concussion.

**It is important to inform the school if your child has sustained a concussion outside of school; this is to ensure the school can monitor your child's wellbeing and adapt activities as required.**

#### **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**

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**Congratulations** to Miss Megan and her husband Zach who are the proud parents of daughter **Ziggie Lee Leckie**, born at 5.34pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March.



### Religious Education News

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday March 16, 2025 Second Sunday of Lent (Year C)**

**Gospel:** Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James with him and went up a hill to pray. While he was praying, his face changed its appearance, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly two men were there talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in heavenly glory and talked with Jesus about the way in which he would soon fulfill God's purpose by dying in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were sound asleep, but they woke up and saw Jesus' glory and the two men who were standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, how good it is that we are here! We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (He did not really know what he was saying.)

While he was still speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow; and the disciples were afraid as the cloud came over them. A voice said from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen — listen to him!"

When the voice stopped, there was Jesus all alone. The disciples kept quiet about all this and told no one at that time anything they had seen. *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

#### **Gospel reflection:**

Jesus goes up a hill with Peter, James and John to pray and Jesus is changed. The disciples see Jesus in all his glory.

It can bring us joy when we see someone who is able to be the best they can be. Someone who is not just surviving and meeting their basic needs, but someone who is thriving and is filled with hope for the future.

Through our prayers this Lent we can hope for wonderful changes. We can ask God to help us to act differently, to make the world a fairer place, and to treat others as we would wish to be treated. Together we can try to build a world that is changed for the better, a world which reflects the glory of God.

The disciples thought perhaps they should stay on the mountain and worship Jesus, but Jesus took them back down. In the same way, our faith is not something just for church, but it is something that we have to live out every day in all that we do.

**Our Challenge:** What will you do to try and live more as God asks you to? How will you listen and change your life and our world for the better? *(Adapted from CAFOD website)*

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# BIG WATER WALK



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader



### Child Safe Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

I would like to introduce you to our Year Six Wellbeing Leaders, they are Aria, Lois and Edward.



In this story of student wellness, the SFX journey unfolds, recognising the need for authentic student voices. Empowering children involves shaking off the bad days and speaking with each other to create solutions, weaving a melody of empowerment into the fabric of education at school.

In the symphony of a child's life, we are done with neglecting student wellbeing. It's clear that nurturing their wellness is not overlooking its significance. It helps to harmonise their ability to get back into their learning and build relationships that are appealing.

We had our first 'proper' Wellbeing Leader meeting a few Friday's ago where there were so many great ideas presented and so much enthusiasm!

I am hoping to also talk to the team about how 'belonging' is essential for positive mental health and wellbeing. We will discuss ways we can look after one another and how we can enhance our warm and positive school climate. We will focus on how activities such as 'Builders and Traders Club' can support a wide range of students and how our Buddies program helps foster leadership, mentoring and responsibility, particularly in the older year levels.

We will discuss inviting children from all year levels to contribute and meet together! Encourage your child to speak to a Student Wellbeing Leader or tell me if they are inspired with ideas to elevate wellbeing at St Francis Xavier. Their voice could be the spark that ignites positive change and transformation in our community.

As always, SchoolTV came through with an article relating to authentic student voice and building positive relationships with students. Click on the link below to read through 'What the brain science says'!

<https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/content/blog/building-positive-relationships-students-what-brain-science-says>

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**





### NAPLAN 2025

Congratulations to our Yrs 3&5 students who have been completing their NAPLAN tests. A great effort by all. Catch up sessions will take place this Tuesday and Wednesday if your child has missed a session.

NAPLAN is how government's, education authorities and schools determine whether young Australians are reaching important educational goals. Once our results are delivered we will send them home and as a staff we will unpack our results with rich educational discussions.



### Student Led Conferences: Week 9 Wednesday 26th March /Week 10 Tuesday 1st April

**Student - Led Conferences at SFX:** Your child(ren) will be showcasing their schoolwork and discussing learning goals with you through Student-Led Conferences in weeks 9 and 10 this term. During Student – Led Conferences, your child will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation and answer questions you may have.

### Bookings for these conferences are open on PAM today at 4:00pm

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.

### **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 further time if needed.

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

Have a happy week.

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 Tuesday's or Wednesday's - 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

### SFX AFL Football Team tryouts

This week we will begin the tryout process for our SFX AFL Football teams.

This year's competition is AFL 9's based and we will have a Girls and a Boys team so we will begin the tryouts process this week during the following break times:

Girls - 2nd break Wednesday

Boys - 1st break Thursday

Initial tryouts will be conducted in the gym so no football boots are required. Students can bring their runners if not their PE day.

### Well done and Congratulations Mr Down

Our magnificent PE teacher Mr Down and one of his athletes recently achieved a fantastic accomplishment, with Cooper Sherman (who has also done some work experience here at SFX) qualifying for this weekend's 2025 World Indoor Athletics Championships in China. We wish Cooper all the very best and congratulate Mr Down for his dedication in training young athletes to be the best that they can be.

### 2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

#### Term 1:

- Week 8 - Wednesday 2nd Break - Girls AFL Football tryouts
- Week 8 - Thursday 1st Break - Boys AFL Football tryouts
- Week 9 - Wednesday Mar 26th - Regional Swimming @ Horsham (qualifiers from Division swimming)
- Week 9 - Thursday Mar 27th - MDASA U9 Primary Schools Swim Sports (nominated students from F - Yr 3)

#### 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 great week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator



- **Working Bee – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – all welcome**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Pop up shop – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 8.30-9.30am**
- **Zooper Doopers – Fridays at 2<sup>nd</sup> break \$1**
- **Hot Lunches reminder – Hot Lunches every Friday, order on Flexi Schools before 10am on a Thursday.**

# SFX Working Bee

Come and help tidy up our school & mulch the garden beds

**Sunday 23rd March 2025  
10am - 1pm**

Followed by a sausage sizzle

Please bring gloves, shovels, rakes & wheelbarrows

Everyone welcome!  
More hands make light work

Any questions,  
Please contact Lisa on 0412 647 737  
or  
sfxpsc@sfxballarat.edu.au



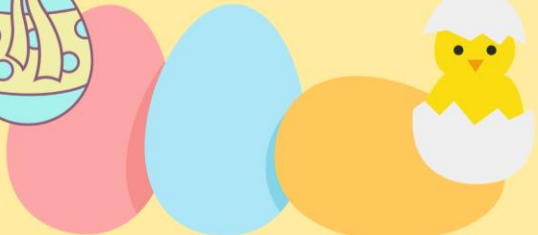
## SFX Easter Raffle

**SCAN HERE AND BUY TICKETS NOW**



1 ticket \$2  
3 tickets for \$5  
7 tickets for \$10  
16 tickets for \$20

<https://rafflelink.com.au/villa2025-easter>



\*drawn Monday 31st March

- **Easter Raffle is now live – donations still being accepted – to be drawn Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

## Attachments

### ASSEMBLY AWARDS 14<sup>th</sup> March Hosted by 4KB Theme: Compassion.

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

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

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

FLP	Harry Carter and Hudson Worn	4JS	Charlie Quarrell and Abbey Williams
FGJ	Harvey Rowland and Amelia Whykes	4ML	Ava Warr and Byron Morton
FBO’K	George Ellis and Ollie Quinlan	4KB	Tara Lloyd & Baxter Steinman
FTW	Maya Ryan and Joe White	5CC	Ella Crumpton and Anna Marson
1JS	Callum Purtell & Audrey Giles	5ZP	Mollie Arnts & Levi Crowe
1EM	Harlee Answer and Lola Troon	5SM	Finley Rolfe and Evie Speirs
1GT	Sadie Porter and Murphy Daniel	6PB	Mia Hamill and Marli Ward
2RR	Annie Ludbrook and Alfie Waldron	6ZA	Sierra O’Reilly & James Hocking
2MH	Ted Gleeson and Lachie White	6MM	Edward Lloyd and Sophie White
2TS	Emme Cavanagh and Thomas Green	EE	
3LL	Banjo Nicholson and Lachy Just	PA	
3JT	Paddy Quinlan and Imogen Sordello	VA	Our wonderful new Art Leaders - Lucinda, Ivy, Luella, Rhys and Lachie.
3DG		PE	
		Tch	Imogen Sordello & Paddy Quinlan
Principal’s Award:			

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 – 12:00PM

**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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (C)

16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
<b>Weekday Masses</b>			
Monday Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	St Patrick's Gordon	
Tuesday Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday Mar 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
	10.30 am	St. Brigid's Ballan	
Friday Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
		St Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
<b>Weekend Masses</b>			
Saturday Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Vigil		Sunday Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Gordon
6.30 pm	Clarkes Hill	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

#### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Kay Cocking, Cheryl Strybosch, Donna Rousch

#### THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Noreen Griffin, Anne Cheeseman

#### THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Megan Dunn (McGuigan), 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 Consignado, 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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation**  
March 18<sup>th</sup> following the 5.30 pm Mass

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6.30 pm

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are currently considering the reintroduction of Children's Liturgy within the parish. This program has been quite successful in the past and we would love to be able to offer it again. To run Children's Liturgy we would require two adults for each session, so we are asking for an indication from anyone who may like to know more about what is involved. At this stage we would plan to have the program on Saturday evenings where children would leave the church after the opening prayer and return during the Procession of Gifts. While our children participate in a program, hearing scripture and discussing it at a level which is appropriate to them. If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact Cathy at the parish office.

### MORNING TEA BUNINYONG

Morning tea is held at Buninyong after every 10:30 Mass. This has provided a great opportunity for the community to come together on an informal, social basis. We are seeking more people prepared to coordinate morning tea. The tasks are simple and only required two to three times per year. Tasks involve bringing milk turning on the urn serving tea and coffee and contributing something simple to eat. Others in attendance tend to assist with washing dishes and cleaning up afterwards. If you are unable to do your rostered day a simple phone call will usually find someone ready to do a swap. Two people or a couple are rostered on each occasion. If you would be interested in joining the roster please see Geraldine White after Mass or email her at [thewhites25@bigpond.com](mailto:thewhites25@bigpond.com)

### ANOINTING MASS

Volunteers are needed to help transport people to the anointing mass at St Alipius at 11:30 AM on Friday, April 11. The mass will be followed by a light lunch in the hall. Please let the office know if you can help transport people who would like to attend.

### LENTEN REFLECTIONS IN THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

Following 10.30am Mass at Ballan on Thursdays March 13<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>. 10.30am. Facilitated by Dr. Rosemary Canavan, the Lenten Reflection will be guided by the framework of the *Conversation in the Spirit*. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the Gospel and readings of the week as we come together as one ministry district. All are welcome to attend.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> RITE OF RECONCILIATION

On March 18<sup>th</sup> the 5.30 pm Mass will be followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation. You are invited to join us for this in the lead up to Easter. Please contact Fr. Matt if you require further information.

### AGED CARE PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION SESSION

On Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup> there will be an information session for those who would be interested in finding out more about support the pastoral care of residents in our local aged care facilities. If you are interested in attending this session please email Fr. Matt.

[matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Supporting our priests: \$1015  
Maintenance of parish buildings: \$398.20

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

Counting team this week: **No Counting this week**

### 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT SPRINGBANK

St Michael's Church, Springbank, will celebrate its 125th Anniversary with Bishop Paul Bird at a Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 29, 2025 commencing at 6.30pm with a light supper to follow. All welcome.

## BAPTISMS

**Dennis David Perry**  
Child of David and Penelope Perry

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Jan Marty has recently been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her work with World Day of Prayer Australia. The following was shared with the parish from this group.

*'A Certificate of Appreciation and Badge was awarded to Jan Marty by World Day of Prayer Australia, at the 2025 World Day of Prayer, on 7<sup>th</sup> March. In making the presentation, Beth Rule, of the WDOP Victorian Committee, explained that this special Long Service presentation was in recognition of Jan's many decades of support and dedication to World Day of Prayer in the Ballarat District. Jan has been the WDOP delegate from Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church all those years, regularly taking her turn to lead WDOP Buninyong services when hosted at Sts. Peter & Paul. Congratulations, Jan. An Award well deserved!'*

## BUNINYONG CHURCHES GOOD FRIDAY "WAY OF THE CROSS" WALK

You are invited to gather with the Buninyong community on Good Friday for the 'Way of the Cross' walk. This is a great opportunity for the Churches of Buninyong to get together and be a witness to the wider community of our faith in Jesus. Please meet at the Town Hall steps at 8.30am. This walk is for young and old alike and it goes for about 30 minutes and covers less than one km. Each Church will be assigned a Bible reading. More details are available from Reverend Mark Schnerring of Buninyong Anglican Church (0401 022 107).

## HARMONY WEEK: MARCH 17-23, 2025

Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and coming together to celebrate the cultural diversity in your area and spread the message of "everyone belongs". The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is during this week on Friday, March 21. While Harmony Week celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity, it is also important to focus on the urgency of combatting racism wherever and whenever it arises <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

## CELEBRATING ST PATRICK'S DAY

All parishioners of our Ministry District communities are invited to celebrate the feast of St Patrick on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> with 10.30am Mass in St Patrick's Church Gordon followed by morning tea in St Patrick's Primary school multipurpose hall. This year the Gordon parish celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Patrick's Church Gordon. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1875, the Church (although still incomplete) was opened by Archbishop James Alipius Goold. Later in 1875 Gordon was declared a parish, comprising of Gordon, Mt. Egerton, Ormond, Mt. Blackwood, Ballan and Bacchus Marsh. Fr Richard Ellis was the first parish priest.

## DAMASCUS COLLEGE BALLARAT 2025 REUNIONS

Damascus College warmly welcomes the Classes of 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 to celebrate the 2025 Reunion Day! Join us as we reconnect, reminisce, and honour these milestone anniversaries on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear. The day will begin with a free welcome reception from 2.00pm – 4:00pm (doors open at 1.30pm for registration). Enjoy light refreshments, drinks, a campus tour, and some simple formalities during this shared gathering, followed by a group photo. The after party for each cohort will continue at their own private individual locations from 7:00pm onwards. Full event details and tickets at

<https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>

## PARISH DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently looking to update the parish directory, so if you are a member of a current group within the parish please collect a questionnaire from the foyer of the church and complete it. The completed form should be dropped into the parish office by March 20<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for taking the time to help us update our parish related information.

# The Caress of God

## Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 9:28-36)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Last week, the wilderness was a character in the gospel reading. This week, we find a mountain and a cloud featuring as characters in the narrative. These other-than-human characters and the prophets of old (Moses and Elijah) link Luke's story of Jesus to the Israelites' covenant relationship with God. Wilderness, mountain and cloud also remind us that God's Earth is the locus of mystery where human and other-than-human Earth beings are transformed through encounter with the divine. For Pope Francis, "[s]oil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God" (*Laudato Si'* 84).

For Jesus, the mountain is already a place of encounter with God, a place of prayer. Luke has Jesus spending a night in prayer on an unidentified mountain before he chooses the Twelve. Jesus now takes three of his closest friends up another unidentified mountain where the aspect of his face changes and his clothing becomes dazzling white. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, "appear" and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet. This episode seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate: if he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with this realisation in the wilderness and comes to terms with what it involves on the mountain. The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus and calls for a response: "Listen to him".

"Your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet" (Deut 18:15). For Luke, Jesus is the prophet-like-Moses whom they must heed. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. The tents evoke once more the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of glory. We also need the good sense to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. If we are to hear the prophet-like-Moses in our times, we have to come to terms with the personal costs involved. Some of us actually need to go alone or together to a mountain top or to a place of extraordinary beauty in order to discover again the strength that comes from encountering the divine. I grew up in the shadow of Geboor (Mount Macedon), a "caress of God". I once climbed within view of Everest. I have climbed Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip. At such times of "attunement", I know the wonder of God revealed in the beauty of the earth itself even as I sense its fragility and susceptibility to destruction.

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18  
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1  
Luke 9:28-36

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15  
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12  
Luke 13:1-9





**ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY**  
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

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**2025 Entries NOW OPEN**

Entries are now open across all our disciplines.

Head to our website for everything you need to know about the range of performance opportunities across;

- Calisthenics Solos
- Vocal (including the Herald Sun Aria)
- Pianoforte (including Celebrating Chopin)
- Debating
- Speech, Drama and Comedy
- All Abilities
- Instrumental
- Choral
- Dance
- Calisthenics Teams

Why Get Involved?

In 2024, over 9,050 young performers took to our stages, embracing challenges, building confidence, and developing teamwork and skills.

In 2025, the Eisteddfod will be even bigger and better, and we'd love you to be part of this vibrant performing arts celebration!

Our vision is all about promoting and encouraging participation, enjoyment and enrichment through the performing arts... Now who wouldn't want to be a part of that!!

Let's make 2025 the biggest year for the performing arts, ever!

**Entries Close 30 April**



# AUSSIE HOOPS

JOIN IN ALL THE FUN

Aussie Hoops is our introductory basketball program for children aged 4–11, providing a fun and safe environment to learn the game. Through engaging sessions, kids develop fundamental skills like ball handling, passing, shooting, defence, and footwork, building confidence to transition into domestic competition.

Scan here for more info





JUNIOR WINTER NETBALL SEASON

# BROWN HILL NETBALL CLUB

BEGINS - 10TH MAY 2025 - JUNIOR INDOOR NETBALL

Team Selection Dates: 31st March & 28th April 2025  
@ Llanberris Indoor Stadium - 115 Barkly Street, Ballarat

11U 13U 15U 17U Age Groups  
Club Training - Resumes Monday 5th May



## REGISTRATIONS OPENING SOON!

For more information visit [brownhillnetball.com.au](http://brownhillnetball.com.au) or email us at [brownhillnc@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillnc@gmail.com)





THE POTTAGE is a paint your own Pottery studio located in Ballarat! We have launched our upcoming workshops throughout the April School Holidays. The code is SCHOOL10 for 10% off tickets.

# SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## AT THE POTTAGE

**SPECIAL 2 HOUR SESSIONS**  
FOR THE POWER PAINTERS WHO PAINT A LITTLE FASTER THAN OTHERS

**\$29**

**FRIDAY 11TH**  
2:30PM-4:30PM

**WEDNESDAY 16TH**  
10:30AM-12:30PM AND 1:30PM-3:30PM

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**WEDNESDAY 9TH**  
10:30AM-1:30PM AND 2:30PM-5:30PM

**FRIDAY 11TH**  
5:30PM-8:30PM

**\$39**

**SATURDAY 12TH**  
10:30AM-1:30PM AND 2:30PM-5:30PM

**MONDAY 14TH**  
10:30AM- 1:30PM AND 2:30PM-5:30PM

**THURSDAY 17TH**  
10:30AM-1:30PM AND 2:30PM-5:30PM





# Peek-a-Boo Mug Workshop

COME PAINT A CUP AND SMALL CRITTER TO  
HIDE INSIDE YOUR CUP.

EACH CRITTER WILL BE GLAZED TO THE BASE  
OF YOUR CUP. CREATING A PEEK-A-BOO  
SURPRISE EACH TIME YOU HAVE A DRINK!



When:  
8TH OF APRIL  
10-12PM  
\$49

FOR KIDS AGES 5-12







Queries: Call Coach Sean  
0411 602 204



**Easter**

## BALLARAT SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPORTS PROGRAM

**Mon 7th to Thur 24th April**

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

No sessions FRI 18th April (Good Friday), MON 21st April (Easter Monday), FRI 25th April (ANZAC Day)



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

**\$60**  
per child  
per day

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

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

