



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 28th April 2025
Term 2 Week 2

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 1 (10 weeks)

Tue 28th Jan – Fri 4th Apr

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 21st Apr – Fri 4th Jul

Wednesday 30th April

Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

Friday 2nd May

9.30am in our Gym

Beginning of Term 2 Mass

Year 2 at Sovereign Hill

10.30am-2.30pm

Monday 5th May

Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

Tuesday 6th May

Mother's Day Stall

Foundation/Year 1

Wednesday 7th May

Mother's Day Stall

Years 2, 3 & 5

Division AFL @ Marty Busch,

Sebastopol for selected

Yr 5/6 students

Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

Thursday 8th May

Mother's Day Stall

Year 4 & 6

First Eucharist compulsory

parish meeting for parents

10.30am or 6pm at

St Alipius Church

Friday 9th May

Mother's Day Stall

Final chance to buy

Mothers/Special Friends Day

2pm Afternoon Tea in Gym

2.40pm Liturgy in Family

Groups

Monday 12th May

Division Cross Country at

Fed Uni for selected Yr 3, 4,

5 and 6 students

Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

Wednesday 14th May

Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Welcome to a New Term! I hope everyone had the chance to enjoy a joyful and restful Easter surrounded by friends and family. In the busyness of our lives, these moments of connection and togetherness are truly precious. Taking the time to gather as a family is a gift worth cherishing.

Over recent days, we have been deeply saddened by the news of Pope Francis's passing. As the leader of the global Catholic Church, he was a spiritual guide to approximately 1.3 billion Catholics around the world. Throughout his 12-year papacy, Pope Francis was known for his humility, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the poor and marginalized. He made it his mission to be a leader among the people—not above them.

During the break, I had the privilege of reading his autobiography. What struck me most was his deep sense of humility; he often referred to himself as a "reluctant leader." Yet, through his example, he reminded us that true leadership is grounded in service, not status. He challenged us to let our actions speak louder than our words, encouraging all of us to live out our faith in meaningful ways.

Pope Francis was a powerful voice for social justice and a strong advocate of Liberation Theology, viewing the Church's true strength as residing in its people. Perhaps this will be the legacy he leaves behind: a Church more rooted in compassion, inclusion, and action.

What's ahead this term? Plenty! Be sure to check the newsletter each week to stay informed about all that's happening in our school community. It's the best way to keep connected and involved.

Wishing everyone a positive and enriching second term. May we continue to grow in strength, unity, and compassion as we live, learn, and journey together.



Staff News

- Mr. Hogbin is away on leave until week seven of this term. While Mr. Hogbin is away our school will be under the capable supervision of our Co-Principals, Mrs. Jayne Mohr and Mrs. Jane Clark. Mr. Hogbin looks forward to returning to school later in the term after his period of enrichment leave is complete.
- We welcome Mrs. Latchford to our teaching team this term. Sally will be teaching in Year 4 each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for the remainder of this term. We wish Mrs. Latchford a very happy year with us at SFX.

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Friday 16th May
2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

Monday 19th May
Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

Wednesday 21st May
Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

Thursday 22nd May
Foundation/Prep 2026
applications close

Friday 23rd May
2.40pm Assembly led by
5SMC

Monday 26th May
Catholic Education Week
Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

Regional Cross Country @
Warrnambool for Division
XC qualifiers

Wednesday 28th May
Division Soccer @ Ballarat
Region Soccer Facility for
selected Yr 5/6 students
Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

Friday 30th May
2.40pm Assembly led by
4ML

Wednesday 4th June
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

Friday 6th June
2.40pm Assembly led by
3DGS

Division Netball @ Selkirk
Stadium for selected Yr 5/6
students

Monday 9th June
King's Birthday Public
Holiday
Student free day

Tues 10th – Wed 11th June
Year 4 Lady Northcote Camp

Wednesday 11th June
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

Wed 11th – Fri 13th June
Year 6 Urban Camp

Friday 13th June
2.40pm Assembly led by 2TS
Year 5/6 Interschool Sport

Wednesday 18th June
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

Friday 20th June
2.40pm Assembly led by
1EM

Wednesday 25th June
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

- We welcome Mrs. Caitlin Keogh back to our school this term. Caitlyn will teach in Year 4 each Thursday and Friday.
- We welcome Mrs. Hayley Quinlan to our teaching team this term. Hayley will be teaching in Year 5 each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until the end of the year. Mrs. Quinlan will be working with Mrs. McGannon who teaches this class each Thursday and Friday.
- We welcome Ms. Elisha Martin back to school this term. Elisha has been enjoying a period of long service leave. It's great to have you back Elisha!
- We say farewell to Mr. Glen Strange this week. Glen has been working in Year 5 during term One. Thanks for your time with us, Glen. Best of luck for the next adventure!

Our New Running Track



Over the break we were able to create a fantastic new running track for our children to enjoy. With work carried out by Moore Group Excavations, we now have a track which extends through the rear of the school for approximately 2 kilometres. This initiative was funded by the Parents & Friends and every child in our school will be able to make use of the new course over time. Thank you to all families who support our ongoing fundraising

throughout the year which allows us to provide great resources and experiences for our students.

Villa Walk for Water

Wow! Our Year 3 students set us the challenge late last term to raise enough money to provide a water tank for a school in Samoa through the Caritas Project Compassion Campaign. Not only did we reach the target of \$4000.00 for a water tank, but we exceeded our goal by raising \$9255.30 which is more than enough for 2! What a super effort. Thanks to our wonderful Year 3 students for inviting the whole school to become involved and thanks to our families for your support. Well done everyone!



Social Media Usage

Please be mindful that children in the primary years are limited under law by the types of social media that they can engage with. We have encountered several incidents of inappropriate use of social media this year and we ask all parents to speak with your children about social media usage at home. If you become aware of any incidents of children using social media inappropriately, please let the school know and do not pass on images or messages to other people. Children sometimes make mistakes which we can work with at school but if these mistakes are shared with other people, then it becomes very difficult to protect young children. To do so is to act outside of the parent code of conduct for our school and we seek your support in assisting with this important matter.

Work Completed Over the Easter Break

While our school was closed for the recent term break, we were able to complete some necessary work around the school. Some of the things you might notice are:

- New Skylights in the undercover area
- New carpet and painting in the EE room, music room and Year 6 PB
- New running track

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Friday 27th June

2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

Tuesday 1st July

School Music Showcase
FGJ, 1GT, 2RR, 3GD, 4ML,
5CC and 6MM

Wednesday 2nd July

Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

School Music Showcase
FTW, 1EM, 2MH, 3JT, 4KB,
5SM and 6PB

Thursday 3rd July

School Music Showcase
FLP, FBO, 1JS, 2TS, 3LL, 4JS,
5ZP and 6ZA

Friday 4th July

No Assembly

Last day of term 2
3.15pm finish (tbc)

Term 3 (9 weeks)

Mon 21st Jul – Fri 19th Sep

Friday 25th July

Start of Term Mass

Friday 1st August

2.40pm Assembly led by FLP

Friday 8th August

2.40pm Assembly led by
1GT

Friday 15th August

2.40pm Assembly led by
2MH

Mon 18th – Fri 22nd Aug

Book Week

Friday 22nd August

2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL

Friday 29th August

2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS

Friday 5th September

Fathers' Day/Special
Friends' Liturgy

Friday 12th September

2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP

Friday 19th September

12.40pm Assembly led by
FBOK

Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 6th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Friday 10th October

Start of Term/Mercy Day
Mass

Friday 17th October

2.40pm Assembly led by
FTW

- Replacement of split systems in various classrooms and offices
- Aerating and re-seeding of the lower oval areas
- Updating of fire hoses and outlets
- Mulching of play areas
- Removal of redundant water storage tanks
- Installation of blinds in Yr. 6 PB

Thanks to Jim and the team for doing this work for us while we all enjoyed the break. Our school looks great!

School Closure Days

Thank you to all families for supporting our school closure days last week. We understand that school closure days can provide a degree of challenge for families, and we appreciate your support. Over three days last week we were able to work with all other Catholic schools in the central Ballarat area to learn more about the strategic direction for Catholic education over the next 10 years. We were also able to spend time updating our First-aid training, learning more about the principles of Structured literacy, and we had a day with Fr. Justin exploring our catholic Identity. We certainly made good use of our time!



A Reminder About Our Parent Code of Conduct

As part of the DOBCEL school community, St Francis Xavier Primary School follows important guidelines designed to keep our students safe and supported. One of these is our **Parent Code of Conduct**, which outlines expectations for all members of our school community.

A recent update to this document includes guidelines around **photographing children at school events**. In line with our Child Safety Standards, parents are now asked to **only photograph or film their own child**. If you'd like to include other children in any photos or videos, you must first **gain consent from their families**.

We understand this may be a change from past practice, but it reflects best practice for keeping all our students safe.

This will particularly apply to **assemblies, excursions, and camps**, where group photography has been common in the past. We kindly ask all families to support this approach and help us maintain a safe and respectful environment for every child.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Friday 24th October
2.40pm Assembly led by
6MM

Friday 31st October
Junior Sports Day
All Foundation-Year 2
students

Monday 3rd November
Pupil free day

Tuesday 4th November
Melbourne Cup Public
Holiday
Pupil free day

Friday 7th November
No Assembly

Friday 14th November
No Assembly

Friday 21st November
No Assembly

Mon 24th – Wed 26th Nov
Year 5 Camp

Thursday 18th December
Final 2025 day for students

Winter Uniform Reminder

As the cooler weather settles in, a reminder that **full winter uniform will be required from Week Four**. This gives families a short transition period to prepare and adjust as temperatures begin to drop.

A full description of our winter uniform can be found on the **school website**, and uniform items are available for purchase from **Crockers** and **Beleza**.

Thank you for helping our students stay warm, comfortable, and looking their best!

Music News

Guitar Tutor Update – Mr Chris Ruddick

We'd like to let our school community know that our highly regarded guitar tutor, **Mr Chris Ruddick**, will be taking some time off this term.

Over the weekend Chris had a mountain bike accident and hurt his collarbone and ribs. He is doing well and recovering at home with his family, and we're very glad he's in good spirits.

Everyone at **St Francis Xavier** wishes Chris a full and speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing him back with us in **Term 3**.

If any families have questions, please feel free to email Dan West at **dwest@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au**

Dan will be returning to school and replying to emails from **May 5**.

God bless,



Mark Hogbin



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 22nd 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 Sports jumper

Beleza look forward to assisting you.

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THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday April 27, 2025 Second Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Gospel: John 20:19-31

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!" In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life. (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

Gospel reflection: The disciples are frightened and lonely and so they have locked themselves away. Sometimes when times are tough and our life is hard, we can be a bit like Thomas. We have times when we are not really sure if God really is here with us. We find it hard to believe in God and his love for us. The disciples are reminded of the power of community and the need to be strong for each other.

How can we help strengthen our community? We can try to share peace in our lives. We can try to make things right when we have argued with a friend or family member. We can try to talk to people calmly when something upsets us or makes us angry. We can stand up for what is right and help others who need some extra support.

Our Challenge: What can you contribute to help strengthen your community?



SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

For all confirmed children in Year Four or older, there is a compulsory parish meeting on **Thursday May 8th** for the parents of children making their First Eucharist this year.

Please note that the date of these meetings has changed since they were first advertised.

There are two meetings for you to choose from, either 10:30am or 6pm at St Alipius Church. Children are not required to attend. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Natalie or Cathy at the Parish Office on 53326611.

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE MOTHER'S AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

WHERE: ST FRANCIS XAVIER

WHEN: FRIDAY MAY 9TH

TIME: 2PM AFTERNOON TEA IN GYM

2:40PM LITURGY IN FAMILY GROUPS



STAFF RETREAT Last Thursday, April 24, our entire staff joined together at Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Buninyong for a retreat day facilitated by our Parish Priest Fr Justin Driscoll. We are so fortunate to have Justin as a presenter, mentor and friend- we spent time exploring aspects of great leadership, the legacy of Pope Francis and how we are all called as witnesses to the Gospel story. We had the opportunity to consider our own spirituality, our own faith journey and our commitment to the mercy values we hold dear at St Francis Xavier. It was a fabulous day of thought provoking learning and collegiality. Many thanks to Fr Justin for his time, valuable insights and continued support to our whole school community.

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**Start of Term Two School Mass
Friday May 2 @ 9:30am in the Gym**

A warm invitation is extended to all our families, friends and parish members who would like to join us in celebrating our Term Two Mass.

Please know that you do not have to be of the Catholic faith tradition or a regular churchgoer to join in the Masses, prayers or liturgies in our school- all are welcome here at St Francis Xavier! We look forward to welcoming our Parish Priest, Father Justin Driscoll to lead us in prayer.



**Celebrating
our
SUPERSTAR
fundraising
efforts!!!!**

On the final day of last term, all the children at our school participated in our Big Water Walk, whereby they carried a bucket of water for over 3 kms in solidarity with children around the world who have no access to safe drinking water. Through our Catholic Social Teaching, the children explored preferential treatment of the poor, how we need to care for those less fortunate and vulnerable: and how we are called by God to make the world a better place. The children showed how we can live out our faith, advocating for justice and social change.

We were thrilled to raise over \$9000 for Caritas- that's enough to build water tanks in two villages!

Many thanks to Ms. Leviston and the Year Three cohort for bringing this initiative to our attention- and of course thank you to all the children and our amazing SFX community for your wonderful support and enthusiasm!



ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

This morning at assembly we remembered ANZAC Day and we honored those who have fought and died for freedom. We gathered not to glorify war, but to remember those who have served our country during times of crisis and those who continue to work for peace in our world today. May we learn from the past and strive to spread the message of Jesus' love throughout our earth.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

We hope that everyone had a restful quarter time break and a wonderful time over Easter with family and friends, and are looking forward to another big term of sport at SFX.

Thank you to all of the students that attended the tryouts for the Girls & Boys Football teams last term. It was fantastic to see so many students involved. Congratulations to those that made the teams, training will continue this week.

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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

P&F News

AFL Sausage Stall – Saturday 3rd May 2025 – Mars Stadium

We are fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to run a sausage sizzle at this weekend's AFL game at Mars Stadium. To make this happen, we require volunteers to assist in set up, cooking and selling sausages & drinks! Sausages donated by Sinclairs Meats, Bread by Stewarts Bakery & Onions by Wilsons. If you are able to spare time on Saturday to help out, please contact Lisa Clark – 0412 647 737 or via messenger.

Thank you

SFX P&F



Mother's Day Stall

The P & F are once again holding a stall for any students who wish to purchase a gift for their mum or special person.

The stall will be held at first break as follows:

Tuesday 6th May - Foundation & Grade 1

Wednesday 7th May: Grade 2, 3 & 5

Thursday 8th May - Grade 4 & 6

Friday 9th May - final chance

Gifts priced between \$2 and \$7
(maximum spend of \$7 per student)

*We are seeking volunteers for the stall
(10.30am until 11.30am) in the undercover area .*

Please use the Sign-Up link.

Young children are welcome.

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 4th April Hosted by 1JS Theme: Excellence

We show our personal best. Excellence means being the best person we can be.

We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLP	Flynn Warr and Aiden Graham	4JS	Flynn McKay and Bertie Stanley
FGJ	Vann Brooks and Ollie McGregor	4ML	Eddie Anderson and Maddison Little
FBO'K	Maddy Baxter and Alfie Mason	4KB	Ailbe Kirby & Mackenzie Donnelly
FTW	Noah Stewart and Eva Ludbrook	5CC	Year 5 students at Sovereign Hill school
1JS	Maple Toohey & Harry Jolly	5ZP	Year 5 students at Sovereign Hill school
1EM	Fergus Toohey and Poppy Thomas	5SM	Year 5 students at Sovereign Hill school
1GT	Georgie Dwyer and Patrick Olechnowicz	6PB	Mila Knowles and Maeve Waldron
2RR	Jasper Rolfe and Isla Easton	6ZA	Abbey Dwyer & Harry Hatt
2MH	Aurorah Rivett and Alex O'Reilly	6MM	Beatrice Heywood and Sidney Porter
2TS	Harry Toohey & Penny Carrick	EE	
3LL	Ivy Dorning & Oskar Olszewski	PA	
3JT	Scarlett Govan and Edward Giblett	VA	Hudson Nicholson (FGJ), Milla Nicholson (3JV) and Ava Nicholson (6ZA)
3DG	Louie Evans and Mila Quandt	PE	
		Tch	Isla Easton & Harvey Mason
Principal's Award: Reuben Molloy for showing excellent leadership skills and for being a great friend			

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

2nd Sunday of Easter (C)

27th April 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday Apr 29 th	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday Apr 30 th	9.30am 11.00 am	St Brendan's Dunnstown Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday May 1 st	2.00 pm	St Brigid's Ballan (Funeral Mass Pat Burvill)	
Friday May 2 nd	9.30 am	St. Francis Xavier Primary School St Alipius Ballarat East	
Saturday May 3 th	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday May 3 rd		Sunday May 4 th	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Bungaree
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Pope Francis, Fr Brian Gore (Columban), Faye Tudor, Pat Burvill

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Troy Watson (Steenhuis family) Pat Burvill, Elaine Conlan, 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

Sunday April 27th
Fr. Matt's Farewell
Wallace Hotel from 12 noon

Thursday May 1st
Baptism Preparation Sessions
Mary Glowrey Room (Cathedral)
10 am or 5.30 pm

Friday May 2nd
Caring Group
Parish Hall 2pm

COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests: \$1733
Supporting our parish: \$ 748

Holy Land Collection (Good Friday) \$ 890

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

EUCHARIST PREPARATION PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Children of our parish who have been confirmed, will begin preparation to receive Eucharist for the first time early in Term Two. As part of this preparation, parents are asked to attend a preparation session on Thursday May 8th in the parish hall. There will be a 10.30 am session and a 6pm session for parents to choose between. If you know of anyone who would need to attend one of these meetings, please let them know that these sessions are on. Please note that the date of these meetings has changed since they were first advertised. Attendance at one of these sessions is a compulsory part of the program. For further information please contact Cathy at the parish office.

THANK YOU FR. MATT

This weekend we say goodbye to Fr. Matt who will be taking up his role as assistant priest in the Star of the Sea parish, South West Coast where he will minister to the people of Warrnambool, Koroit, Port Fairy and surrounds. Fr. Matt, we thank you for all you have done for the people of St. Alipius parish and wish you well in the weeks and months to come.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE WALKATHON

St Alipius Altar Server, Walter, will be taking part in the St Patrick's College Walkathon in early May and is looking for sponsorship. If you would like to contribute to supporting very important initiatives, including Edmund Rice Community Services and Caritas Australia, whilst sponsoring Walter, please scan the QR code.



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. Please note that we will no longer be sending emails from our previous email distribution list after the weekend of May 11th.

<https://www.catholicparish.app/subscription?id=0010l00000Eh7RBIAZ&req=subscribe>



RCIA WELCOME

This weekend we welcome Vicky Woodburn who will be fully initiated into the church. We keep Vicky and her sponsor Kate in our prayers.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The March edition of the ODC is now available in the foyers of each church. Pick up your copy to learn more about last year's Diocesan assembly.

ST BRENDAN'S PROGRAM OPENING MASS

Parishioners are invited to the Opening Mass of the Damascus College St Brendan's Campus. Wednesday 30 April 2025 9.30am St Brendan's Church, Dunnstown. Please RSVP via the link <https://www.trybooking.com/DATYN> Campus tours and light morning tea will be provided.

SAINTS FLEXIBLE LEARNING CAMPUS BUNGAREE

Students from the Bakery Hill Campus of Saints College will commence at the Bungaree Campus from Monday April 28th. This follows much work on the campus with the refurbishment of the existing school building and grounds with the relocatable classrooms installed behind St Michael's Church.

BAPTISMS

Oscar John Callahan
Child Daniel Callahan and Alicia Barlow

Eloise Mae Hosking
Child of Callum and Tahlia – Paula Hosking

FUNERAL MINISTRY FORMATION

On Sunday June 1st, Bishop Paul and the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will offer formation for those engaged in parish funeral ministry – accompanying families in the preparation and celebration of funerals. We are blessed to have parishioners who currently undertake this ministry and they, together with others who are interested in growing in understanding of this pastoral ministry are invited to gather at Buninyong. The day will commence with 10.30am Mass and will continue through to mid-afternoon with lunch included. Expressions of interest can be made through the Parish office.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LINTON PARISH

Mass to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Linton Parish on will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at St Peter's Catholic Church, corner of Cumberland and Clyde Streets, Linton at 10.00am. Refreshments will follow at the Linton Bowling Club, 33 Adair Street, Linton. RSVP to redan@ballarat.catholic.org.au All welcome.

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet next Friday, May 2nd at 2pm in the parish hall. Please bring a small plate of food to share. All are welcome.

EASTER VIGIL PHOTOS



Thank you again to all who supported the Easter ceremonies. The above photos reflect some of the gifts which people shared in order to help us to reflect prayerfully at this important time in the church's calendar.

A WORD FROM FR. MATT

Parishioners of Ballarat East, Bungaree & Gordon Parish – Thank you!

Thank you for your generous welcome, support, and kindness as I had the opportunity of walking beside you over the last 12 months. Priesthood for me is significantly about imitating Christ the Good Shepherd, to be present to those who have been entrusted to our spiritual care. I have been humbled by your openness, and felt privileged by the way you welcomed me into your communities and lives. To share your joys and sorrows and to help you raise your experience, mind and heart to God in prayer through it all helped me feel the presence of Christ's grace in the Church body in which we live.

Please keep me in your prayers as our Pilgrim Journey together takes a different path for a time, that I may be happy & holy as we all are created to be as we live out our vocations.

God bless you!

Fr Matt

Living in “the Eighth Day” the Time of the New Creation

Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 2C (John 20:19-31)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

The liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith. This weekend we celebrate the second of the eight Sundays of the Easter Season. The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors “for fear” of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Again, it is the first day of the week, evoking the first day of creation. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his “Father”. They receive from Jesus the gift of the Holy Spirit and are sent in their turn to bring peace, to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. What Jesus is sent to do, the disciples are likewise sent to do.

This story invites us to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in our pursuit of justice and peace. It also invites us to ponder the consequences of forgiving on the one hand and of not forgiving on the other. To forgive another is to release that person from the burden of guilt and shame. Forgiveness opens up the possibility of healing. To refuse forgiveness or to “retain” the sins of another is to leave that person unforgiven and unhealed. We might also consider the consequences of refusing to open ourselves to forgiveness. Those who refuse to forgive others have often failed to forgive themselves for their own shortcomings.



The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own first-hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. They then make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else already knows. If we think, however, that those who hear from the outset are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled their fears. We all need time to grasp what it means to say that Christ has been raised and, even then, we will not understand fully. Biblical scholar, Margaret Daly-Denton notes that, in the Jewish tradition, “the eighth day symbolized the aeon to come”. Like John's community we live in “the eighth day”, in resurrection time, the time of the new creation. Easter faith invites us to keep living into that reality and to break through the human-constructed barriers, even as we recognise that the full realisation of the new creation belongs to an unknown future.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:12-16
Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-14



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