



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Term 2 Week 3

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

### Term 2 (11 weeks)

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

#### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

#### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Mother's Day Stall  
Foundation/Year 1

#### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> May

Mother's Day Stall  
Year 4 & 6

First Eucharist compulsory  
parish meeting for parents  
10.30am or 6pm at  
St Alipius Church

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> May

Full winter uniform required  
from today

Division Cross Country at  
Fed Uni for selected Yr 3, 4,  
5 and 6 students

Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

Last day for Book Club  
Issue 3 orders

#### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

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

2.40pm Assembly led by 6ZA

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,



Pope Francis was known as the 'People's Pope' because of his kindness and love for everyone. Now, the Church is getting ready to choose a new Pope!

On 7 May, 135 cardinals from around the world will gather in a special meeting called a *conclave* in the Vatican. They will pray and vote—up to four times a day—until they agree on the right person to become the Pope. When they make their decision, white smoke will rise from a chimney above the Sistine Chapel to let the world know we have a new Pope! If the smoke is black, it means they haven't chosen anyone yet, and the voting will continue.

It's a very special moment in history, and we'll be watching and waiting with hope and excitement!

This week, we give thanks for the wonderful mothers and mother figures in our lives. Like Mary, the mother of Jesus, they show love, strength, and kindness every day. Whether it's helping with homework, giving a hug, or cheering us on, they are often our quiet heroes.

Let's take time to pray for and thank all those who care for us with a mother's heart—including grandmothers and special women who love and support us. And let's remember to say "thank you" not just on Mother's Day, but every day!

*St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**  
Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Foundation/Prep 2026  
applications close

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

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
Catholic Education Week  
Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons  
Regional Cross Country @  
Warrnambool for Division  
XC qualifiers

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May**  
Division Soccer @ Ballarat  
Region Soccer Facility for  
selected Yr 5/6 students

Yr 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
4ML

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by  
3DGS

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

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June/  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 4 Sacrament of  
Eucharist

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
King's Birthday Public  
Holiday  
Student free day

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 4 Lady Northcote Camp

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June**  
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

**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  
Year 5/6 Interschool Sport

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June/  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
Year 4 Sacrament of  
Eucharist

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**  
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

We also remember with love those mothers and mother figures who for many reasons may not be with us on Sunday.

Happy Mother's Day to all women in our St Francis Xavier community.



*"Her children rise up and call her  
blessed." – Proverbs 31:28*



### **New Cross Country Track Inspires the Next Generation at St Francis Xavier**

St Francis Xavier recently celebrated the official opening of its brand-new cross country track. It was a momentous occasion marked by the presence of two Australian athletic icons, Steve Moneghetti and Cooper Sherman. The opening of the track is a key part of the school's *SFXcelling* initiative, which encourages students to strive for personal excellence across all areas of life: academically, socially, spiritually, and physically. The cross country track will provide ongoing opportunities for students to challenge themselves, build endurance, and develop a lifelong love of health and fitness. Many thanks to all involved with igniting an idea and making it happen.



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**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 1EM

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June/  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Year 4 Sacrament of Eucharist

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**  
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**  
School Music Showcase  
FGJ, 1GT, 2RR, 3GD, 4ML, 5CC and 6MM

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**  
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

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

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**  
School Music Showcase  
FLP, FBO, 1JS, 2TS, 3LL, 4JS, 5ZP and 6ZA

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
**No Assembly**

Last day of term 2  
3.15pm finish (tbc)

**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

## School Winter Uniform reminder

As the cooler weather settles in, a reminder that full winter uniform will be required from **Week Four Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May**. This gives families a 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!

## Final Open Day School Alive Tour – Term 2

Due to popular demand we are running an additional Open Day and School Alive Tour on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 10:00am

Please click on the link to book your place.

<https://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/open-days/>

This is a great chance for parents/carers who haven't made it to an Open Day or wish to have another look around our great school.

## Foundation/Prep Enrolment 2026 – Existing Families

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 your child is enrolled in Foundation/Prep 2026. Enrolments close 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

## 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.

This is a slide which we will be using as a reminder.



 **At St Francis Xavier Primary School  
we are a Child Safe School.**

As per policy, please avoid taking photos/filming.



# You may take a photo of only your child after the event.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



#### 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



#### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ms Zoe and Ms Grace on their graduation last week. Excellent graduates from ACU. We are proud of your achievement and grateful to have such capable, enthusiastic young educators on our staff. Well done!

Enjoy your week. Take care.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal



Big news! Miss Johnson is thrilled (with a few butterflies in her tummy!) to share that she'll be stepping onto the stage for 'Dancing with our Stars 2025' - all in support of the incredible work of the Ballarat Foundation.



She'll be swapping her everyday shoes for dancing ones, all to give back to our amazing local community. 💎

She'd love your support - follow along on Instagram @gemma loves a frock, cheer her on if you see her around school and if you're able please donate to her page: <https://www.ballaratfoundation.org.au/my-fundraising/1606/gemma-snibson>

Let's all dance for a cause that matters! 🌟💃

Also spy her testing out her new last name! But don't worry, she is staying Miss Johnson at school 🤫

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday May 4, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter (Year C)**

**Gospel: John 21:1-19**

After this, Jesus appeared once more to his disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how it happened. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael (the one from Cana in Galilee), the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus were all together. Simon Peter said to the others, "I am going fishing."

"We will come with you," they told him. So they went out in a boat, but all that night they did not catch a thing. As the sun was rising, Jesus stood at the water's edge, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then he asked them, "Young men, haven't you caught anything?" "Not a thing," they answered.

He said to them, "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will catch some." So they threw the net out and could not pull it back in because they had caught so many fish. The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken his clothes off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples came to shore in the boat, pulling the net full of fish. They were not very far from land, about a hundred metres away. When they stepped ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it and some bread. Then Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore full of big fish, 153 in all; even though there were so many, still the net did not tear. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. So Jesus went over, took the bread, and gave it to them; he did the same with the fish. This, then, was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from death. *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection**

How do you feel when you see someone you haven't seen for ages? Perhaps you have friends or family members who live a long way away? What do you do and say when you see them?

Sitting together to eat is a great way to get to know or to catch up with people and can be lots of fun. Can you think of a time when you have sat with others to eat a meal? Was it dinner at home? Or school lunch? Or at Easter or another special occasion?

Who was there? What did you do? Did you eat in silence? Or did you spend time talking to each other? Did you share the same food?

All around the world, people come together to eat and share food with one another.

Unfortunately, there are lots of people who struggle to get enough food to eat for themselves and their families. Do you think that is fair? Even though there is enough food in the world for everyone to have what they need, it is not shared fairly. Some people have more than they need and some people do not have enough.

**Our Challenge:** Let's think about all the people who do not have enough food to eat. Let's pray for them and work together with them to make sure that everyone has their fair share of food. Let's give what we can of our time and our talents to make the world a fairer place. (Adapted from CAFOD website)



**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

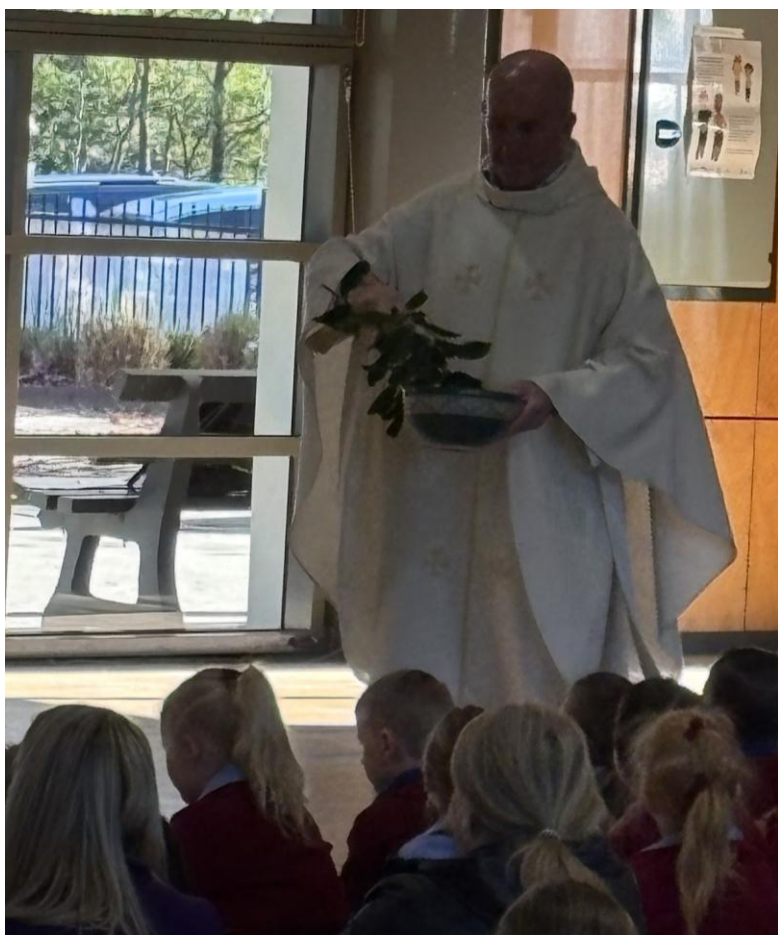
## Caritas News

Due to our amazing fundraising efforts, we were gifted some Caritas merchandise to help promote their great works. Pictured are the children who were lucky enough to be chosen randomly to receive a t-shirt, hat or cap. What a good looking crew!



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A special thank you to our Parish Priest Fr Justin Driscoll, who celebrated our Term Two Easter Mass with us last Friday. We had a special water blessing to remind us of the joy of the Easter Season and for Christians, a symbol of our baptism. We especially remembered Henry, Lawrence and Kenzi who were baptised over the weekend.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in our rituals, prayer and songs- their respectful and reverent behaviour was noted by staff and parents alike.

Many thanks also to family members, friends and community members who joined us for our Eucharist- we love it when you join our school family to celebrate together.

Please know you do not have to be Catholic or a regular churchgoer to attend these celebrations - everyone is always welcome here at St Francis Xavier!







Christine Meneely,  
Religious Education Leader





## Talk for Writing: Helping Children Become Confident Writers

At SFX, we are implementing *Talk for Writing* in Foundation to Year 2. It is an engaging and effective approach developed by literacy expert Pie Corbett. This method helps children develop their speaking, storytelling, and writing skills in a structured yet creative way.

### What is Talk for Writing?

Talk for Writing is based on the idea that children learn to write by first internalizing language patterns through spoken storytelling. By actively engaging with stories and texts, children build confidence and develop a strong foundation for independent writing. The approach follows three key stages:

#### 1. Imitation – Learning the Model Text

- Children listen to and learn a model text, often a well-structured story or non-fiction piece.
- They retell the text using actions, pictures, and story maps to embed sentence structures and vocabulary.
- Drama, role-play, and oral storytelling make learning interactive and fun.

#### 2. Innovation – Adapting the Text

- Once familiar with the model text, children make changes to elements such as characters, settings, or key events.
- This step encourages creativity while still providing a clear structure to follow.
- Teachers guide children through shared and guided writing activities.

#### 3. Independent Application – Creating New Texts

- Finally, children use their learning to plan and write their own original stories or non-fiction pieces.
- They apply the language patterns, vocabulary, and techniques they have practiced.
- This stage helps children become independent and confident writers.

### Why Talk for Writing?

This approach benefits children in many ways:

- ✓ Builds vocabulary and language skills.
- ✓ Develops confidence in speaking and writing.
- ✓ Supports a deeper understanding of story structures and text features.
- ✓ Engages all learners, including those who need additional support.
- ✓ Encourages creativity and independent thinking.

## How You Can Support at Home

Parents play a key role in fostering a love of storytelling and writing. Here are some simple ways to support your child:



**Read together regularly** – Talk about stories, characters, and events.



**Encourage storytelling** – Ask your child to retell stories they have learned at school.



**Create stories together** – Invent new characters and adventures as a fun activity.



**Use drama and role-play** – Act out parts of stories to bring them to life.

**Talk for Writing** makes learning enjoyable and accessible for all children, helping them grow into confident communicators and writers. If you would like to learn more, feel free to ask me or your child's teacher!



**Happy storytelling!** 🎭

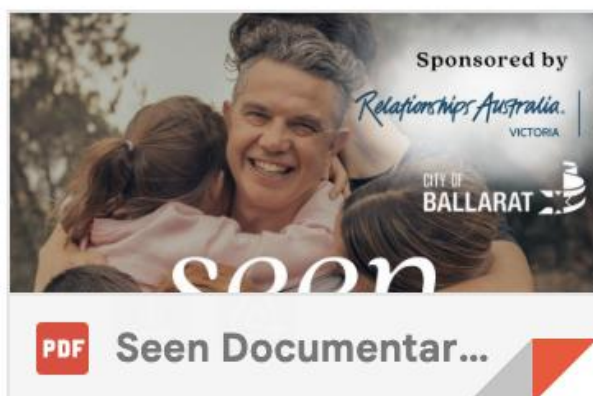


Lindy Harty  
**Literacy Leader**

## Wellbeing News

**Seen:** This inspiring and thought-provoking documentary has been created in collaboration with parenting and child development experts and paves the way for parents and carers to build healthier connections to positively impact child brain development to create stronger, healthier families. The Australian documentary features Maggie Dent, Lael Stone, Dr Vanessa Lapointe, Dr Billy Garvey and more. It's the brainchild of Sam Jockel from Parent TV and film director Hailey Bartholomew.

Relationships Australia Victoria, in conjunction with the City of Ballarat are bringing a free screening of the Seen Documentary to the Regent Cinemas on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZPQXpw6kT0>

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**Division AFL**

After a solid training block, SFX will be well represented on Wednesday by 2 Girls and 2 Boys teams at the Eureka Division AFL competition at Marty Busch Reserve. All players are keen to put their skills on display and play with the SFX spirit. Good luck to all students and staff involved.

**Cross Country**

On Monday of Week 4, we have a very strong squad of students ready to participate at the Eureka Division Cross Country at Fed Uni. Hopefully the weather remains fine and we have great running conditions.

**Soccer Tryouts**

This Thursday there will be tryouts for the SFX soccer Girls and Boys teams for the upcoming Division tournament. Tryouts will be conducted in the gym during break time.

**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 tremendous week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

### **Mother's Day Stall – Gifts priced between \$2 and \$7**

The P&F will be running a Mother's Day Stall between Tuesday & Friday for students to purchase a gift for their Mum or special person.

The stalls will be held at first break as follows:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Foundation & Grade 1

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Grade 2, 3 & 5

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Grade 4 & 6

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May – catch up for anyone who missed out

### **Next P&F meeting**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

6pm

Staff Room

### **Zooper Doopers**

Zooper Doopers will continue for the next 2 Fridays while the weather is still nice - \$1 per Zooper Dooper

### **Hot Chocolates**

Hot Chocolates will commence on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May at first break - \$1.50 for a Hot Chocolate & a Marshmallow

We will be seeking 4 volunteers each week in addition to the 2 co-ordinators – sign up will be available in the link sent in you Class chat

### **AFL Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser**

Last Saturday the P&F were fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to run a Sausage Sizzle at the AFL game at Mars stadium as a fundraiser for the School.

We would like to thank the below businesses for their donations – please remember to support their businesses as they support our school.

Sinclair Meats – for donating 700 sausages & BBQ trailer

Stewart's Bakery – for donating 35 loaves of bread

Wilsons Fruit & Veg – for donating 20kg of Sliced Onions

Thank you also goes out to the Pearce family for allowing us to run the stand &

Our SFX parents who volunteered their time on a Saturday – from setting up, picking up items required, cooking & selling Sausages and packing up at the end of the day! Thank you so much for your help, as you know we cannot run fundraisers without volunteers – we really appreciate you help & support - Thank you





# 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**

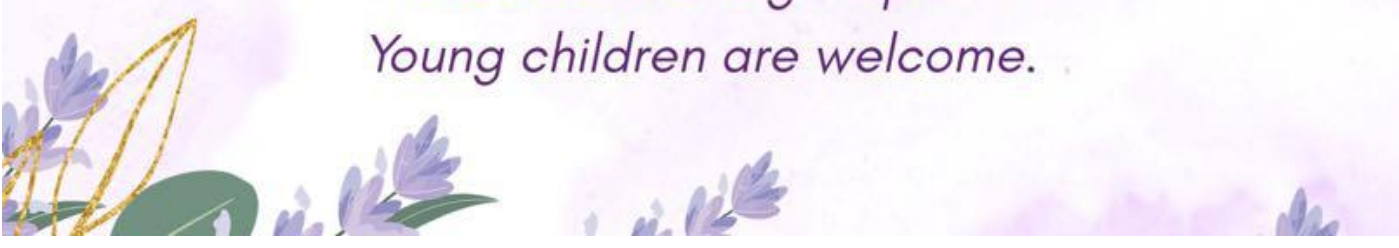
**Friday 9th May - final chance**

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.*



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

# Ministry District Newsletter

Priests Frs Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

**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

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (C)

4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday May 6 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday May 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday May 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan	
Friday May 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Michael's Bungaree St Alipius Ballarat East	
Saturday May 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday May 10 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday May 11 <sup>th</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

#### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Clare Keys

#### THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Kathleen Reynolds, Helen Ronan

#### THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Troy Watson (Steenhuis family), 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

Eucharist Preparation Session  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am or 6.00 pm  
St Alipius Hall

### EUCCHARIST 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### WELCOME TO FR SHAIJU



This weekend we welcome Fr Shaiju Mathew as Co-Pastor with Fr Justin of our Ministry District parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon. Fr Shaiju is one of four priests of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle from Kerala, India who are serving in the Diocese of Ballarat. He arrived in Ballarat in March 2020 as COVID lockdowns commenced and served in the Cathedral parish before being appointed to Mildura and the Sunraysia parishes. In 2023 he was appointed Administrator of the parishes of Ouyen and Robinvale. Welcome Fr Shaiju!

### 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 11<sup>th</sup>.

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



### 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.

### COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests:	\$880
Supporting our parish:	\$ 233

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

### MASS COUNTS

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over four weekends in May, starting this weekend May 3-4 and continuing each weekend until the end of the month. A count must be recorded for every Mass and Lay Led Assembly in your parish on each of these weekends.

## FUNERAL MINISTRY FORMATION

On Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

## ON THE CONCLAVE COMMENCING MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, President of the Australian Bishops Conference, in an interview while in Rome after attending the Funeral of Pope Francis in an interview said *the real question is not what kind of pope I want or what kind of pope somebody else wants. The real question is: What kind of pope does the Lord want us to find for the good of the church moving forward?... The real question is not so much "Do we need a pope from Africa?" or "Do we need a pope from Asia?" or "Do we need a pope from Oceania?" or "Do we need a pope from Europe?" The real question is what kind of person we do need. There would be great excitement if the next pope were to come from Asia, for example, or from Africa. That would send an important signal about the universality of the church. But equally, if the right person is somewhere in Europe, then he is the one that we should look for and embrace. Pope Francis tried to embed synodality as a culture, as a way of thinking, into the daily life of the church. I think many people will be looking to see that that continues into the future. The capacity of the papacy to be a unifying force struck me strongly, and Francis was very successful in that.*

## VALE POPE FRANCIS

Condolence Book: For those who would like to express gratitude for the life and work of Pope Francis and their condolences, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is collating messages sent to: [condolencebook@catholic.org.au](mailto:condolencebook@catholic.org.au). The Bishops Conference will respectfully forward these messages to His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Balvo, the Apostolic Nuncio in Australia.

## LITURGICAL MUSIC SYMPOSIUM WITH TONY ALONSO

From across the eight faith communities of the three parishes of our ministry district, the musicians, and those whose 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. Contact Fr Justin or the Parish Office to register your expression of interest. [More information here](#)

## RCIC

This weekend a number of children will receive sacraments at the 6pm Mass as part of their journey of initiation. These children and their families have been working with Fr. Justin and Cathy over a number of weeks and are now ready to receive their age appropriate sacraments. While Halle, Arlo, Lawrence, Henry and Millie will be fully initiated, Mackenzie, Claudia, Cameron and Arthur will be baptised. Please make these children and their families welcome and keep them in your prayers.

## 150<sup>TH</sup> GORDON PARISH ANNIVERSARY

Mass to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gordon Parish. Will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, at St Patrick's Catholic Church. Old Melbourne Road, Gordon at 10:30am. Refreshments will follow at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School. All Welcome. Old Photographs and Memorabilia: The Organising Committee for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gordon Parish plans to hold a photographic display of past parish events and activities after the anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 18, 2025. If you have old photographs or other memorabilia that you think may be of interest, please contact Joan Burke at [kandibourke@gmail.com](mailto:kandibourke@gmail.com) or [kandibourke@icloud.com](mailto:kandibourke@icloud.com)



# ***The Universality of the Mission***

## **Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 3C**

**(John 21:1-19)**

**Veronica M. Lawson RSM**



John 21 represents an addition to the original gospel text of John 1-20, an epilogue that centres on a “third” post-resurrection appearance. Sister of Mercy and biblical scholar Elizabeth Dowling has demonstrated that this final chapter of John marks an unfortunate shift in the portrayal of gender roles in this gospel, a shift that would seem to reflect struggles in the early church around accepting women in leadership roles. While women have featured prominently in earlier chapters, no women feature in this epilogue. The focus here is clearly on Peter, on his role as leader and on his relationship with Jesus. In John 20, it is not at all clear that Peter has come to resurrection faith, while there is no such doubt about the faith of Mary Magdalene, Mary the Tower. It is Mary, tower of strength and light, who receives the first resurrection appearance and it is she who is commissioned to proclaim the news of the resurrection.

In John 21, Peter goes fishing and several other disciples join him. They catch nothing. At dawn, they see Jesus on the shore. His disciples, with the exception of the “beloved disciple”, do not recognise him immediately. They follow his instructions and find themselves overwhelmed with their catch. At the invitation of Jesus, they breakfast on bread and fish. This provides the occasion for the rehabilitation of Peter. In the wake of his three-fold denial, Peter makes a three-fold profession of love of Jesus which brings with it the responsibility of tending not only Jesus’ “sheep” but also his “lambs”. This command has particular resonance for a church whose leadership has failed so many of its children.

Although our Church community is not yet a community of equals, we take heart from Pope Francis’ reform of the structure of the Roman Curia. It is notable that Pope Francis introduced the possibility of lay leadership, female or male, of the dicasteries or departments that make up the Curia.

While our gospel reading is filled with symbolism, we might pause to appreciate the material realities underlying the symbols. Fishing is an important gospel metaphor for ministry. The number of fish (153) probably denotes the universality of the mission. The 30% decline in large fish species in my country over the past seventeen years provides a sober reminder that the mission must include the natural world as never before. The untorn net is a symbol of unity, like the seamless garment in the passion narrative. The verb “to draw” has several layers of meaning in this fishing context: the disciples were not able “to draw in the net....so Simon Peter went aboard and drew the net ashore”. These statements evoke earlier sayings of Jesus, particularly his words on the cross, “And I if I am lifted up from the earth will draw *all* to myself” (12:32). The “all” allows for the whole Earth community, human and more-than-human, to be drawn to the crucified and resurrected One, despite the failures of the past.

### **THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-14

### **NEXT WEEK’S READINGS**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Revelation 7:9, 14-17

John 10:27-30

# SEEKING COMMUNITY KINSHIP CARERS



COULD YOU OFFER A SAFE SPACE WITHIN YOUR HOME FOR A CHILD FROM OUR COMMUNITY?

BADAC and DFFH are currently working together to build a network of Kinship carers within the BADAC community. This will ensure our children remain connected to Culture and Community.

If you have ever considered helping provide care for one of our children, please reach out to us on the numbers provided or come along to our Community Kinship Carer Information night!

## Kinship Care is about:

- Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people have a positive and nurturing family life experience that will support their cultural, social and emotional development.
- Providing a culturally safe home for children who cannot live with their birth families.
- Maintaining the child or young persons' connections with their families and communities.
- Recognising and maintaining the child or young persons' Aboriginal identity and place in the community.

Families come in all shapes and sizes; large families, couples and single adults can all offer something different to meet the needs of specific children. We currently need Kinship carers for all types of care; long term, short term and respite, and want to work with you to discover what would best suit your circumstances.

There is immediate and ongoing financial support available for all placements to ensure that caring for children does not have a negative financial impact on your family.

## CARERS INFORMATION NIGHT

**WHEN?** 7th May, 2025 at 6:00pm

**WHERE?** Tree Room, BADAC  
106-108 Armstrong St,  
Ballarat Central VIC  
3350

**To register your interest,  
please contact:**

Caitlin (BADAC) - 0427 274 663 or  
Linda (DFFH) - 0448 111 325







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