



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Term 2 Week 5

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 19<sup>th</sup> May

Yr 1 & 6 Swimming Lessons

#### 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  
5QM

#### 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 4LK

#### Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wed 4<sup>th</sup> June

Golf Clinics for Yrs 4-6

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

6pm P&F Meeting  
in SFX Staff Room

#### 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

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you well as we settle into the cooler months of the school year. There's lots happening in our school community, and I appreciate your continued support in making it all possible! This is just a shout out for:



#### Hot Chocolates and Hot Lunches – Helpers Needed!

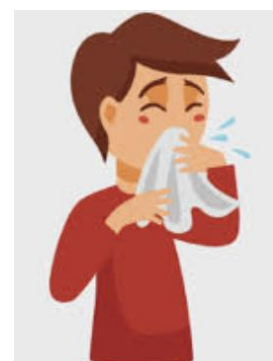
The Parents and Friends (P&F) committee is once again running our much-loved *Hot Chocolates and Hot Lunches* program. These warm treats bring great joy to the children during the colder terms and are always a highlight of the week! However, we are currently in need of volunteers to help pack the hot lunches and organise the Hot Chocolates. Without your assistance, we simply won't be able to run these wonderful events. If you are available to help out – even just once – we'd love to hear from you.

Volunteering is a great way to meet other parents and be part of your child's school life in a meaningful way. Please contact the office or speak with Lisa, our President or a P&F member if you can help.

#### Cold and Flu Season Reminder

As the weather begins to change and winter approaches, we kindly ask all families to be extra mindful of their child's health.

If your child is feeling unwell or showing any signs of illness – such as coughing, sneezing, fever, sore throat or fatigue – please keep them at home until they are fully recovered. This helps prevent the spread of germs and keeps our classrooms healthy for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and care in helping to maintain a safe and supportive school environment.



#### Welcome Back, Pete Mullane!

We are delighted to welcome back Mr. Pete Mullane to our staff team. Pete will be working with us on Fridays and brings with him a wealth of experience and a wonderful rapport with the children. We're thrilled to have him back on board and know our students will benefit greatly from his presence.

#### Best Wishes to Jess Toohey

This week, we say a fond temporary farewell to Ms. Jess Toohey as she prepares to head off on her long-awaited honeymoon with her husband, Dan. Jess is a vibrant and valued member of the Year 3 team and our staff. We wish her and Dan all the very best as they embark on this exciting holiday. Safe travels, Jess and Dan – we look forward to hearing all about your adventures when you return!

**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

**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  
GWR Football at TBC

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

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**  
School Music Showcase  
6pm in school gym  
FGJ, 1GT, 2RR, 3GD, 4LK, 5CC and 6PB

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**  
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons  
School Music Showcase  
6pm in school gym  
FTW, 1EM, 2MH, 3JT, 4KB, 5QM and 6MM

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**  
School Music Showcase  
6pm in school gym  
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

Many thanks for the support with the Winter uniform change over. It's been terrific to see the children looking so splendid in their winter attire. If you would like to check the requirements for the uniform please visit our website. Uniform items can be purchased from Crockers and Beleza for your convenience.

Wishing all our students and families a fantastic week ahead filled with learning, laughter, and lots of positive moments. Let's continue to look out for one another and make the most of all the wonderful things happening in our school community.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement

**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 you child is enrolled in Foundation/Prep 2026. Enrolments close 22nd 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.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**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

**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

## Save the Dates – Upcoming School Music Showcases!

We're excited to announce that our school's much-anticipated Music Showcases are just around the corner! These special evenings will be a celebration of the incredible talent and hard work of our students from across the entire school.

**Please keep these dates free** for what promises to be a magical musical night, proudly presented by our children.

Further details will be shared soon – stay tuned!

TUES JULY 1	WED JULY 2	THUR JULY 3
FGJ	FTW	FLP & FBOK
1GT	1EM	1JS
2RR	2MH	2TS
3DG	3JT	3LL
4LK	4KB	4JS
5CC	5QMc	5ZP
6PB	6MM	6ZA

**Saint Francis Xavier Primary School**  
Ballarat East



The Ballarat Foundation's 'Dancing with our Stars' glamorous charity fundraiser aims to raise **over \$200,000** for vital programs supporting the Ballarat community. Miss Johnson has a personal target of **\$20,000**. 🌟🌟🌟

St Francis Xavier Primary School is incredibly proud of Miss Johnson's dedication, generosity and willingness to take on this enormous challenge. Let's get behind her with our cheers, votes and donations as she dances her heart out for a great cause.

So far, Miss Johnson has raised **\$4,570!** Please [click here](#) to view Miss Johnson's fundraising page.

**Stay tuned for how you can support Miss Johnson on her fundraising journey!**

The Ballarat Foundation's 'Dancing with our Stars' is more than just a night of entertainment, it is a vital fundraiser that directly supports programs aimed at breaking the cycle of disadvantage in the Ballarat community. ❤️

Each year, local personalities partner with professional dancers to deliver dazzling performances while raising funds for important initiatives such as:

- **TAC L2P Learner Driver Program:** Helping young people without access to a supervising driver or vehicle to achieve their probationary licence.
- **Back to School Vouchers:** Providing essential items like uniforms and stationery to students in need.
- **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:** Delivering free books to children to foster early literacy.
- **Volunteering Ballarat:** Connecting volunteers with organisations to strengthen community engagement.

This year, the Ballarat Foundation is aiming to reach a major milestone of \$1 million raised since 'Dancing with our Stars' began! That's \$1 million going directly to local programs and projects that help disadvantaged people in the Ballarat community. 😊

*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.*



**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday May 18, 2025** Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C) Gospel: **John 13:31-35**

After Judas had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man's glory is revealed; now God's glory is revealed through him. And if God's glory is revealed through him, then God will reveal the glory of the Son of Man in himself, and he will do so at once. My children, I shall not be with you very much longer. You will look for me; but I tell you now what I told the Jewish authorities, 'You cannot go where I am going.' And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples." (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

**Gospel reflection**

Jesus tells his disciples that he will not be with them much longer and he tells them how he'd like them to continue his work. Jesus told the disciples to love one another, just as he had loved them. What do you think this means? How did Jesus show his love for people?

Jesus spent time with people, especially those who were sick, lonely, frightened or poor. He listened to them and ate with them. He healed them and he helped them to change their lives for the better.

Do you think this message to love other people was just for the disciples? What do you think Jesus wants us to do?

**Our Challenge:** What will you do to show your love for others this week?

**Laudato Si' Week** This morning at Assembly, our Mercy Leaders launched Laudato Si' Week. But what does that mean? "Laudato Si'" are words in Italian that mean "Praise be to You." They come from a beautiful song written by Saint Francis of Assisi, who loved nature and all creatures—like birds, flowers, rivers, and even the sun and moon!

The late Pope Francis wrote a letter called *Laudato Si'*, and it reminds us that God gave us a beautiful planet to care

for—like a big, wonderful garden. 🌸🌿🌳

Pope Francis asked us to:



Take care of the Earth,



Protect water and air,



Be kind to animals,



Help people who are poor or in need,



And live simply and thankfully.

So this week, we're going to celebrate God's creation and learn how we can be good helpers—just like Saint Francis! Maybe we'll plant a seed, clean up some litter, say thank you to God for a sunset, or learn how to use less plastic. Even small actions can make a big difference! Let's be Earth heroes—together!

If you'd like to know more, here is a short video about Laudato Si'

[Laudato Si' Video](#)



Christine Meneely,  
Religious Education Leader

As we move further into Term 2, our teachers have begun preparing for the end of Semester 1 reports. This is a valuable time for reflection on each student's learning, progress, and growth so far this year. Teachers are carefully reviewing assessments and classroom observations to provide a clear picture of achievement.

This semester there will be a slight change to our Mathematics reporting. In line with updated guidelines from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), each student will now receive **one progression point dot** for Mathematics, rather than the three progression point dots used in previous years.

## Reporting Updates

- Reporting is against the Year Level **Achievement Standard** NOT the Content Descriptions.
- Schools must implement reporting against Mathematics Version 2.0 in Semester 1 2025.
- There will be 1 progression point for Mathematics as a whole; not against each Strand.

## Parent view of the report



Victorian Curriculum Standards									
Level: A B C D		F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Expected Achievement Standard		Expected Level							
► Level 1		Current							
Critical and Creative Thinking									
● Critical and Creative Thinking	(P)		(C)						At Standard
Ethical Capability									
● Ethical Capability			(C)						At Standard
Personal and Social Capability									
● Personal and Social Capability	(P)		(C)						At Standard
English									
● Reading and Viewing	(P)		(C)						At Standard
● Writing		(P)	(C)						At Standard
● Speaking and Listening		(P)	(C)						At Standard
Mathematics									
			(C)						At Standard
The Humanities									
● History			(P) (C)						At Standard

Achievement: Well Below Standard, Below Standard, At Standard, Above Standard, Well Above Standard



We look forward to sharing these insights with families in the coming weeks.

Enjoy Week 5!

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

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

This month on SchoolTV - Cybersafety



Young people today are growing up in an increasingly connected world where technology is part of their everyday lives - for learning, socialising and entertainment. While the digital world offers enormous benefits, it also comes with serious risks. From cyberbullying and online predators to inappropriate content and screen time concerns, navigating the online environment can be challenging for young people and their families.

Cybersafety is not just about blocking access - it's about empowering young people with the knowledge and skills they need to use technology responsibly and safely. This includes understanding privacy settings, recognising scams and developing healthy digital habits. At the same time, it's important for parents and caregivers to stay informed, have open and judgement-free conversations with their children and lead by example through positive online behaviour.

In today's digital age, safeguarding a child's wellbeing must also include protecting their online life. This edition on SchoolTV will help you better understand the digital landscape your child is navigating and offer practical strategies to help them stay safe, confident and in control online.

Here is the link to our Edition: <https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/cybersafety-au>

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



### Division Cross Country

Our wonderful group of 46 Division Cross Country athletes ran in amazing Autumn weather conditions at Fed Uni last Monday. Well done to all of the students on their outstanding performances on the challenging course and congratulations to the 12 students that have qualified to participate in the Regional event in two weeks. A shout out to all of the families that came along to support the students.







*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.*

## Swimming Program

Our swimming program continues for students in Year 1, 3, 4 & 6 this week.

The swimming program for students in Year 2 & 5 will begin in Week 7. Please refer to the PAM notification for more information.

## Golf Clinics

Tony from Golf Victoria is once again conducting golf clinics for students in Year 4 - 6 in Week 7 of this term. These sessions are very informative and hands-on and are a fantastic opportunity for our students to participate in an activity that they may not normally do so. Please refer to the PAM notification for more information.

## 2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

### Term 2:

- 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 - Mon June 2 - Wed June 4 - Golf Clinics for students in Year 4, 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)
- Week 10 - Wednesday June 25th - GWR Football @ TBC

## 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

### Next P&F Meeting

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – 6pm – SFX Staff Room

### Hot Chocolates

First break every Monday Term 2 & Term 3

\$1.50 for a Hot Chocolate & Marshmallow

Thank you to our Volunteers this week – Please sign up to help next week if you are free

### Uniform Shop

Our Second Hand Uniform shop is always open, please see the office staff if you wish to have a look at any items in our Second Hand Uniform shop, or reach out to a member of our P&F to help you with any of your Uniform needs.

*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.*

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

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (C)

18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday May 20 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday May 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan	
Friday May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday May 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday May 24 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday May 25 <sup>th</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Gordon
6.30 pm	Clarkes Hill	10.30 am	Ballarat East Gordon

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

#### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Bernard Watts, Carol Forster (St Arnaud)

#### THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Mae Armstrong

#### 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).

*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.*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gordon Parish  
18<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30 am

Parish Council Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 6.30 pm

Liturgy Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> May 5 pm

Funeral Ministry Formation  
1<sup>st</sup> June 10.30

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

Welcome to all gathering for the 10.30am Mass at Gordon this Sunday for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. On May 9<sup>th</sup> 1875, St Patrick's Church Gordon, although incomplete, was opened by Archbishop James Alipius Goold OSA. Later in that year, Gordon was declared a parish of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, with Fr. Richard Ellis the first Parish Priest. The area of the parish was extensive, comprising of Gordon, Millbrook, Ormond, Mt. Egerton, Ballan, Mt Blackwood and Bacchus Marsh districts. In a new chapter for the Parish in 1980, St Patrick's Parish Gordon, Ballan and Springbank was transferred from the Melbourne Archdiocese to the Ballarat Diocese. After Mass all are invited to St Patrick's Primary School to view the display of photos and memorabilia and share a light lunch.

### BISHOP PAUL BIRD'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Bishop Paul will celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on May 17, 2025. He was ordained on May 17, 1975 at Waratah in Newcastle. Read more about Bishop Paul at the diocesan website  
<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/bishop-paul-bird/>

### EUCCHARISTIC PRESENTATIONS

This weekend at all Masses we welcome the children who are preparing to receive Eucharist for the first time. Please keep them and their families in your prayers during this special time.

### 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.

### BAPTISMS

Neve Ferrier  
Child of Rhys Ferrier & Tessa Condon

Scarlett Myrah Ward  
Child of Brayden and Felicity Ward

### COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests:	\$878
Supporting our parish:	\$188

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

### NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK; MAY 19-25, 2025

National Volunteer Week 2025 will celebrate the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme "Connecting Communities". Volunteering creates lasting relationships that enrich lives and strengthen communities. Giving to others fosters community engagement, connection and belonging. Let's acknowledge the spirit of connection and the incredible impact volunteers have in building thriving and inclusive communities. Resources are available from  
<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/nvw-resources/>





### **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.

### **HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO LEAD AND GOVERN FOR A MISSIONARY SYNODAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT – MISSION AND IDENTITY**

The importance of creating an inclusive and participatory diocese that reflects the current realities of all. The diocese is called to be welcoming and extend hospitality, fostering a sense of belonging for every individual and every community, reaching out to all, especially those on the margins. An intense sense of mission and a clear identity in the diocese ensures that leaders stay focused on the core purpose - to serve and build God's Kingdom in our communities.

Recognising the diocese as a "community for, by, and of the community" highlights the dynamic nature of our diocese as a "community of communities," where diverse groups and individuals are not only accepted but celebrated for their unique contributions. This understanding of community encourages collaboration, active participation, and co-responsibility in living out the mission and identity of the Diocese of Ballarat. Communities which flourish.

### **FR EUGENE MCKINNON'S GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD MASS**

All are welcome to Mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Fr Eugene on Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 10.30am at St James' Church Sebastopol. Morning tea to follow in the foyer.

### **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL**

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) will be held in Melbourne from Sunday, November 30 - Tuesday, December 2, 2025. ACYF is a national gathering of Catholic young people, established by the Australian Bishops more than a decade ago. This three-day event offers young people from across Australia the opportunity to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, and be empowered to live their faith in the world. It also provides a unique chance to experience the diversity of the Church in Australia. The Festival will include prayer, Mass, workshops, talks, live concerts, games, justice issues and an interactive expo. It will also offer opportunities for engagement with peers, school and youth groups, Bishops, musicians and speakers. Bishop Paul will be attending the event. Participants are young people aged Year 9 - 25 years. If you are interested in attending, please contact your parish office. Sponsorship may be available from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation to help offset costs.

### **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOP'S CONFERENCE PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV**



*Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are founded, look with favour on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us that, under him, the Christian people, governed by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith. Amen.*

### **DEFIBRILLATORS**

In recent times the parish have purchased defibrillators. In coming weeks Claire Stewart is going to be available before Saturday evening Masses and following Sunday morning Masses to educate people on how these work. Please make yourself available to be made familiar with these machines if you can. More information will be made available shortly.

# *The Ways of Love of Discipleship*

Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 5C

(John 13:31-35)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM



The literary context for today's gospel reading is Jesus' final meal with his disciples. Jesus has washed the feet of his weary table companions whom he addresses affectionately as "dear friends" ("little children" in some translations) and has thus provided an example of what it means to love. What he has done for them, they are to do for one another. In other words, no form of service is too menial for a Christian disciple and privileged exemption from service of others has no place in gospel living or in gospel leadership. Pope Francis has witnessed powerfully to this from the beginning of his papacy and in diverse ways over the past twelve years of his papacy.

Jesus is said to be "troubled in spirit" (v. 21) at this meal. There is a sense of foreboding in this statement. He knows that membership of the group is no guarantee of fidelity or of sustained goodness. All are capable of betrayal and Judas, who has been one of his closest companions, is about to hand him over to the authorities and ultimately to death. Another of his disciples, Simon Peter, after protesting undying loyalty will proceed to deny him three times (vv. 37-38). Although troubled and no doubt disappointed by the failure of his friends and the dire consequences for himself, Jesus continues to teach the way of discipleship.

The betrayer's departure from the meal, Jesus informs them, signals the imminent arrival of the moment of glorification. Events have been set in train that will culminate in God's victory over evil and death. But this is not the end of their association with him. He will leave them very soon and they are to continue on the way of discipleship. His legacy to them is "a new commandment" – to love one another just as he has loved them. If they do that, everyone will know they are his disciples. To love as Jesus loved, however, is no small thing: it is to be willing to give one's life for the sake of "the other".

This new commandment to love one another is also Jesus' legacy to us, the successors of those early disciples. A dear friend of mine volunteered to care for the wounded in Ukraine last year. Countless medical professionals are laying down their lives for the beleaguered people of Ghazza, Ukraine, Myanmar and Sudan. Loving care of the broken-hearted, of the war-ravaged and displaced, of the sick and the weary; providing shelter for the homeless; attentiveness to those grieving the loss of loved ones or of livelihood; a restorative gesture or word; a change in lifestyle or a tree planted in the interests of planetary survival – these are some of the ways of love and of discipleship. In our times, we have come to realise that "the other" embraces the more-than-human and that love of all God's creation is part of the new commandment.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27

Revelation 21:1-5

John 13:31-35

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John 14:23-29

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 16<sup>th</sup> May Hosted by 6ZA** Theme: Justice  
 Justice means being the best person we can be.  
 We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLP	Dez Richardson and Spencer Balsar	4JS	Noah Osciak and Lenny Owins
FGJ	Blake Morvell and Ivy Miller	4LK	Archie Gertz and Maddie Little
FBO'K	Winston Broadbent, Lenny Richards	4KB	Molly Lewis and Lenny Ryan
FTW	Chloe Allan and Lily Martin	5CC	Nellie Cheeseman and Jet Rivett
1JS	Toby Wilson and Hazel Fedke	5ZP	Zarli Backman and Paddy Dwyer
1EM	Teddy Bannan and Ava Segrott	5QM	Emily Crough and Olivia Farrell
1GT	Harper Stevenson and Kit Blomeley	6PB	Harley Bye and Emerson Rolfe
2RR	Lillian Armstrong and Howard Latchford	6ZA	Billy Cheeseman and Issy Slater
2MH	Mayo Baruwa and Zaeli Page	6MM	Alex Ponsonby and Bailey McCartin
2TS	Evy Faull and Thomas Stanley	EE	1EM
3LL	Mathias Tuffen and Matilda Bell	PA	Elizabeth Baruwa and Emily Bone for supporting other children to learn the piano parts for their showcase songs
3JT	Oakley Smith and Milla Nicholson	VA	Isla Tongs (6PB), Vann Brooks and Amelia Whykes (FGJ)
3DG	Wilson Quinlan and Payton Grant	PE	Winnie Harrison and Nathaniel Abraham
		Tch	Kit Blomeley and Will Green
Principal's Award:			

# Kinder Information Night

**Join us for a special evening as we open our doors and share the magic of our Kindergarten program.**

Discover how we nurture curiosity, build confidence, and lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

- Connect with our passionate Early Childhood Teachers and learn how they create inspiring, child-led learning experiences.
- Explore our thoughtfully designed spaces that encourage creativity, exploration, and a love of learning.
- Discover the rich, play-based curriculum that empowers every child's voice, interests, and development.



**Spaces are filling fast, secure your child's journey today!**

Scan the QR code or speak to our team to find out more.

## **Date**

Wednesday 21 May

## **Time**

5PM - 6PM

## **Location**

Journey Ballarat East  
200B Victoria St,  
Ballarat East

**Where it all begins®**

**JOURNEY**  
Ballarat East