



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 26th May 2025
Term 2 Week 6

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 21st Apr – Fri 4th Jul

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

Free Dress Day - Gold coin
donation for Ballarat East
St Vincent De Paul

2.40pm Assembly led by 4LK

Mon 2nd – Wed 4th June

Golf Clinics for Yrs 4-6

Wednesday 4th June

Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

6pm P&F Meeting
in SFX Staff Room

Friday 6th June

2.40pm Assembly led by
3DGS

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

Saturday 7th June/

Sunday 8th June

Year 4 Sacrament of
Eucharist

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

As we move into another busy week here at St Francis Xavier, we acknowledge two significant events in our school calendar - Catholic Education Week and Reconciliation Week.

The Catholic Education Week theme for 2025 is: 'May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace.' (Romans 15:13). This presents an annual opportunity for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ballarat to celebrate their distinctive ethos and mission with their school and wider communities.

In 2025, 52 primary schools and 11 secondary Colleges educate more than 18,500 students and employ almost 3,000 teachers and staff across the diocese from Mildura in the north, Portland in the south, and west to Edenhope and Nhill. Whilst we cover such a large geographical space, we are blessed to feel like a community and have opportunities to work together and learn from each other.

Reconciliation Week is also acknowledged at the same time each year, commemorating the 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The Reconciliation Week theme is 'Bridging now to Next', presenting the call to walk forward together.

These celebrations provide authentic moments for discussions around who we are and who we are called to be. Whilst each has their own distinct messages, connections can certainly be found between the two. In both, we see a commitment to togetherness and a future fueled by hope.

I wonder what kinds of conversations these occasions prompt within the classroom, or even at home. Chat with your children about what they are learning and what experiences and ideas these events have opened up for them - I bet they will be able to share something!

The past week has been full of productive activity across our school. Our swimming program continued for Years 1, 3, 4, and 6, giving students a great opportunity to build their skills and confidence in the water. Meanwhile, our Year 5 and 6 students were treated to a special excursion to St Patrick's College to enjoy a performance of Newsies—a wonderful chance to experience the magic of live theatre.

Inside our classrooms, rich and engaging learning continues each day. Our dedicated teachers provide exceptional teaching experiences that help our students grow academically and personally. It's also wonderful to see so many opportunities being offered beyond the classroom, helping us support the development of well-rounded learners.

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

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

Wednesday 18th June
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

Friday 20th June
2.40pm Assembly led by
1EM

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

Wednesday 25th June
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

GWR Football at TBC

Friday 27th June
2.40pm Assembly led by FGJ

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

Wednesday 2nd July
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

School Music Showcase
6pm in school gym
FTW, 1EM, 2MH, 3JT, 4KB,
5QM and 6MM

Thursday 3rd July
School Music Showcase
6pm in school gym
FLP, FBO, 1JS, 2TS, 3LL, 4JS,
5ZP and 6ZA

Friday 4th July
No Assembly

Last day of term 2
3.15pm finish
(to be confirmed)

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

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the smooth transition to our full winter uniform. We've been fortunate to enjoy some beautiful autumn weather, but as the temperature drops this week, we expect much chillier days ahead.

A reminder that only the official school uniform jackets and beanies are to be worn during school hours. We appreciate your support in helping us uphold our high standards and maintaining a consistent, neat appearance for all students.

As always, we are grateful to be working alongside such a dedicated school community. Take care and we look forward to another great week ahead.



Jayne Mohr, Deputy Principal/Learning Diversity

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

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

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

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday May 25, 2025 Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am leaving, but I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father; for he is greater than I. I have told you this now before it all happens, so that when it does happen, you will believe."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel reflection

Today Jesus gives his friends a very special gift- he offers them peace and tells them not to be afraid. Can you think of a time when you were fighting or arguing with someone? How did you feel? Can you remember when you stopped fighting and made friends with them again? How do you think you can build peace? Think about how you speak to and treat others you disagree with, or how you could be friendly to someone who doesn't have many friends. What could you do to stop someone else from being unkind to others? How could you let people in power know that you would like to live in a peaceful world?

Our Challenge: How will you share the gift of peace this week in your community?

Free Dress Day Reminder:

This Friday, May 30th is a Free Dress Day.

Please bring along your gold coin donations to support the amazing work of our local Ballarat East St Vincent De Paul group as they launch their Winter Appeal.



Catholic Education Week May 26-30

On Monday morning, our Year Six children led a beautiful assembly to celebrate **Catholic Education Week**, embracing this year's theme: **"May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace." (Romans 15:13)** The assembly was a joyful gathering of prayer and reflection, as students explored how hope, joy, and peace are lived out in our daily lives, within our school community and throughout the world.

Catholic Education Week is an annual opportunity for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ballarat to celebrate their distinctive ethos and mission with their school and wider communities. In 2025, 52 primary schools and 11 secondary Colleges educate more than 18,500 students and employ almost 3,000 teachers and staff across the diocese from Mildura in the north, Portland in the south, and west to Edenhope and Nhill.

Catholic Education Week is a time to pause, give thanks, and celebrate the gift of faith-filled learning. May we continue to grow as a community inspired by the hope, joy, and peace that come from God.

Celebrating Catholic Education Week 2025



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.



Introducing the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Initiative

I'm pleased to share some exciting news about a new initiative that's now part of our school community. In addition to my existing roles as School Counsellor and Religious Education Leader, I'm proud to be taking on the new position of Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader, through the **Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Initiative**.

The **Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Initiative** is a Victorian Government program developed in partnership with the **Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI)**. Its goal is to help primary schools support the mental health and wellbeing of students through early intervention, practical resources, and whole-school approaches.

It allows us to take a more coordinated and proactive approach—equipping our staff with the tools and knowledge to support students early, and creating a whole-school environment where mental health is understood, supported, and prioritised. Supporting mental health is a team effort, and I'm here to be part of that team—working together with you to help every child feel heard, supported, and empowered. I will also work collaboratively with our existing Wellbeing Team, in particular our Wellbeing Leader Gemma Johnson.

Wellbeing is at the heart of learning, and I'm passionate about helping every child feel safe, valued, and supported—spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. I look forward to working with our amazing school community to build on the strong foundation we already have. I will be attending some professional learning this Thursday and Friday, run by the University of Melbourne. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to connect, ask questions, or share ideas. I'm looking forward to the journey ahead.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Our dedicated teachers are currently engaged in moderating and compiling your child/ren's work samples and assessment results to ensure that Semester One reports are accurate and reflective of each student's progress. I extend my sincere thanks to our teachers for the energy, care, and professionalism they bring to this important task. As always, St Francis Xavier Primary School remains committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to support every child in reaching their full potential.

Semester One reports will be available via PAM from Thursday, 3rd July 4:00pm.

The Semester One Formal Reports will include:

1. A Religious Education comment detailing your child's Semester One learning outcomes and opportunities in alignment with our Awakenings Core Document.
2. A personalised written comment to celebrate your child's achievements, particularly in relation to their Personal / Social Learning, English and mathematics.
3. A personalised comment to identify your child's Next Steps in Learning to ensure future success and growth.

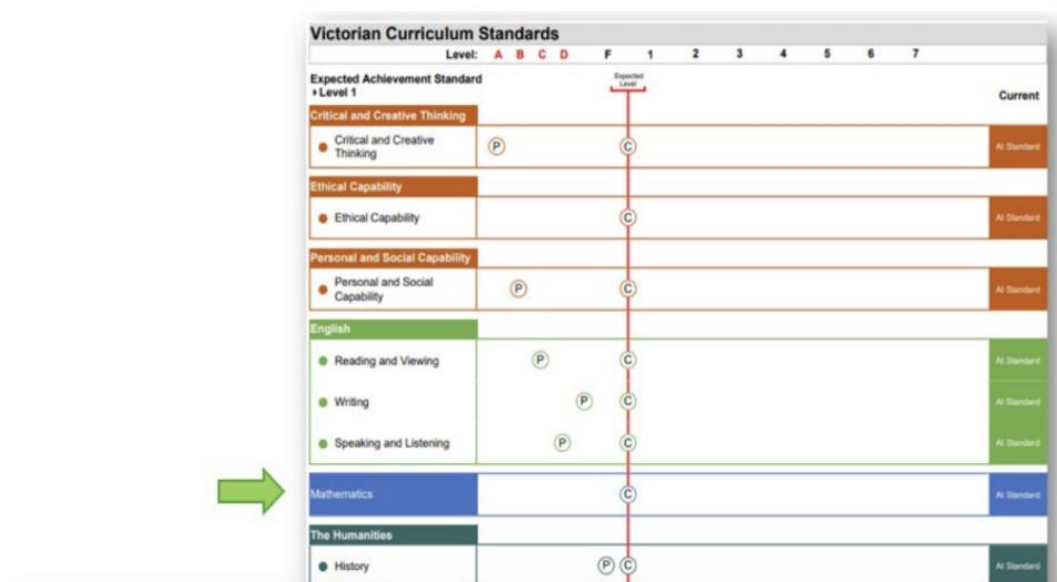
St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

4. Level of attainment in the form of a dot on a continuum for the learning areas explicitly taught in Semester One and in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum Achievement Standards:
 - English (Reading & Viewing, Writing, Speaking & Listening)
 - Mathematics
 - Visual Arts
 - Performing Arts
 - Health and Physical Education
 - Science / Environmental Education
 - Technologies
 - Humanities- History
 - Capabilities = Ethical (Yrs 3&5), Personal and Social (F-6) Critical and Creative Thinking (Yrs 2-6) and Intercultural (Yrs 4&6))
5. An Auslan grading using a 5 point scale.

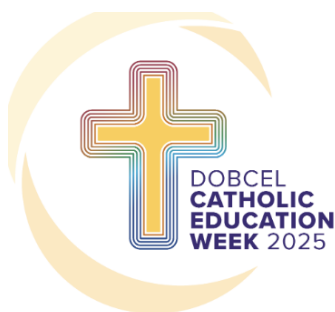
Please note a small change to this semester's Mathematics reporting.

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. All year levels will only have one dot and no previous dot from last year.

Parent view of the report



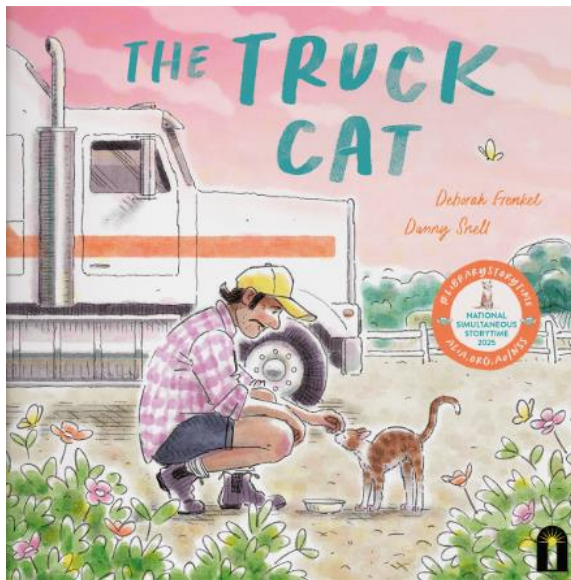
Happy Catholic Education week.



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

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.

National Simultaneous Storytime - The Truck Cat



Last Thursday, our school shared the **National Simultaneous Storytime** story *The Truck Cat* by **Deborah Frenkel**, illustrated by **Dannie Snell**—a gentle, heartwarming tale of an adventurous cat who finds an unexpected home in the cab of a long-haul truck.

The book explores themes of trust, friendship, and belonging—but it also offers a deeper message. As author Deborah Frenkel notes, “7.5 million Australians come from somewhere else. Many more of us have parents or grandparents who did. That means in so many families, there’s a story like Yacoub’s, and one thing I hope is that this book will open up conversations about family stories of migration.”

This beautiful message makes *The Truck Cat* not just a story for children, but an invitation to reflect on our own family journeys. And, of course, “this is a book for any cat person too—or anyone who loves animals. Or trucks!”

Keep the Story Going at Home

Here are some ways families can continue engaging with *The Truck Cat*:

- **Share your family’s migration story** – Talk about where your family came from and how they arrived in Australia. What journeys have your relatives taken?
- **Re-read the book together** – Look closely at the illustrations and discuss how the characters might be feeling throughout the story.
- **Draw or write your own adventure** – Encourage your child to imagine a tale about an animal on a journey. Where would they go, and who would they meet?
- **Spot trucks on the road** – Use everyday outings as a chance to talk about trucks, travel, and where people (and pets!) go.
- **Visit the library** – Explore books about cats, trucks, travel, or migration stories that reflect your own family’s history.

National Simultaneous Storytime is a wonderful way to spark conversations, nurture imagination, and build a love of reading in our school community. Thank you for being part of this shared celebration at SFX!



Lindy Harty, Literacy Leader

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.

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

Gender Diversity



In today's world, many young people are exploring who they are - not just in terms of career aspirations or friendships, but also how they understand themselves, including their gender identity. For some, this journey is straightforward. For others, it can involve questioning, rethinking or expressing gender in ways that may not align with traditional expectations.

As a parent or caregiver, it's completely natural to feel uncertain or even overwhelmed at times. You might have questions, concerns, or simply want to better understand how to respond in a way that's helpful and affirming. The important thing to know is that gender diversity is not new - but our awareness and understanding of it is growing. It means recognising that not everyone experiences gender in the same way. While many young people feel comfortable with the gender they assigned at birth, others may experience or express their gender in ways that feel different to what's traditionally expected.

Supporting a gender-diverse child doesn't require you to be an expert - it requires you to be present, open-minded and willing to listen. Research shows that young people who feel accepted and supported by their families have significantly better mental health outcomes, regardless of where they are in their gender journey.

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

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

*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.*

Sport/Physical Education News

Regional Cross Country We wish the following students all the very best as they participate in the Regional Cross Country event in Warrnambool today - Tara Lloyd, Lawrence Wilson, Sam Norris, Nellie Cheeseman, Chloe Wilson, Lucy Elliot, Amelia Sordello, Henri Gleeson, Audrey Lynch, Tom Kierce & Sidney Porter. We look forward to hearing how you all went.

Division Soccer We have 4 very strong teams representing SFX at this Wednesday's Division Soccer tournament at Morshead Park. 48 students will don the SFX colours proudly and display their talents and teamwork. Good luck to all of our teams.

Swimming Program Our swimming program is in its final week 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) - TBC
- 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 fantastic week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

P&F News

Next P&F Meeting Wednesday 4th 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

6th Sunday of Easter (C)

25th May 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday May 27 th	9:30 am	St Patrick's Gordon	
	5:30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday May 28 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday May 29 th	10.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan	
Friday May 30 th	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
		St Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday May 31 st	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday May 31 st		Sunday June 1 st	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Gordon
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Keith Mackinlay, Lyla Geary, Dianne Banko, Teresa Kolberger, Terry Sexton, Joe Tonna

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Mary Dowling

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Troy Watson (Steenhuis family), Elaine Conlan, Joan Egan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon, 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).

UPCOMING EVENTS
<p>Liturgy Meeting 29th May 5 pm</p> <p>Funeral Ministry Formation 1st June 10.30</p>

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

May 26 – 30, 2025: *'May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace.'* (Romans 15:13)

Catholic Education Week is an annual opportunity for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ballarat to celebrate their distinctive ethos and mission with their school and wider communities. In 2025, 52 primary schools and 11 secondary Colleges educate more than 18,500 students and employ almost 3,000 teachers and staff across the diocese from Mildura in the north, Portland in the south, and west to Edenhope and Nhill. In the Diocese of Ballarat today, as a community of communities from the Murray to the Sea, we are also tasked to uplift and guide those within our Catholic Christian educational community. We draw on the inspiration of Pope Francis and the wisdom of St Paul as we strive to bring the peace and joy that God offers to the people of our communities

<https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/catholic-education-week/>

Prayer for Catholic Education Week 2025

Loving God, May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you guide and nurture the minds and hearts of the young.

May the God of hope grant you wisdom to teach with truth, patience to lead with compassion and faith to inspire with love.

May you always find strength in the mission to reflect Christ's light in your service and may your work bear lasting fruit in the lives of those you serve. Amen.

COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests:	\$997
Supporting our parish:	\$318

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

BAPTISMS
<p>Tallulah Ivy & Sullivan Patrick Halliday Children of Peter and Teagan Halliday</p> <p>Lewis Walter Delalande Child of Peter Taylor & Carly Delalande</p>

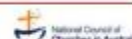
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 1 - 8 June 2025



"Do you believe this?" (John 11:26)

BALLARAT SERVICES

Monday 2nd June @ 2 p.m.
St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, Cnr. Sturt & Dawson Street
Tuesday 3rd June @ 2 p.m.
Peel Street Church of Christ, 37-39 Peel Street
Wednesday 4th June @ 2 p.m.
St Peter's Anglican, 1309 Sturt Street
Thursday 5th June @ 2 p.m.
Ballarat Central Uniting Church, Cnr. Dana & Lydiard Street
Friday 6th June @ 2 p.m.
Ballarat Anglican Cathedral, 49 Lydiard Street South



DEFIBRILLATORS

In recent times the parish have purchased defibrillators. For the next two weekends 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. Claire will provide information which you can take home with you regarding the use of these machines. When the machines are placed in churches, signage will be included to ensure that people are aware of where they are and how they work. Please contact the office if you would like further information or have questions.

FUNERAL MINISTRY FORMATION

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will be presenting a Liturgy Formation session on Funeral Ministry at St Peter & Paul's Church Buninyong on Sunday, June 1, 2025. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at 10.30am and the formation session will follow from 12.00noon – 4.30pm. Scan or click the QR code to register your attendance or go to <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1398425>. People from all parishes in the diocese are welcome to attend.



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

Relationships built on the principles of inclusivity and participation, where the People of God, who by virtue of baptism, are called to actively contribute to the life of the diocese are vital. Embedding synodality in leadership and governance will foster the change that is needed.

By discerning, recognising and honouring the unique gifts and talents among us, leaders can create opportunities for individuals to flourish in their communities.

Through a commitment to hospitality, inclusivity and courage, the diocese should seek to remain open to transformation, embracing the changing needs of the community. Communication plays a vital role in this process, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard and fostering a culture of understanding, mutual respect and growth for the mission of the diocese. Together, these values work to build a diocese where all feel welcomed, valued and empowered to live out their faith fully.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

May 27 – June 3, 2025 The National Reconciliation Week 2025 theme is "Bridging Now to Next" and reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future. "Bridging Now to Next" calls on all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us. National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Liturgy resources are available at <https://www.natsicc.org.au/liturgy-resources.html#recweek>

LOUD FENCE RIBBONS

Dear Parishioners,

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the practice of tying ribbons to fences as a sign of support for people who have suffered child sexual abuse. This practice began in Ballarat during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Over the past twelve months there have been discussions between members of the LOUD fence group and members of parish councils from St Patrick's Cathedral and St Alipius Ballarat East and these discussions have fostered mutual understanding about the ribbons. Such dialogue can also lead to an agreement about steps that we can take together, such as the agreement to tie ribbons to a particular section of the cathedral fence. A recent message from the LOUD fence group explained the ribbons in this way. "The Ribbons symbolise support for Survivors, their right to a voice for past harms and their visual reminder to those who care for children of their responsibility to prevent child sexual abuse." I realise that people have varied responses to the ribbons. However, I encourage you to look on the ribbons in a positive way, as a sign of support for survivors of abuse and as a reminder to the whole community of the need to do all we can to keep children safe.

I have been grateful for the dialogue between the LOUD fence group and representatives of parish councils and I endorse the agreements reached. When ribbons are placed on fences in line with such agreements, I ask that the ribbons be left in place as a mark of support for survivors and as a reminder to us all of our responsibility to make our communities safe places for everyone. God bless you all.
Bishop Paul Bird

CAR PARK ACCIDENT

If your car was damaged following Mass on Saturday May 18th, please contact Cathy in the parish office.

DINNER FOR FR. SHAIJU

On Thursday June 5th the ministry district will hold a dinner to give people the opportunity to meet Fr. Shaiju. Further details will be advised, but please put this date in your diary.

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.

Finding Peace in the Unfathomable Mystery of God

Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 6C

(John 14:23-29)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM



"Take from my heart all painful anxiety." This was the prayer of Venerable Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. It echoes the words of the Johannine Jesus, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid." It is all a matter of love. Disciples of Jesus of Nazareth know that they need not be anxious or afraid "for perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). Today's gospel makes it clear that "love" finds expression in the keeping of God's word.

In the prologue to the gospel, John has presented Jesus as the Word, the *Logos* who has been with God from the beginning. Jesus is the word of God in human form, the embodiment of God's communication with the cosmos. Jesus keeps God's word. Disciples are to demonstrate their love for Jesus by keeping the word that he both embodies and proclaims. In other words, they are to live as Jesus has lived and be faithful to what he has taught in God's name. They will thus become a dwelling place for the divine. The implications of this teaching are overwhelming. If we truly believed and "kept" the words of the Johannine Jesus, we might be more inclined to treat each other and "our common home" with the utmost reverence and respect.

Jesus refers once more to his imminent departure. When he is no longer physically present, God's Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be with them. The Greek word translated as "advocate" carries a range of meanings. It literally means "one called alongside to help" whenever necessary.

True disciples need not be troubled or afraid because they are never alone. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is always with them to defend them, to intercede for them, to comfort them, as well as to keep them focussed on all that Jesus has said to them. Earlier in this chapter of John's gospel, the Advocate is called the Spirit of Truth who remains with them and is actually in them. Only through the power of the Spirit will the disciples be empowered to "keep the word" of Jesus.

Jesus gifts his friends with peace, a peace "that the world cannot give." In John's gospel, the "world" is first and foremost the tenting place of God's Word: it is God's creation. Occasionally, as here, it refers to whatever is opposed to God's Word. The gift of peace that Jesus brings is a peace that casts out fear. It carries all the weight of the Hebrew *shalom*: it brings total well-being and peace of mind. True peace comes from being centred in God and gathering in all of God's creation. We long for that peace in our troubled times. As Jesus leaves them, the proper stance for the disciples is joy in the knowledge that, although he is going away, he is also "coming to them" since the Spirit will be with them. The gospel reading thus leaves us to find peace in the unfathomable mystery of God.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John 14:23-29

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 23rd May Hosted by 5QM Theme: Compassion
 Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering.
 We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

FLP	Archie Geaghan and Jacob Walker	4JS	Maya Skewes and Harper Phelan
FGJ	Marley Gull and Atlas Moscaritolo	4LK	Ned Kersley & Paddy Ludbrook
FBO'K	Hadley Bucknall and Dinvi Kariyawasam	4KB	Mitchell Cyples & Lola Miles
FTW	Harriet Maher and Amelia Reus	5CC	Lily Davison and Christian Wright
1JS	Aria Steinmann & Millie Van Gaans	5ZP	Remi James & Ella Uljanic
1EM	Arpan Shrestha and Lachie Skewes	5QM	Cleo Roney & Eliza Hanrahan
1GT	Nate Quinlan and Lucinda Bartlett	6PB	Amelia Sordello and Henri Gleeson
2RR	Maya Mookhoek and Flynn Williams	6ZA	Luella Dunstan & Rhys Bell
2MH	Patrick Lenaghan and Noa Cavanagh	6MM	Nic Green and Zara Thorp
2TS	Greyson Broadbent & Meredith Bodnar Evy Faull (for last week)	EE	Alfie Waldron and Ruby Miles
3LL	Noah McGregor Jimmy Faull	PA	Alfie Sosinski for helping and teaching Alex to play the guitar part in 6MM's showcase song!
3JT	Cooper Roberts and Charlie Irving	VA	Eva Ludbrook and Maya Ryan (FTW) Ryder Buntsma (3LL)
3DG	Fletcher Hipke and Damilare Baruwa	PE	Jude Toohey & Harper Stevenson
		Tch	Ivy Miles & Lucinda Leonard
Principal's Award: Khloe Nield and Van Brooks			

Holiday camps on sale now!



MINECRAFT • ROBLOX
Coding • Animation • Craft & much more

Book now at codecamp.com.au/flyer

SAVES \$25 Use coupon code
FLYER25 at checkout

Supported by
 **GROUP**