



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025  
Term 2 Week 7

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

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

### Term 2 (11 weeks)

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

#### 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

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June

World Environment Day

#### 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

Webinar: Digital Media  
Literacy & Safety (Part II)  
7.30pm-8.30pm

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June

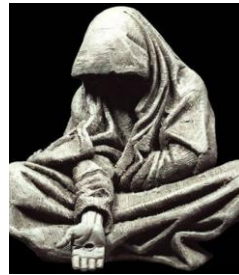
2.40pm Assembly led by  
1EM

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

Welcome to Week 7 of Term 2! Winter has certainly arrived, bringing chilly mornings and warm classroom moments. It's hard to believe how quickly the term is flying by in our vibrant Catholic school community. On the weekend we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord. After rising from the dead at Easter, Jesus spent time with His friends, teaching them and helping them understand God's love. Then, He returned to Heaven to be with God the Father, promising to always be with us and sending the Holy Spirit to guide us.

### Prayer for the Ascension of the Lord



Dear Jesus,

You returned to your Father in Heaven,  
but you promised to stay with us always.  
Help us to remember that you are still with us,  
guiding us with love and hope.

May we follow your example  
being kind, sharing with others,  
and spreading joy wherever we go.

Thank you for your love and for showing us the way. Amen.

Here at St Francis Xavier we continually speak about being kind, sharing with others and being happy, safe and learning. We recognise that respectful behaviour is the foundation of a strong and supportive learning environment. When we interact with kindness, sharing and consideration, we create a space where everyone feels acknowledged and respected. This respectful culture promotes clear communication and effective teamwork—key elements of a thriving school community.

Good manners are more than polite habits—they are integral to learning, relationship-building, and future success. We are proud of the way our students demonstrate being a Please and Thank you school. Let's continue to support and nurture this strength as we grow together. It is so pleasing to be on the receiving end of chats with students who use their manners. Thank you.

*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.*

**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  
(to be confirmed)

**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

We're just a few weeks away from our highly anticipated Whole School Music Showcase evenings, and the excitement is building!

Throughout this term, our students have been working with incredible focus and enthusiasm during their music sessions—learning songs, reading music, composing, playing instruments, and coming together as class ensembles.

As this is a formal school event, all students are **expected to attend** and must wear their **full winter school uniform** (please note: **sports uniforms are not permitted**). Please refer to the attached poster for your child's performance date and time.

Our Showcase evenings are a wonderful celebration of each child's learning, and provide a special opportunity for every child to share their musicality and creativity with our community.

Please take a close look at our Music Showcase flier in this newsletter detailing dates and times for our upcoming Music Showcase.

**Winter is here!**



It's been a busy week in the whirlwind of school life — assessments, assemblies, swimming, soccer, Catholic Education Week, Reconciliation Week, Wildlife animals and a sudden change in the weather just to keep us on our toes! We've officially passed the halfway mark of this long term. Jumpers and coats have started to appear, we promote only school styles and colours with this. Beanies / Jackets can be bought from Crockers, Armstrong Street North.

Our own Ms Johnson is busily learning all her dance moves for the upcoming Dancing with our stars event.

A message from Gemma:

I wanted to let you all know first about the raffle I have created to raise funds for the Ballarat Foundation alongside the Dancing with our Stars Event. If you or anyone you know would like to win Superbox tickets to Disney on Ice at Rod Laver Arena, send them this way 🐾🐾  
Your support of me during this time is greatly appreciated and I know the foundation is so thankful for the SFX community as well!!

<https://rafflelink.com.au/dwos-gemma>

Enjoy your week!



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement

**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.

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

## AUSLAN

As part of the St Francis Xavier semester reports, families will receive an update on their child's learning in Auslan.

Within the Auslan report, families can expect to receive;

- an overview of semester one learning. This will be in the form of a short paragraph, explaining the elements of Auslan that were the learning focus for semester one.
- A statement that reflects your child's level of achievement. This will be in the form of a five point scale,
  - Starting to work towards level
  - Working towards level
  - Working at level
  - Working above level
  - Working well above level

Alongside the semester reports your child also shares their learning in Auslan twice yearly at student led conferences, via seesaw (where applicable).

The delivery of Auslan at St Francis Xavier follows a 'Teachers as Co-learners' model. As the title suggests, our teachers are also learners and are supported by our Language Assistant and Auslan expert, Chantelle Stacey. Chantelle works alongside both teachers and students through the Teachers as Co-Learners program, ensuring the Auslan curriculum is delivered accurately and in a culturally appropriate way.

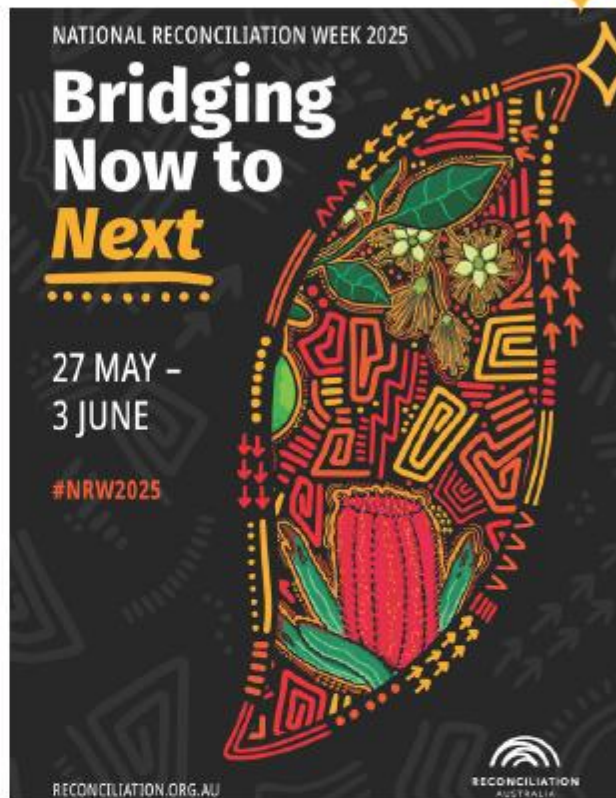




# RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

The National Reconciliation Week 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future. Bridging Now to Next urges us to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

## Celebrating Reconciliation Week at SFX



## Year 6 RAP Leaders attend Sorry Day Ceremony at Damascus

Last Monday our Year 6 RAP Leaders Reuben and Milla, along with Mrs Clark and Mrs Molloy, were invited to a National Sorry Day Ceremony at Damascus College.

It was a very moving ceremony with a Welcome to Country by Macaylah Johnson and a didgeridoo performance. First Nations students from Damascus, Loreto and St Pat's shared their visions for Reconciliation and Brenda Matthews, author of The Last Daughter, gave a very thought provoking speech.





## First Nations learning in our classrooms

All of our classes were involved in lots of wonderful learning around Reconciliation, Wadawurrung culture and First Nations perspectives throughout the week. In the Art Room we were visited by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Dr Deanne Gilson and Indigo Harrison, along with staff from the Art Gallery of Ballarat.



## Reconciliation Week Assembly

Our Year 6 RAP leaders and other children from our school led a beautiful Reconciliation Week prayer at our Monday morning Assembly today.

Our amazing school choir performed the Wadawurrung song 'Koling Wada-Ngal' (Let us walk together).





# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

JUNE 5

## TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT OUR PLANET!

Here are some actions we can take every day:

- ✓ Reduce, reuse, and recycle
- ✓ Conserve water and energy
- ✓ Cut down on single-use plastics
- ✓ Plant a tree





**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 1, 2025      Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year C)**

**Gospel: John 17:20-26**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said: "I pray not only for them, but also for those who believe in me because of their message. I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I gave them the same glory you gave me, so that they may be one, just as you and I are one: I in them and you in me, so that they may be completely one, in order that the world may know that you sent me and that you love them as you love me. Father! You have given them to me, and I want them to be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory, the glory you gave me; for you loved me before the world was made. Righteous Father! The world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you sent me. I made you known to them, and I will continue to do so, in order that the love you have for me may be in them, and so that I also may be in them." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:** Jesus is praying to God for his disciples and for all people who will come to believe in him through the disciples. Jesus asked that all his people could be as one - this means that they all stand united, they love one another, live peacefully and work together.

We are all different, but even though we are different, we have lots of things in common with each other. There is one very special thing we all share - God loves us all. We are all sisters and brothers, no matter who we are or where in the world we live. We are all part of one global family, loved by God. God wants that love to shine through us in the way that we treat each other.

We are called to love one another and to live together in harmony. This doesn't mean all being the same or that we all have to agree about everything, but it does mean that we should always be kind and loving to one another, treating each other as we would wish to be treated.

**Our Challenge:** Let us do our very best to be united with other people, even if they are different from us, by loving our brothers and sisters throughout the world. *(Adapted from CAFOD Website)*



**Sacrament of First Eucharist:**

Over the following weekends (June 7/ 8, June 14/ 15 and June 21/ 22), we pray for many of our Year Four Students who are receiving the Sacrament of First Communion. As a part of their Religious Education lessons, the children have been invited to think about Identity and how Catholic Christians celebrate at mass. A special thank you to our fabulous Mr Barclay, Ms Latchford, Ms Keogh and Ms Stahl for all their guidance and support. We wish the children involved and their families all the best as they take this important step in their faith journey.



Thank you for your generous support !

Our **Free Dress Day** last Friday raised \$513.90!

We will donate this money to our local Ballarat East Chapter of St Vinnies, to assist in their support and valuable outreach to people in our 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.*



### **Outreach to our Local Community**

As a school, we prioritise catholic social teachings emphasising human dignity, the common good, solidarity and preferential treatment of the poor, especially the most vulnerable in our community.



**How can we help?** Both the Ballarat Soupbus and Showerbus are in desperate need of donations.

**SHOWERBUS-** Do you have spare clean coats, trackies, coats, socks, blankets and sleeping bags you are not using? You can donate these directly to the bus at 115 Doveton St South (Camerons Metalland) on Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-8pm Sundays 5-7pm, otherwise you can leave your donation with Ms Russell (Yr 2 Teacher).

**SOUPBUS-** Can you help with some non-perishable food items? You can drop off donations at the Ballarat East Men's shed on Wednesdays between 9:30 and 11:00 am and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, also between 9:30 and 11:00 am. The shed is located at the corner of Fussell and Eureka Streets.



Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**

### **Wellbeing News**

**Child Safe Standard 8: Staff, volunteers and parents are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.**

Due to St Francis Xavier Primary School's ongoing commitment to supporting youth wellbeing through its partnership with SchoolTV, they would like to invite parents, carers, grandparents, educators and school leaders to attend an exclusive webinar supporting primary and secondary students.

**WEBINAR: Digital Media Literacy & Safety (Part II)**

**DATE: Wednesday, 18 June 2025**

**TIME: 7:30pm**

Join SchoolTV for an exclusive session with two of Australia's leading experts in youth wellbeing and cybersafety, **Susan McLean** and **Dr Michael Carr-Gregg**. They will share invaluable insights on how to empower young people to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

**Topics in this webinar include:**

- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Misinformation & Algorithms**
- **Sexting & Sextortion**
- **Online Grooming**

Please note, this webinar is a one-off event and will not be available to replay later.

**Participants must register prior to the commencement of the webinar to gain access.**

*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.*

They look forward to having you join them for this insightful and engaging session.



## A FREE WEBINAR

# Digital media literacy & safety

## PART II

### Supporting Primary & Secondary students

This webinar is **Part II of a series**.  
In this session, topics include:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Misinformation & Algorithms
- Sexting & Sextortion
- Online Grooming



Online, Wednesday  
**18 June, 2025**  
7.30 - 8.30 pm



**Dr Michael Carr-Gregg**

Renowned child and adolescent psychologist. Michael has years of experience working with young people and families and was Chair for the Cybersafety Committee.



**Susan McLean**

As Australia's foremost cybersafety expert and founder of Cyber Safety Solutions, Susan will offer proactive strategies to help keep young people safe.

**Don't miss out.  
FREE event.  
Scan to register.**



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.*



### Regional Cross Country

Well done to the 10 SFX students that took on the challenging course in Warrnambool at last Monday's Greater Western Region Cross Country event. In windy conditions, all students did a fantastic job and should be extremely proud of their efforts. Congratulations to Nellie, Chloe, Sam & Lawrence who have qualified to run at the State finals early next term.





## Division Soccer

An outstanding day was had by all involved at the Division Soccer tournament at Morshead Park on Wednesday. SFX was proudly represented by 4 amazing teams, all of which played with energy, skill, teamwork and determination. Well done to the Girls A team that fell agonisingly short in a very tense Grand Final. The support that all students displayed for their school and peers was fantastic to see. Thank you 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 begins this week for students in Year 2 & 5. 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 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

#### Term 3:

- Week 4 - Friday August 15 - Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 3/4/5/6)
- Week 5 - Friday August 22 - Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5 & 6)
- Week 6 - Friday August 29 - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6) - TBC
- Week 8 - Thursday September 11 - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualified students from Yr 3/4/5/6 - from event in Wk 4)

### 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 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 volunteer if you are able – we rely on Volunteers to be able to run this for the children.

#### 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

## Ascension of the Lord

1 June 2025 Year C



### MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

#### Weekday Masses

Tuesday June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.30 pm	St. Alipius Ballarat East
Wednesday June 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)
Thursday June 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	No Mass at Ballan
Friday June 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday June 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday June 7 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday June 8 <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

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME  
George Pearse

#### 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, Simon Murillo

### 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
<p><b>Funeral Ministry Formation</b> 1<sup>st</sup> June 10.30 am - Ss. Peter &amp; Paul's</p> <p><b>Ministry District Dinner</b> 5<sup>th</sup> June 6.00 pm - Robin Hood Hotel</p> <p><b>Baptism Preparation Sessions</b> 10 am or 5.30 pm Mary Glowrey Room (St. Pat's Cathedral)</p> <p><b>Caring Group</b> 6<sup>th</sup> June 2.00 pm - Parish Hall</p>

## COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests: \$786.45

Supporting our parish: \$ 353.60

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

## CULTURAL COMPETENCY FOR MISSION

On Wednesday and Thursday of this coming week Frs Justin and Shaiju will participate in a two-day workshop on Cultural Competency for Mission to be facilitated by Patrick Fox of Catholic Mission Australia. They will join other priests from the Ballarat Diocese as well key diocesan personnel. The challenge in ministering in such fast-growing cultural diversity is to acquire cultural competency – acquiring the cultural knowledge, skills and attitudes to be able to communicate and collaborate effectively in a multicultural environment, leveraging diversity, valuing and celebrating difference.

## 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.

## THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2025 is "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The 2025 prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy and mark the 1700 Anniversary of the of the Council of Nicaea, the first Ecumenical Council.

### Prayer for the week:

*We believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*The Nicene Creed (adopted at the First Council of Nicaea, 325)*

All are welcome to attend the following services during the Week for Christian Unity:

Monday, June 2 at 2.00pm – St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, corner Sturt & Dawson Streets

Tuesday, June 3 at 2.00pm. – Peel Street Church of Christ, 37-39 Peel Street

Wednesday, June 4 at 2.00pm – St Peter's Anglican Church, 1309 Sturt Street

Thursday, June 5 at 2.00pm – Ballarat Central Uniting Church, corner Dana & Lydiard Streets

Friday, June 6 at 2.00pm – Ballarat Anglican Cathedral, 49 Lydiard Street

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

Transformation and conversion call for a deep and ongoing renewal of both structure and spirit. The diocese is called to undergo a conversion of heart, fostering a culture of humility, transparency, and accountability, particularly in addressing the failures of child sexual abuse.

This includes not only considering clericalism and abuse of power but also embracing a more inclusive approach that values the voices of all People of God, particularly the marginalised groups of women, young people and the underprivileged. The transformation should also extend to the hierarchical structure, which must adapt to the evolving needs of the global community while remaining faithful to the Gospel.

A focus on people and pastoral care, rather than institutional preservation is necessary, emphasising listening with compassion, justice and service over power and control. Such changes require a commitment to personal conversion for both clergy and laity, centred on a renewed commitment to the teachings of Christ, openness to the Holy Spirit and the active pursuit of truth, justice and healing in the world. The prophetic spirit – challenging all to live in a world in which justice, peace, equality and community are the standard rather than a battle. Imagining a new normal can lead to the development of a different vision of life, challenging the status quo.

## WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY: JUNE 1, 2025

The Church in Australia marks World Communications Day on June 1 this year. Pope Francis' message for the Day is titled, "Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication". Read this message at <https://tinyurl.com/chft3bad>

### BAPTISMS

Oaklee James, Henley Ryan  
& Brooklyn Rye Young

Children of Troy and Stevie Young

'I have called you by name, you are mine'

## 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

## DINNER FOR FR. SHAIJU

On Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> the ministry district will hold a dinner to give people the opportunity to meet Fr. Shaiju. Dinner will be at the Robin Hood Hotel at 6pm. Bookings are essential. Please contact the parish office by Wednesday at 12 noon to book. We cannot take bookings after this time.

## CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet in the parish hall this coming Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Everyone is most welcome to come along for a cuppa. Please bring a small plate.



# Being Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth

Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of the Ascension Year C

(Luke 24:46-53)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM



Loss is part of the human condition and the physical death of a loved one is among the most painful experiences of loss. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been re-membling his death and resurrection. As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of Jesus who has been raised.

The Lukan Ascension stories as found in the gospel and in today's first reading (Acts 1:1-11) presuppose a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's realm from whence the Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people. This vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement.

In Acts, Jesus' family and friends who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: they must return to Jerusalem for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus ("clothed with power from on high"), to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world. Like us, the early Christians needed time to grasp each dimension of the one great mystery of God's presence among them.

In the gospel account, the disciples gathered in Jerusalem are to be witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus. They are to proclaim a gospel of "repentance and forgiveness". In the gospel (Luke 24:47) their audience is "all the nations", while in Acts 1:8, they are commissioned to be witnesses to Jesus "in all Jerusalem, in Judaea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". In other words, the good news is not only for the earth's human inhabitants but for the earth itself. Pope Francis, in calling us to be attentive to the cry of the poor, insisted that the earth itself is "among the most maltreated and abandoned of our poor" (*Laudato Si'* 2).

Joy, peace and blessing have the final word in Luke's gospel. They have permeated Luke's story from the outset. Joy, peace and blessing fill our hearts as we give thanks for our newly elected pontiff, Pope Leo XIV. And as we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we pray that the spirit of joy and peace that animated the earliest Christians will be with all of God's people and that the entire planetary community might know the blessing of God.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS  
The Ascension of the Lord  
Acts 1:1-11  
Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23  
Luke 24:46-53

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
Pentecost  
Acts 2:1-11  
Romans 8:8-17  
John 14:15-16, 23-26

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 30<sup>th</sup> May Hosted by 4LK** Theme: Hospitality  
Hospitality means we welcome and include others.

FLP	Harly Gemmola and Eden Vanderkley	4JS	Max Miller and Isabella Carrick
FGJ	Hadley Mullane & Jax Nelson	4LK	Macie Lloyd & Ben Walshe
FBO'K	Lyla Quick and Louis Dreher	4KB	Levi Dreher & Willow Prato
FTW	Ryker Kermeen and Rupert Howard	5CC	Winnie Harrison and Lucy Elliot
1JS	Harry McMahon & Ella Finley	5ZP	Sam Norris & Milla Richardson
1EM	Rex Owins and Parker Davis	5QM	Finya Najera-Hinko & Violet Wilson
1GT	Ava Kelishedi and Jed Phelan	6PB	Hudson Rowland and George Pearce
2RR	Zahli Kingston and Carter George	6ZA	Evie Staley, Claudia Cochrane & Luella Dunstan (for last week)
2MH	Billie Dodd and Sam White	6MM	Cruize Van Langevelde and Aria Treacy
2TS	Frankie Richards and Daulat Gill	EE	4JS
3LL	Angus Morley & Ryder Bunstma	PA	Max Miller and Noah Osciak from 4JS
3JT	Ollie Geaghan Alfie Heywood	VA	Archie Gertdz, Paddy Ludbrook, Hudson Ryan, Ben Walshe, Ava Warr (4LK)
3DG	Harrison Madigan and Lachlan Purtell	PE	4JS A wonderful class to teach. They all show great hospitality. Well done.
		Tch	Tex Brown & Nic Taylor (3LL)
Principal's Award: 2MH - whole class			



## Central Kindergarten Registration

# Have you thought about kindergarten?

In Victoria, children can start kindergarten at 3 years old, which means two years of **free** kindergarten before school.

## Registering for kindergarten

- Register your child from the **January of the year they turn 2 years old** for both 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten.
- Select up to three preferences.
- Registration is free, and you can change your preferences and update your details at any time.
- Registrations for **free kindergarten** are accepted throughout the year.



**For more information and to register**  
simply scan the QR code or  
visit [ballarat.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://ballarat.vic.gov.au/kindergarten)

## Do you have questions or need support?

Please contact Family and Children's Services

☎ 5320 5720 ✉ [kindergarten@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:kindergarten@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

Translation services are available.

