



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Term 2 Week 8

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

**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

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup>/Sun 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

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June**  
Last day for Book Club  
Issue 4 orders

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

GWR Netball @ Selkirk  
Stadium

Interschool Sport (Yr 6)  
at SFX

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup>/Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Year 4 Sacrament of  
Eucharist

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**  
Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons  
GWR Football at C.E. Brown  
Reserve, Wendouree

**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

Dear families,

It certainly feels like winter has arrived in full force! I think we experienced more rainfall over the King's Birthday long weekend than we've seen in quite some time. A walk around the school grounds this morning revealed a few soggy spots, but overall, we've weathered the deluge quite well. I hope your gutters and downpipes stood up to the challenge too!

It was lovely to be welcomed back by students and staff this morning after my recent period of leave. With so many smiling faces and stories to share, I felt genuinely uplifted by the warmth of our community. While I would have loved to return with tales of travel and adventure, sometimes life takes an unexpected turn. In our case, my wife fell ill just before our planned trip, and the last six weeks were spent at home while I cared for her. Thankfully, she has recovered, and we are gradually settling back into our usual routine. While it was disappointing to miss the enrichment leave experience, I'm grateful that we avoided illness while away and could manage everything from the comfort of home.

Now that I'm back, I want to extend my sincere thanks to Jayne Mohr and Jane Clark for their outstanding leadership during my absence. Their willingness to share the Principal role ensured the smooth running of our school and allowed me to focus fully on my family. I'm also incredibly grateful to all the staff who checked in and offered their care and support to both Mrs. Hogbin and me. We are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate team here at Saint Francis Xavier.

As we settle into the final four weeks of the term, let's all make the most of our time together. Stay warm, stay dry, and let's continue to enjoy all the wonderful moments that life at our school brings.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



### 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

Catholic Primary Schools  
Athletics at Llanberris  
(selected students from  
Yr 3/4/5/6)

### 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

Division Basketball at Selkirk  
Stadium (selected students  
from Yr 5 & 6)

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August

2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS

Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)  
- venue to be confirmed

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Fathers' Day/Special  
Friends' Liturgy

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Division Athletics at  
Llanberris (qualified  
students from Yr 3/4/5/6  
from event in Week 4)

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September

2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September

12.40pm Assembly led by  
FBOK

## Traffic Around School

When turning at the top of Fortune Street - please go to the 2nd group of trees, opposite the golf club (marked with a LARGE X).

Please go up to the cross in a single line and cross to come back down Fortune Street.

As a pedestrian, only ever cross Fortune Street at the School Crossing.

Please observe all 'No Standing,' 'No U-Turns,' 'One Way' and 'Bus Zone' signs.

Please use the designated areas for parking and follow the rules.

## CDC Bus lines Industrial Action

We have been informed of industrial action by CDC Bus Lines on MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE and TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE. This means our school bus service provided by CDC will not operate on these two days and parents/carers will need to provide alternative travel arrangements for both school drop-off and pick-up on these two days.

Bus services are expected to return to normal from the first scheduled service on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.



## Cover-Up Clothes

It's time to dig out the cover up clothes for children who like to play on the top oval. We will close the oval when we have to, but if the children wear cover-up clothes this will help on damp days.

## ★Support Gemma in 'Dancing With Our Stars'!★

We are incredibly proud to share again that our very own Miss Johnson has bravely stepped up to take part in this year's 'Dancing With Our Stars' - a wonderful fundraising event run by the **Ballarat Foundation**.

This community initiative raises vital funds to support those experiencing hardship across our region. Every dollar raised goes toward creating brighter futures through local food programs, education support, mental health services and more.

To help Gemma reach her fundraising goal, she's running an exciting **Raffle** - and she'd love your help!

Tickets are just \$5 each or 3 for \$10

**First Prize:** 6 premium tickets in a Superbox to a spectacular live ice performance at Rod Laver Arena on **Sunday, 20th July at 2:00 PM** (please note: food and drinks are not included)

**Second Prize:** 4 premium tickets in a Superbox to a spectacular live ice performance at Rod Laver Arena on **Sunday, 20th July at 2:00 PM** (please note: food and drinks are not included)

**Third Prize:** A \$200 voucher for Jericho Road Clothing

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*Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*

**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

This is a fantastic opportunity to support a great cause and go in the running to win some incredible prizes.

**Scan the QR code on our posters around the school** or visit the link below to purchase your tickets today!

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

Let's rally behind Miss Johnson as she takes to the stage and helps make a lasting difference in our community.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

**DANCING  
— WITH —  
OUR STARS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE -  
6  
SUPERBOX  
TICKETS  
TO DISNEY  
ON ICE**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE -  
4  
SUPERBOX  
TICKETS  
TO DISNEY  
ON ICE**

**3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE - \$200  
JERICHO ROAD  
CLOTHING  
VOUCHER**

**GEMMA'S  
RAFFLE**

**SUPPORT THE  
BALLARAT  
FOUNDATION**

**TICKETS: \$5 EACH  
OR 3 FOR \$10**

**SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE**





**BALLARAT  
FOUNDATION**

**GEMMA SNIBSON  
ST FRANCIS XAVIER  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## 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.

# SFX MUSIC SHOWCASE

**SCHOOL GYM JULY 1, 2 & 3 6PM**

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	5QM <sub>c</sub>	5ZP
6PB	6MM	6ZA

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL BALLARAT EAST



## Year 5 Democracy Inquiry

This term, the Year 5 students have been exploring the concept of **Democracy**—what it means and why it is important. As part of our learning, students worked in pairs to create and present campaign speeches for candidates they believed would make a great Prime Minister of Australia. Each class then held a secret ballot to elect their preferred leader.

Congratulations to our elected leaders:

**5QM – Usain Bolt**

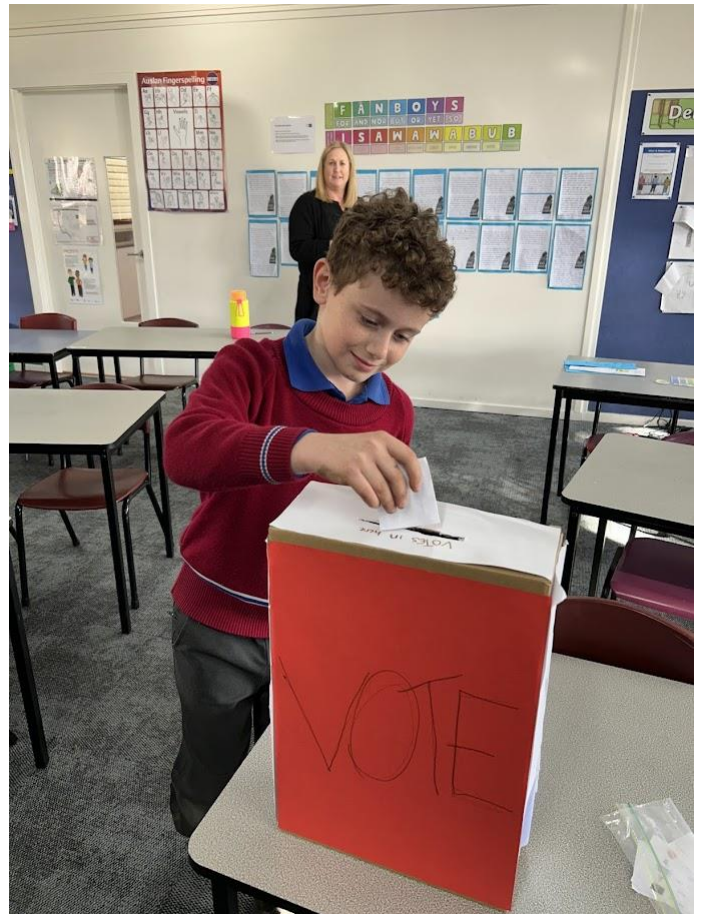
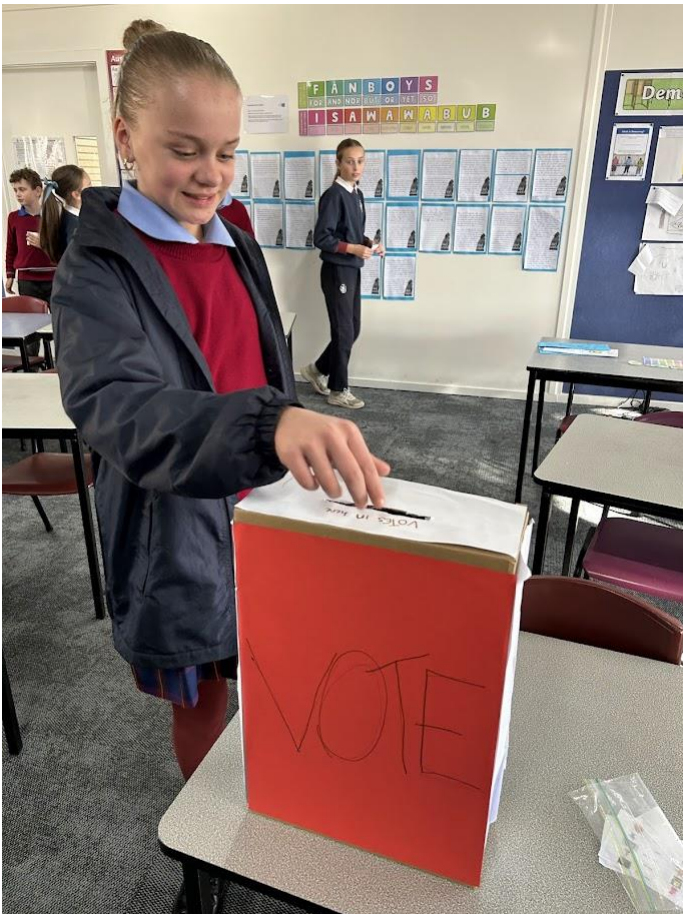
**5ZP – Nick Daicos**

**5CC – SpongeBob SquarePants**

To celebrate the conclusion of our unit, we held a **Democracy Sausage Sizzle!** A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers, **Louise Morton** and **Tash Nicholson**, for helping with the cooking, and to **Lisa Clark** for organising the sausages, donating the bread, and assisting with cleanup. Also a big shoutout to Stephen Quinlan (Paddy, Sophie and Ollie's Pa) for lending us the BBQ's and dropping them off/ picking them up.

Throughout this unit, students have also been learning about the value of volunteer work—and this event was a wonderful example of people generously giving their time to support our community. **Thank you!**

### Mrs Quinlan and the Year 5 team











THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 8, 2025 Pentecost (Year C)

**Gospel: John 14:15-16, 23-26**

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever.

Those who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and my Father and I will come to them and live with them. Those who do not love me do not obey my teaching. And the teaching you have heard is not mine, but comes from the Father, who sent me.

I have told you this while I am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you."

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:**

Today is the feast of Pentecost, where we remember that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with his disciples. Pentecost means 50 in Greek as the Holy Spirit came to the disciples 50 days after Easter. This passage is part of the last conversations Jesus has with his disciples before he dies and so he is preparing them to live without his leadership. Jesus tells the disciples that if they love him, they will do as he has asked them. Jesus asked them to love one another as he has loved them, and tells them that God will send the Holy Spirit to be with them and to help them. Let us be guided by the Holy Spirit, who was given to the disciples on the first Pentecost and is still with us today, to show our love for God and for other people.

**Our Challenge:** How will you show your love for God in the coming week? How will you show your love for others?

*Adapted from CAFOD website)*



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Curriculum News

Seesaw Posts

There were lots of wonderful Seesaw posts shared last week. If you haven't had a chance yet, we encourage you to log in and leave a comment. Keep an eye out for upcoming posts from our Specialist teachers too – their posts typically appear later in the term, and they always appreciate your feedback and engagement.

**Week of June 1 - June 8 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East**



**368**  
New Student Posts



**127**  
Comments




## Reports Semester 1 2025

**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.

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

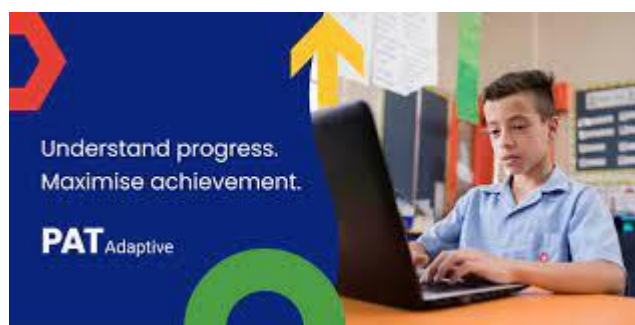
## Parent view of the report



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

### PAT Reading Adaptive Assessments

Over the past few weeks, classes have been completing the PAT Reading Adaptive assessment. This tool helps us gain a clearer and more accurate understanding of each student's reading progress. Because the test adapts to each student's ability, it provides a fairer and more personalised snapshot to support our Semester 1 reporting.



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## PAT Reading Adaptive

- Assesses reading comprehension, covering four strands:
  - Retrieve
  - Interpret implied
  - Interpret explicit
  - Reflect
- Provides five text types
- Automatic assignment of students' entry levels
- Personalised test pathways determined by student responses
- Multiple choice and complex multiple choice questions, administered in 45 minutes
- Mapped to the Australian Curriculum and Victorian Curriculum
- Designed for students in years 1-10

Enjoy your week,



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

## Wellbeing News

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

Making meaningful connections with your children doesn't have to be a time consuming thing. Sometimes you don't even have to prepare things in advance - you can have "mini-connections" throughout the day whether that be while driving them to school, standing in line at the supermarket or when they are hanging around in the kitchen wondering what's for dinner.

You need to find out what works for you! Dr Matt Sanders, from the Positive Parenting Program, suggests trying to spend small chunks of time with your child - even as small as two minutes at a time - frequently throughout the day.

Time that is important to your child - when they approach to tell you something, show you something special, ask a question or to involve you in their life.

When these moments take place and you are not busy with something important, try to stop what you are doing and be present with your child for just a brief period of time.

It takes a bit of practice to really tune in but it can be strong in growing positive relationships with your child. This plan of action also works a treat for partners/family/friends and work colleagues as well!

Attached is a link to the SFX [SchoolTV](#) website with a few further ideas on how to achieve positive connections with your child. The Positive Parenting Series shares the four major responsibilities necessary for good parenting from The National Academy of Sciences.

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

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### Division Netball

Well done to the 45 students that represented SFX at last week's Eureka Division Netball tournament at Selkirk Stadium. All 5 SFX teams played with skill and enthusiasm and continued to develop teamwork as the day progressed. All teams managed a few wins each, with the Girls B1 topping their Pool and the Girls A winning all of their matches. Congratulations to the Girls A team that have progressed through to the Regional Finals in two weeks' time. A big thank you to Kate, Bree, Camille, Ange, Kath, Nicole & Mrs Barclay for your support and coaching on the day. A special mention to Tannah for helping us out with umpiring.







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### **Golf Clinics**

Tony from Golf Victoria conducted golf clinics with students in Year 4 - 6 last week at the Mt Xavier Golf Club driving range. Tony will compile a list of names who he thinks will be capable of representing SFX at the Division Golf tournament later in the year.

### **2025 SFX SPORTS DATES**

#### **Term 2:**

- Week 9 - Friday June 20th - GWR Netball @ Selkirk Stadium
- Week 9 - Friday June 20th - Interschool Sport (Yr 6) @ SFX
- Week 10 - Wednesday June 25th - GWR Football @ C.E. Brown Reserve, Wendouree

#### **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**

#### **Hot Lunches**

Please note, Flexischools have made an update when you order Hot Lunches, you can now select if your child has any allergies and it will print on your child's label, please ensure that you use this function when placing your child's lunch order.

#### **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. Did you know that all items are \$5 with the exception of woollen jumpers, tunics, coats and bags which are \$10. We will be opening the second hand uniform shop up again on a regular basis coming soon!



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

## Pentecost Sunday

8 June 2025 Year C



### MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

#### Weekday Masses

Tuesday June 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am Note time change	St. Alipius Ballarat East
Wednesday June 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am 11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome) St. Brigid's Ballan - Funeral
Thursday June 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	St Brigid's Ballan
Friday June 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East
Saturday June 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday June 14 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday June 15 <sup>th</sup>	
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

Sam Spiteri

#### THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Leo Tuddenham, Sheila McCartin

#### 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).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Finance meeting  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 7:30am

## COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests: \$1001  
Supporting our parish: \$ 478  
Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

## PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

New envelopes are available for collection from this weekend. Please note due to our system upgrade the majority of envelope numbers have changed. Please take your envelopes and remind others to do the same as this saves postage. If you know of someone who can't be at Mass to collect these please deliver the envelopes if you are able to do so.

## DEFIBRILLATORS

In the coming week the defibrillators will be placed in St. Alipius and Ss. Peter & Paul's churches. Signs will be in the churches to direct people to the machines and instructions will be accessible nearby. If you didn't get the opportunity to spend time with Claire to find out how to operate these machines but would like to, please contact the parish office.

## INTRODUCTION TO ECCLESIAL GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

This week Fr Shaiju will participate in this 5-day workshop at YU in Melbourne convened by Fr Stephen Hackett MSC and is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart – Australian Province. The workshop program has been prepared by Susan Pascoe AM and Francis Moore KCSG for those serving in a ministerial leadership or pastoral management position in a religious institute or apostolic work exercising responsibility for governance and administration and are responsible for good civil and ecclesial governance, accountability for record keeping and financial management, meeting safeguarding standards and statutory requirements, lawful oversight of staff and volunteers, and ensuring that canonical obligations are fulfilled.

## FIRST EUCHARIST

At Masses at St Alipius this weekend, children and their families will gather with the parish community to celebrate children receiving the Eucharist for their first time following weeks of preparation and the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.

At the 6pm Vigil Mass we will welcome the following children to sharing fully in the Eucharist: Angus, Archer, Byron, Charlie, Charlotte, Edie, Emmeline, Finn, Flynn, Frankie, Isabelle, Jack, Lenny, Lola, Lyla, Myah, Ned, Noah, Olivia and Ruby.

At the 10.30am Mass on Sunday we will welcome: Aisling, Alex, Alice, Ava, Billie, Casey, Edwina, James, James, Jed, Jimmy, Lachlan, Lillian, Lilly, Lucy, Marka, Milla, Mitchell and Scarlett.



## MASS COUNTS ACROSS THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

At all of our Masses across the Ministry District on the weekends of May, those attending Masses were counted. Many exceptional circumstances such as multiple baptisms, closure of the Gordon Church for painting, Gordon 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass, Confirmation... have meant that these numbers do not provide the average Mass attendances of other months of the year, but they do provide a snapshot of attendances in May at each Church at that time. Thank you to those who counted!

Ballarat East	6.00pm	129
Dunnsdown	6.30pm	30
Springbank	6.30pm	115
Clarkes Hill	6.30pm	40
Ballarat East	9.00am	77
Bungaree	9.00 am	28
Buninyong	9.00 am	60
Ballan	10.30 am	116
Ballarat East	10.30 am	85
Buninyong	10.30 am	104
Gordon	10.30 am	124

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

For a synodal diocese to function effectively, there must be ongoing formation and education programs that promote awareness of synodality, the roles of the laity and clergy and the importance of listening and dialogue. These programs help build a culture of mutual respect and understanding.

## DINNER FOR FR. SHAIJU



Despite a very cold evening, a great night was enjoyed by all at the Robin Hood on Thursday evening as people gathered from across the ministry district to say hello and welcome Fr. Shaiju.

## VINNIES WINTER APPEAL 2025

Vinnies' 2025 Fundraising Winter Appeal launched early this month which plays a vital role in enabling the good works of the Society. With your support, this appeal will help them continue serving the community. Homelessness is never a choice. Your generous support today can help people facing homelessness, have somewhere safe to stay and help break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Donate today at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/winter-appeal-vic>

## 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

## REFUGEE WEEK

June 15-21 is Refugee Week. The theme this year is 'Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community'. There are several events being held in Ballarat during this week. Please see the posters in church foyers for more information or you can find the full program here: <https://www.brmc.org.au/refugee-week-2025-finding-freedom-diversity-in-community-2/>

## VINNIES ONLINE

The St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria has launched an online retail platform Vinnies online <https://vinniesonline.com.au/>. Shop when it suits you!



# Sent on a Mission of Peace

## Reflection on the Gospel-Pentecost Sunday Year C

(John 20:19-23)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM



Pentecost Sunday is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning "fiftieth") was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the harvesting of the first sheaf. When the Jerusalem temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. The Jews of the first century, including Christian Jews, celebrated the great pilgrimage feast of Pentecost. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people.

In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received the Law in their own tongues. In other words, the dispersion and division created by the hubris of those who built the Tower of Babel is symbolically reversed with this outpouring of God's Spirit.

For the content of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The risen Christ appears to the disciples huddled behind locked doors. He "shows them his hands and his side". In other words, he provides incontrovertible evidence that he is the crucified one. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we offer each other at every Eucharistic celebration and the greeting of Pope Leo XIV on the day of his election. The disciples respond with joy. He sends them on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose transgressions they "retain".

To seize hold of evil-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and allow everyone to move on. In other situations, amnesty only exacerbates the problems. Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and of our capacity to deal with or "seize hold of" the sins of the perpetrators of violence in our world. Let us pray that the Spirit will guide us in the way of truth and give world leaders the courage to deal with the perpetrators of war and other evils in our world. We do our part by conscientiously holding our leaders to account.

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11

Romans 8:8-17

John 14:15-16, 23-26

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Most Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 6<sup>th</sup> June Hosted by 3DG** Theme: Respect  
Respect means we keep hands, feet and objects to ourselves.

FLP	Peyton Hartup and Flynn Warr	4JS	Myah Rivett and Ted Nunn
FGJ	Harvey Rowland and Maeve Williams	4LK	Hamish Nicholls & Indie Shillito
FBO'K	Alfie Mason and Daphne Reus	4KB	Harry Logan & Kade Swayn
FTW	Noah Stewart and Teddy Veal	5CC	Bridie Millington and Eli Jones
1JS	Leo Answer & Bob Nunn	5ZP	Darci Prebble & Sienna Morton
1EM	Imogen Curtain and Elsie Howe	5QM	Lucy Bromley & Henry Turnbull
1GT	Shayenka Gunetileke & Olive Miceli	6PB	Evie Tuffen
2RR	Harvey Mason and Hazel Martin	6ZA	Hamish Lloyd & Ivy Miles
2MH	Tilly Van Langevelde and Spencer Manning	6MM	Aila Glab and Archie Williams
2TS	Zoe Cooper and Hudson McKay	EE	Jude Reus and Judd Boyd
3LL	Eliza Vallance and Rome Davis	PA	Lola and Jack from 1EM
3JT	Ignatius Rush, Darcie Richardson	VA	Joe Trigg and Maddie Purtell (5CC)
3DG	Finn Burbidge & Asher Sutcliffe	PE	
		Tch	Nevon Thuse & Daulat Singh
Principal's Award: Aria Treacy and Harry Carter			



**KELLY SPORTS**



**Queries: Coach Sean  
0411 602 204**

**July**

**HOLIDAY PROGRAM!**

**7th - 18th  
July**

**8am - 5pm  
MON - FRI**

**Kinder - Grade 6  
All different sports  
and games, join  
the fun!**

**\$65  
per day  
BOOK  
NOW!**



**NERF WARS!  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July**  


**The Kelly Sports Games  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**  




Kids need to bring along a big packed lunch & large refillable drink bottle. Dress in comfortable sports clothing!

Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat  
8am - 5pm Weekdays  
Kinder - Grade 6  
Enroll online  
[www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat](http://www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat)



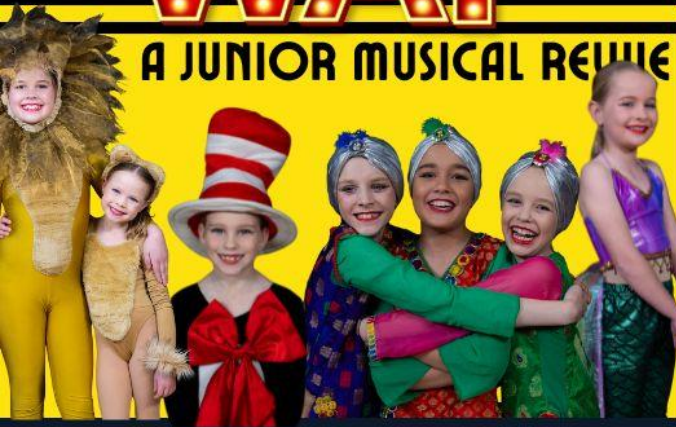


# Ballarat Centre of Music and the Arts present

BOUND FOR

# BROADWAY

A JUNIOR MUSICAL REVUE



# GOSS DOLLS JR.



28th and 29th JUNE  
Gay E. Gough Theatre



**Tickets for both shows on sale now!**



**PIANO BAR**  
BALLARAT

**Jetsonian**  
constructions

**Doherty**

**Clark**

**SIXT**

**Biggin  
Scott**

*Haynes*  
PAINT

Featuring some of our St Francis Xavier students.

Each show runs for approximately one hour and features hits like *Hakuna Matata*, *Under the Sea*, *Alone in the Universe* and more.

*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.*